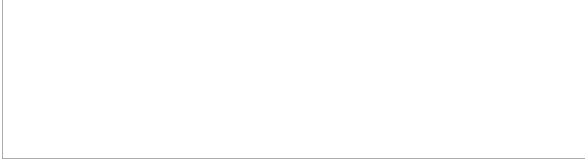




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

17 OCT 2016



Dear

On 19 September 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding the work undertaken by the Office for Senior Citizens relating to age-friendly communities.

As you are aware, the Global Age Friendly Cities Project was started in 2006 by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Cities were asked to focus on supporting healthy ageing in their communities, and included research to find out what was currently done to support older people. Eight key areas where communities can become more age-friendly were identified. Further information is available on the WHO website here: www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf?ua=1

For clarity I will address each of your questions in turn:

- *Which cities are currently age-friendly communities?*

There are not yet any cities in New Zealand that are recognised by the World Health Organisation as being age-friendly communities.

- *Which cities have committed to being age-friendly cities?*

The Ministry is aware of two cities, Hamilton and New Plymouth, where the local councils have formally committed to becoming members of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

- *What work is being done by the Office of Senior Citizens to encourage cities to become age friend communities apart from promotion?*

The Office for Seniors (the Office) is undertaking a programme called Community Connects, which promotes and supports communities to become age-friendly.

In particular, the Office has been working closely with three communities – Hamilton, New Plymouth and Kāpiti. The Office is providing advice and support as they progress to become age-friendly communities. This work will inform the development of an age-friendly framework that is particular to New Zealand and which is able to be applied to other communities.

In addition, the Office provided funding and support to SeniorNet and the New Zealand Nutrition Foundation to help build their capability to deliver their respective programmes and provide opportunities for older people to be connected with their community. The SeniorNet and the New Zealand Nutrition Foundation programmes align with the Community Connects objective of supporting communities in New Zealand to become

age-friendly, as they provide opportunities for older people to lead healthy lives and actively age within their communities we continue to work with these organisations and advocate for their programmes.

With Learning Centres established around the country, SeniorNet provides classes for people aged over 50 who would like to learn more about technology. The classes are run by volunteer tutors who are about the same age as their students. The types of courses run from an introduction to computers and increasingly to how to use the latest android or Apple devices.

SeniorNet Learning Centres reflect the goals for age-friendly communities to ensure older people:

- can participate socially in their community
- can access and communicate information in their day-to-day lives
- are respected and included in their communities.

The New Zealand Nutrition Foundation is developing a programme that will provide opportunities for older people who would like to develop their cooking skills and to learn about the nutrition. The programme will also give people an opportunity to meet other seniors and encourages sharing food as a way for older people to socially participate in their community.

This programme reflects the goals for an age-friendly New Zealand by ensuring older people:

- have access to information they need to support good health
- can participate socially in their community.

Further information about age-friendly initiatives in New Zealand is available here: www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/age-friendly-communities/community-connects/age-friendly-initiatives.html

- *Has the Office of Senior Citizens contacted all territorial authorities/councils to see if their towns/cities will become age-friendly communities?*

The Office has not contacted all territorial authorities/councils about becoming age friendly, but has had communications with many community groups or local councils about becoming age-friendly communities.

- *Which towns/cities have indicated that it would be something they would look to in the future?*

Each community has a different approach to initiating the process of becoming age-friendly. Through personal communications with community groups or local councils, the Ministry understands that the following councils may be interested in or considering looking at becoming age-friendly in the future: Rotorua, Palmerston North, Nelson, Auckland and Tauranga.

- *What resources, FTE and budget is the Office of Senior citizens committing each financial year to this initiative?*

Currently, the Ministry has the equivalent of approximately 1 FTE working on this project.

In 2015/16, \$120,000 was allocated to support projects that would fit under the goals of age-friendly programmes.

The 2016/17 budget is yet to be finalised.

I hope you have found this information helpful. The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response regarding the work undertaken by the Office for Seniors relating to age-friendly communities. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Diane Turner', written in a cursive style.

Diane Turner
Director, Office for Seniors