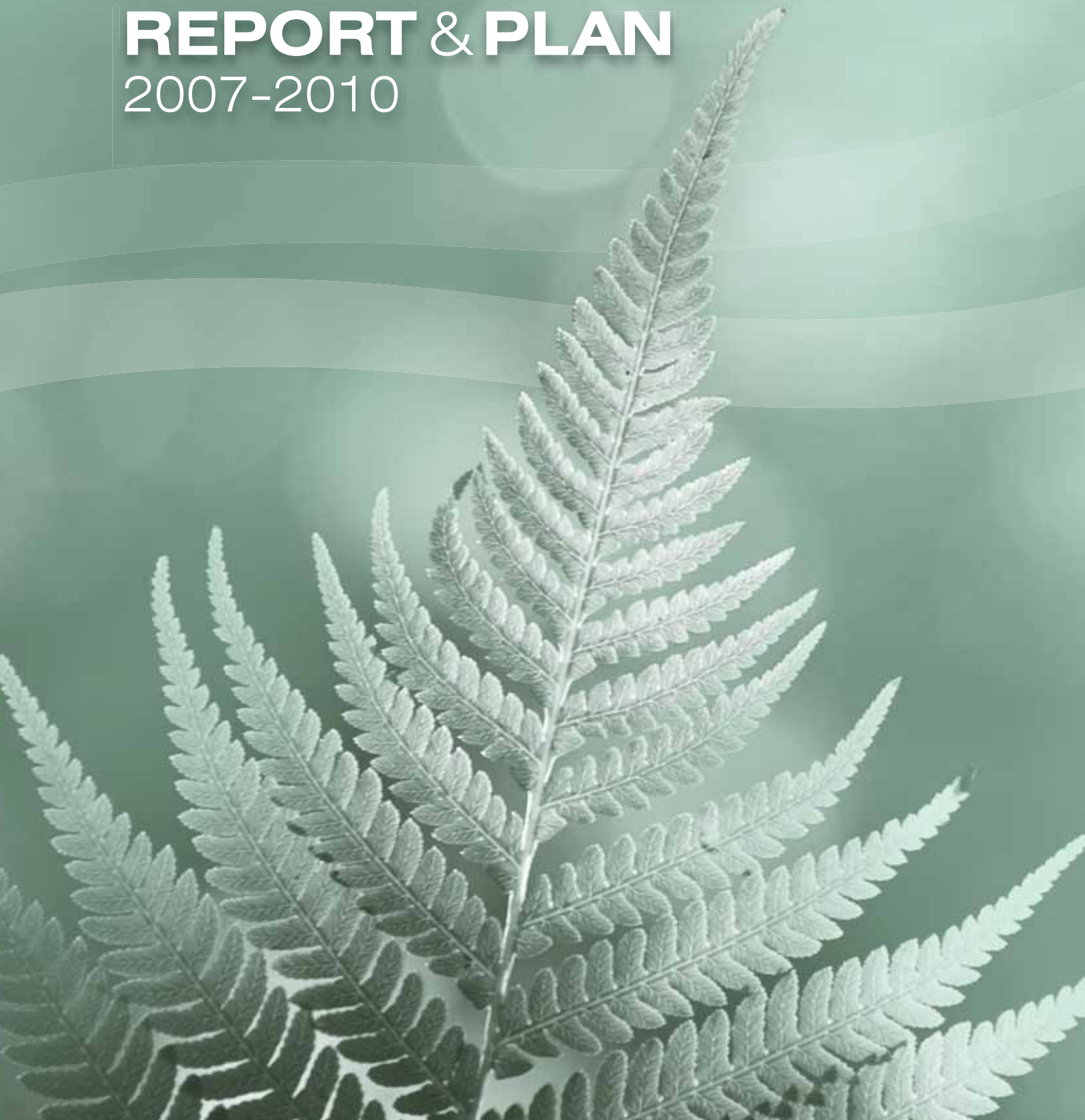


HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE NEW ZEALAND
POSITIVE AGEING

REPORT & PLAN

2007-2010



To view the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy,
including the positive ageing goals and objectives revised in May 2008,
go to www.osc.govt.nz/positive-ageing-strategy/publication/index.html

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HIGHLIGHTS from **THE NEW ZEALAND POSITIVE AGEING REPORT & ACTION PLAN 2007–2010**

In April 2001, the Minister for Senior Citizens launched the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy. The Strategy's vision is that New Zealand will be a place where people can age positively, where older people are highly valued, and where they have opportunities to participate in their communities. The Strategy provides a framework for central and local government agencies to plan creatively for an ageing population.

There are 10 goals to support the vision of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy.

THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report and Action plan 2007–2010 is co-ordinated and published by the Office for Senior Citizens of the Ministry of Social Development. The document is valuable because it reminds central and local government to keep positive ageing in mind while they develop their work programmes. Agencies are asked to include new and interesting work items in the action plan. Many other policies and programmes which are business as usual activities are not featured, but can be viewed on the various agency websites. The planning and reporting period has moved to a two-yearly cycle to give agencies more time to develop their positive ageing plans.

The Office for Senior Citizens appreciates the work undertaken by local government to introduce positive ageing initiatives for people in their cities and towns.

Copies of the *New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report 2007–2008* and *Action Plan 2008–2010* are available from the Office for Senior Citizens and on the website at www.osc.govt.nz

More information about the Office for Senior Citizens is located on the back of these highlights.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 2007–2008

GOALS	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008
<p>GOAL ONE: Secure and adequate income for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland Revenue supported legislation establishing compulsory employer contributions for employees in the KiwiSaver Scheme, and employer tax credits for employers in the Scheme from April 2008 • Senior Services and Older People’s Policy, Ministry of Social Development launched the SuperGold Card for older people in New Zealand and significantly increased the number of participating businesses offering discounts to cardholders to 861 • Hastings District Council promoted the Rates Rebate Scheme through local media, and visited older people in their homes to help them make applications to the Scheme
<p>GOAL TWO: Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accident Compensation Corporation completed work to introduce the Bill to amend the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001 for enactment on 1 August 2008. This will improve access to vocational rehabilitation and assist older clients in their rehabilitation and recovery from injury • Ministry of Health worked with District Health Boards and service providers and identified dementia services and primary and preventative care services as key areas for improvement. This was reported to the Minister of Health • Hamilton City Council in partnership with Sport Waikato held exercise classes twice a week, regular Tai Chi classes and delivered fitness programmes across the city. Over 250 older people attended weekly
<p>GOAL THREE: Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Building and Housing wrote to all known retirement villages explaining the registration process, and reminded operators of the registration enforcement procedure • Housing New Zealand Corporation granted \$7.2 million from the Housing Innovation Fund providing 30 additional housing units for older people and modernising 360 local government houses for older people • Work and Income Bay of Plenty, Ministry of Social Development in partnership with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority promoted the Healthy Homes Project, supporting older clients with housing improvement advances and insulated 82 homes of older people • North Shore City Council provided \$43,000 to upgrade 378 older people’s units, installing walk-in showers and handrails and applying non-slip surfaces to ramps and paths



GOALS	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008
<p>GOAL FOUR: Affordable and accessible transport options for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Transport monitored the effect of the new driver licensing system and reported that mandatory older driver on-road tests reduced from approximately 3,200 to 70 per month. Fewer drivers are retiring from driving at age 80 and overall older people are driving for as long as it is safe for them to do so with less stress and financial burdens • Land Transport New Zealand completed best practice guidelines and contracts to support councils and transport providers offering Total Mobility services • Palmerston North City Council engaged with older people and their organisations on the transport infrastructure for the region and how to make public transport more accessible in the future
<p>GOAL FIVE: Older people feel safe and secure and can age in the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Fire Service Commission installed smoke alarms in 8,224 older people's homes and used the Seniors FireWise Kit to deliver the Confident Living Programme to older people in over 5,000 households • Office for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Social Development completed policy work to enable changes to be made to the Enduring Powers of Attorney legislation, effective from 26 September 2008, to help protect the rights and interests of users of enduring powers of attorney. This work included drafting new forms, certificates and guidelines which are used in setting up enduring powers of attorney and in their operation • Working Age People's Policy, Ministry of Social Development jointly with the New Zealand Carers Alliance launched <i>The New Zealand Carers' Strategy and Five-year Action Plan</i> to address the issues faced by families and carers, including older carers and carers of older people • Porirua City Council engaged with 70 older people in the community about emergency management and self preparedness, and set up two active civil defence centres with retired people as members
<p>GOAL SIX: A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Puni Kōkiri funded Special Housing Action Zone projects to support kuia/kaumātua housing solutions and provided information to iwi/Māori groups to assist them develop community profiles and housing response plans • Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs engaged with older Pacific people through resource providers and community groups, and recorded legends, myths and songs in three Mind Your Language projects • Manukau City Council held a Pacific Information Support Services Celebration Day, and funded the Liu Ola Plan to assist older disabled Pacific people

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 2007–2008

GOALS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008

GOAL SEVEN:

Older people living in rural communities are not disadvantaged when accessing services

- **Department of Internal Affairs** provided \$615,340 of Lottery funding to five organisations supporting older people, including rural older people and senior citizens projects
- **National Library of New Zealand** installed 147 computers in 34 libraries, including rural libraries, in Kawerau, Tararua, Taranaki, the Wairarapa, the West Coast and Canterbury to provide access to free broadband internet service for older people. Feedback showed that the main users of this free service are older people
- **South Taranaki District Council** trialled a weekly subsidised bus service for older people in rural areas. The Taranaki Disability Information Trust provided a mobility scooter for disabled passengers to use on arrival in Hawera
- **Waitaki District Council** completed research to better understand the needs of rural older people. The research was supported by older people in the community who attended the Positive Ageing Forums

GOAL EIGHT:

People of all ages have positive attitudes to ageing and to older people

- **Ministry for Culture and Heritage** completed 60 interviews with Vietnam veterans and their families and established a website for people to record their memories of the Vietnam War
- **Ministry of Youth Development, Ministry of Social Development** in partnership with the Office for Senior Citizens held a successful Connecting Young and Old forum in Christchurch with 10 older people and 10 younger people, to discuss intergenerational issues. The two groups continue to meet regularly
- **New Plymouth District Council and the New Plymouth Positive Ageing Trust** held the Treasured Relationships Exhibition to recognise the mentoring relationships older people have with young people in the community and their grandchildren



GOALS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 1 JULY 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2008

GOAL NINE:

Elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- **Department of Corrections** held three retirement planning workshops and invited staff and their partners to attend. Positive feedback was received about involving families in the decision-making process
- **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** discussed transition to retirement arrangements with employees and held staff seminars. An actuary provided staff with financial information about investments and retirement
- **Christchurch City Council** held an AgeQuake workshop for staff, Councillors and sector interest groups to prepare for an ageing population and an ageing workforce

GOAL TEN:

Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- **Ministry of Research Science and Technology, Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, Massey University and the Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit** funded and developed a five-year nationally representative longitudinal research programme to investigate the quality of life of older people. There will be 4,000 participants for the main project sample
- **Sport and Recreation New Zealand** conducted research with 1,000 volunteers from sports organisations that included 182 volunteers aged 60 years and over to develop a profile of older sports volunteers. The report is available at www.sparc.org.nz
- **Hastings District Council** launched *Presbyterian Support East Coast's Enliven Connect*, an online directory with information about services in the region to support positive ageing. This was in partnership with Presbyterian Support East Coast, Eldernet, Hawke's Bay District Health Board and Napier City Council
- **Upper Hutt City Council** distributed Life Tubes to seniors that contain personal and medical information about the owner which is useful for paramedics to access in an emergency

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ACTION PLAN 2008–2010

GOALS	KEY ACTIONS FOR 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2010
<p>GOAL ONE: Secure and adequate income for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Commission will release an issues paper for public consultation on the revision of legislation to better reflect the diverse needs of war veterans of all ages enabling them to have better access to services and entitlements • Senior Services, Ministry of Social Development will develop a specific website with information for seniors and will establish cross agency initiatives where there are common clients. A work programme will be developed to improve services for seniors • Retirement Commission and Ministry of Social Development are exploring how financial abuse of older people can be addressed within current social services • The Treasury will publish a Statement of Long Term Fiscal Position, with an outlook horizon of at least 40 years, that will include forecasts of interest to policy advisors, older people and their interest groups • North Shore City Council is developing a communications strategy that identifies opportunities to promote the Rates Rebate Scheme to older people
<p>GOAL TWO: Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Artificial Limb Board will deliver presentations to health professionals about pain and pain management to benefit and support older people who have an artificial limb • Ministry of Health will complete the InterRAI project plan, the national guidelines and funding policy and will implement the InterRAI home-care assessment tool across half of the District Health Boards in New Zealand. This will provide high quality comprehensive assessments for older people • Office for Disability Issues, Ministry of Social Development is developing a framework for longer-term planning and reporting against the New Zealand Disability Strategy, that will make targets and achievements more transparent including disability supports for older people with disabilities • Horowhenua District Council with the Horowhenua Health Shuttle Trust will increase the number of shuttle services providing affordable transport for residents to attend appointments at Palmerston North Hospital
<p>GOAL THREE: Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing New Zealand Corporation will insulate 4,000 to 5,000 homes and will launch the Shared Equity Programme for people with household incomes of \$55,000 to \$85,000 so that more people can enjoy the benefits of home ownership as they age • Ministry of Research, Science and Technology and Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and Centre for Research Evaluation and Social Assessment is conducting research to investigate older people's ability to repair and maintain their houses. The Ministry will develop a practical checklist for housing practitioners • Waitakere City Council will upgrade 78 units across three Council-owned retirement villages and further units in two more villages to improve security, safety, design and health outcomes



GOALS	KEY ACTIONS FOR 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2010
<p>GOAL FOUR: Affordable and accessible transport options for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Transport New Zealand will draft guidelines for local authorities to improve access to services and facilities for older people and disabled people, and will consult local authorities on the guidelines by April 2009 • Ministry of Transport is working to have 50% of all regional councils providing free off-peak travel for SuperGold cardholders by October 2008, and 100% participating by October 2011 • Dunedin City Council is providing all drivers 75 years and over with a parking permit allowing free parking on a meter, or at a pay and display machine, for the maximum meter time • Carterton District Council is repairing and altering kerbs and footpaths in the district improving the safety of pedestrians and users of wheelchairs and mobility scooters
<p>GOAL FIVE: Older people feel safe and secure and can age in the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Social Development is working with the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs to update the Home Equity Release Code of Practice in line with any changes in financial regulations, and to include the Code in financial regulatory legislation • Department of Labour will investigate ways to provide additional leave for carers and support carers currently in the workforce. The department will look at ways to support carers into employment and improve ways to recognise the skills and experience they acquire while caring • New Zealand Police are focusing on local community safety and crime prevention initiatives including promoting the role of unpaid community volunteers • Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council in partnership with the Association of Blind Citizens, will introduce and promote a Smart View tool for visually impaired older people to read books, magazines and private letters in the library
<p>GOAL SIX: A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accident Compensation Corporation will engage with cultural groups representing the interests of older people identifying and responding to their specific concerns about accessing entitlements • Office of Ethnic Affairs, Department of Internal Affairs is delivering training on ethnic perspectives in policy to government agencies including the impacts of ageing on ethnic populations • Hamilton City Council will establish a working group to consult kaumātua and housing service providers on the design of a housing feasibility study and project plan. This project plan will consider the construction of two-bedroom units with wrap around social and health services for older people • Wellington City Council will liaise with the Indian Hindu community and the Makara Cemetery Manager to establish a dedicated Hindu burial plot
<p>GOAL SEVEN: Older people living in rural communities are not disadvantaged when accessing services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Community Services, Ministry of Social Development is promoting the benefits of providing services through Heartland Services centres to government agencies and will continue to fund Heartland Services around the country to meet local community needs • Work and Income Northland, Ministry of Social Development in partnership with Runanga O Whangaroa will visit older Māori in rural communities in their homes and at marae clinics. This will assist older Māori with information about entitlements and community services • Auckland City Council is working with the Great Barrier Island community and stakeholders, including health providers, to prevent injuries among older people so they can safely age in the community • New Plymouth District Council and the Bishop's Action Foundation Trust will identify older people who are at risk of or are experiencing social isolation in rural parts of the New Plymouth District, and recommend ways to improve support networks

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ACTION PLAN 2008–2010

GOALS	KEY ACTIONS FOR 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2010
<p>GOAL EIGHT: People of all ages have positive attitudes to ageing and to older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans' Affairs New Zealand is continuing to provide funding for war veterans to travel to commemorate the battles and events involving New Zealand veterans • Family and Community Services, Ministry of Social Development is continuing to fund and monitor SAGES (older people as mentors) services so that older volunteers can help families and people in need • Kapiti Coast District Council will establish a mentoring project connecting older and younger generations in the community to improve their understanding of each other, share skills and contribute to intergenerational projects
<p>GOAL NINE: Elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will review their recruitment strategy outlining the benefits of employing older staff and encouraging older people to apply for jobs • Ministry of Economic Development will analyse information on the barriers to employing older workers and use the information for policies and planning • State Services Commission is encouraging government agencies participating in engagement surveys to use the results to determine the profile of older public servants and develop action plans that will improve their areas of under-performance • New Plymouth District Council and the New Plymouth Positive Ageing Trust in collaboration with the business community will hold a seminar promoting the advantages of employing mature jobseekers
<p>GOAL TEN: Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families Commission will complete research and report on the changing role of grandparents in New Zealand. The research findings will be available on www.nzfamilies.org.nz • Ministry for the Environment will introduce a Learning and Development strategy to retain older workers and recognise career options for them • Statistics New Zealand is publishing a research paper with up-to-date information on the participation of older New Zealanders in the labour force • Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector is working with the non-profit, business and government sectors to reach agreement and introduce the Promoting Generosity multi-sectoral work programme • Marlborough District Council and the Marlborough Positive Ageing Accord Group will conduct a survey to determine the community's level of understanding about positive ageing and older people's rights and entitlements • Wanganui District Council and Whanganui District Health Board will conduct a Social Connectivity Neighbourhood survey to obtain data on social isolation to identify strategies and programmes to connect isolated older people with their families and communities



Forty-one central government agencies and 36 local government agencies have contributed to the 2008–2010 Action Plan. Agency projects can be viewed at www.osc.govt.nz and further details on agency websites.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Accident Compensation Corporation
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Archives New Zealand
- New Zealand Artificial Limb Board
- Department of Building and Housing
- Department of Conservation
- Department of Corrections
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage
- New Zealand Customs
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry for the Environment
- Families Commission
- New Zealand Fire Service Commission
- Ministry of Health
- Housing New Zealand Corporation
- Inland Revenue
- Department of Internal Affairs – Office of Ethnic Affairs
- Department of Labour
- Land Information New Zealand
- Land Transport New Zealand
- Law Commission
- National Library of New Zealand
- Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- New Zealand Police
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
- Retirement Commission
- Ministry of Social Development – Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Office for Disability Issues, Office for Senior Citizens and Work and Income
- Sport and Recreation New Zealand
- State Services Commission
- Statistics New Zealand
- Te Puni Kōkiri
- Ministry of Transport
- The Treasury
- Veterans' Affairs New Zealand
- Ministry of Women's Affairs

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Ashburton District Council
- Auckland City Council
- Carterton District Council
- Christchurch City Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Gisborne District Council
- Hamilton City Council
- Hastings District Council
- Hauraki District Council
- Horowhenua District Council
- Hutt City Council
- Invercargill City Council
- Kapiti Coast District Council
- Kawerau District Council
- Manukau City Council
- Marlborough District Council
- Masterton District Council
- Nelson City Council
- New Plymouth District Council
- North Shore City Council
- Palmerston North City Council
- Porirua City Council
- Rotorua District Council
- South Taranaki District Council
- South Wairarapa District Council
- Stratford District Council
- Tararua District Council
- Tasman District Council
- Taupo District Council
- Tauranga City Council
- Upper Hutt City Council
- Waitakere City Council
- Waitaki District Council
- Wanganui District Council
- Wellington City Council
- Whangarei District Council

LEADING POSITIVE AGEING

THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Office for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Social Development, supports the Minister for Senior Citizens' advocacy role to promote positive ageing and provides the Minister with advice on older people's policy issues.

We oversee the implementation of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy, and advocate for policies that protect the rights and interests of older people in New Zealand that have a positive effect on their lives.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATORS

The Office maintains a close working relationship with the community through the Volunteer Community Co-ordinators (VCC) programme. This is a network of older volunteers who keep us informed about matters affecting older people. The VCCs carry out projects on behalf of the Minister for Senior Citizens.

MORE ABOUT US

Please visit our website www.osc.govt.nz for more information about the Office and the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy annual reports and action plans.



OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

TE TARI KAUMĀTUA

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development