



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE NEW ZEALAND
POSITIVE AGEING

REPORT & PLAN

2006-2008

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HIGHLIGHTS from **THE NEW ZEALAND POSITIVE AGEING REPORT & PLAN 2006–2008**

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 continuing opportunities for participation. The Strategy confirms Government's commitment to promote the value of older people and their importance in the community.

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy has 10 goals to support this vision.

THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007 and Action plan 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008 is co-ordinated and published by the Office for Senior Citizens of the Ministry of Social Development. Part of the value of the document is that it reminds central and local government to keep positive ageing in mind while they develop their work programmes. Each year agencies are asked to include new and interesting work items in the action plan, with progress on these work items to be reported to Cabinet the following year. Many other policies and programmes which are business as usual activities are not featured, but can be viewed on various agency websites.

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

The full *New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report 2006–2007 and Action Plan 2007–2008* is 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 this leaflet.

GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007

GOAL ONE

Secure and adequate income for older people

- **Inland Revenue Department** supported legislation to set up the KiwiSaver Scheme to encourage New Zealanders to save
- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast** appointed a dedicated case manager in Blenheim to interview older clients and unemployment numbers for clients aged 60 and over fell from 100 to 16
- **Ministry of Women’s Affairs** hosted a forum attended by more than 40 people from diverse backgrounds who provided input into the Retirement Commissioner’s Review of Retirement Income Policies
- **Ministry of Social Development** released the overview of the Living Standards 2004 research and presented the findings at three major social policy conferences

GOAL TWO

Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people

- **New Zealand Artificial Limb Board** improved rehabilitation services for older amputees and appointed an amputee educator for one year at Christchurch Public Hospital
- **Accident Compensation Corporation** delivered the Falls Prevention programme to 6,040 people 65 years and over and the Otago Exercise programme to 4,280 people 80 years and over improving strength, balance and wellbeing
- **Ministry of Health** reported on the progress of District Health Boards’ Ageing in Place initiatives

GOAL THREE

Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people

- **Department of Internal Affairs** introduced the revised Rates Rebate Scheme and approximately 67,560 New Zealand Superannuitants received rebates
- **Housing New Zealand Corporation** provided loans of 1.92 million and grants of \$0.5 million from the Housing Innovation Fund so Abbeyfield could build housing complexes for older people in Auckland and Takaka
- **Te Puni Kōkiri** supported 13 Special Housing projects with advice on housing solutions for older Māori
- **Department of Building and Housing** published the Retirement Villages Code of Practice 2006 to take effect from 25 September 2007

GOAL FOUR

Affordable and accessible transport options for older people

- **Land Transport New Zealand** launched the revised Safe with Age course to assist older drivers with the changes to the new licensing requirements and 2,200 older drivers took the course from July 2006–April 2007
- **Land Transport New Zealand** held seminars and workshops with GPs around the country and gave them information kits about the new medical assessment process for older drivers
- **Land Transport New Zealand** worked with local councils to improve the Total Mobility Scheme

GOAL FIVE

Older people feel safe and secure and can ‘age in place’

- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income Central, Canterbury, Southern and Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast and Waikato** trained New Zealand Superannuation case managers so that they are more aware of elder abuse and neglect
- **New Zealand Fire Service Commission** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Housing New Zealand Corporation to improve fire safety in pensioner housing and gave one-on-one fire risk reduction training to older people in 5,604 households
- **Ministry of Social Development – Office for Senior Citizens** held 24 meetings around the country with older people to tell them about the public submission paper on Home Equity Conversion schemes and to encourage them to make a submission



GOAL SIX

A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people

- **Department of Internal Affairs – Office of Ethnic Affairs** gave six presentations on ethnic responsiveness to government agencies and engaged with older people from ethnic communities in Auckland
- **Ministry of Social Development – Family and Community Services** funded Settling In programmes in Auckland, Nelson/Tasman and Christchurch to connect older migrants and refugees with their communities
- **Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs** completed the Niue, Tokelau and Cook Islands Māori *Mind Your Language* learning resource that was developed by older language experts

GOAL SEVEN

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

- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income East Coast and Northland** visited older rural clients in their homes and at marae to talk about Work and Income services
- **Department of Internal Affairs** distributed \$4.96 million of Lottery funding to 319 organisations in the not-for-profit sector supporting older people aged 65 and over
- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income East Coast** held text messaging and basic cell phone skills training for over 60 people in Ruatoria North and distributed large print information sheets on entitlements

GOAL EIGHT

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

- **Ministry for Culture and Heritage** installed the London Memorial in Hyde Park and held a commemorative ceremony on 11 November 2007 attended by Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal Family and the Prime Ministers of New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This initiative helps younger generations to appreciate the service to New Zealand of previous generations
- **Veterans' Affairs New Zealand** issued over 20,000 certificates of appreciation and commemorative pins to recognise veterans in the Year of the Veteran 2006
- **Ministry of Social Development – Office for Senior Citizens** in partnership with Age Concern Wellington developed intergenerational posters and bookmarks and sent them to 2,650 New Zealand schools

GOAL NINE

Elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** held retirement seminars for staff around the country
- **Department of Labour** completed research on people 45 years and over not participating in the labour market and published the findings
- **Ministry of Social Development** sponsored the *Ageing in New Zealand: Reporting Research Progress Conference* in Wellington in November 2006 attended by academics, central and local government officials, NGOs and other stakeholders
- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income Taranaki, King Country and Wanganui** held events for employers in Wanganui and New Plymouth to promote the benefits of employing older workers

GOAL TEN

Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- **New Zealand Police** appointed a national co-ordinator to work closely with older people to enhance the Neighbourhood Support programme and monitor offending in the community
- **Ministry of Research Science and Technology** through the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology funded the Enhancing Wellbeing in an Ageing Society (EWAS) research team, with EWAS completing the first phase of a new research database and publishing eight working papers on the EWAS website
- **Archives New Zealand** evaluated their policies and procedures for appointing and retaining their 53 active volunteers

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007

GOAL ONE

Secure and adequate income for older people

- **South Taranaki District Council** along with a financial adviser and the Hawera Budget Advice Service held a financial health forum for 64 older people
- **Kapiti Coast District Council** commenced surveying the cost of living on the Kapiti Coast to identify the support needs of older people in the area

GOAL TWO

Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people

- **Manukau City Council** launched the innovative health policy and action plan *Lets Beat Diabetes* and distributed information to providers working with older Pacific peoples
- **Stratford District Council** held quarterly wellbeing information seminars and 276 older people attended
- **Tasman District Council** promoted and ran 10 Lifecycle courses in Golden Bay and Motueka for older people wanting to return to cycling

GOAL THREE

Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people

- **Nelson City Council** installed free clean heat appliances in 42 houses for older people with low incomes
- **Dunedin City Council** upgraded several council housing units and completed the construction of seven new units for older tenants
- **Hamilton City Council** signed off a partnership agreement with Housing New Zealand Corporation for the Council's housing upgrade programme

GOAL FOUR

Affordable and accessible transport options for older people

- **Kapiti Coast District Council** ran Safe with Age driving courses and distributed 2,500 booklets to prepare older people for when they retire from driving
- **Palmerston North City Council** introduced the Manawatu Active Transport Strategy to improve older people's access to public transport
- **Taranaki District Council** installed six additional sloped footpath crossings to make it easier for people on mobility scooters

GOAL FIVE

Older people feel safe and secure and can 'age in place'

- **Tasman District Council** allocated 30% of its community grants to older people's organisations and for seniors' events
- **Invercargill City Council** offered free library membership to older people and provided book loan services to eight residential care facilities
- **Masterton District Council** upgraded approximately 90 older people's homes for energy efficiency with excellent health gains reported by the Wairarapa District Health Board



GOAL SIX

A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people

- **Manukau City Council** gave financial assistance to Kiwi Life and Shanti Niwas programmes for older people
- **Palmerston North City Council** in partnership with the Pacific Island community sought the views of older Pacific peoples on the development of a Pacific Island network
- **Whangarei District Council** consulted with key stakeholders on the development of a Positive Ageing Advisory Group and commenced the process to establish the Advisory Group

GOAL SEVEN

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

- **Christchurch City Council** incorporated older people's views from rural Banks Peninsula communities in the Council's Ageing Together Policy
- **South Taranaki District Council** held positive ageing forums and information road shows for older people in rural areas
- **Rotorua District Council** completed an annual performance report about road safety on local roads which considered the needs of all road users including older road users

GOAL EIGHT

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

- **Kapiti Coast District Council** hosted a range of intergenerational activities and schools and older people's organisations participated
- **New Plymouth District Council** in partnership with the Positive Ageing Trust held positive ageing seminars throughout the year
- **Wellington City Council** sponsored a Mayoral Concert to celebrate International Day of Older Persons for the enjoyment of about 1,100 older people

GOAL NINE

Elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- **Palmerston North City Council** reviewed employment practices and established options for phased retirement and flexible working hours
- **South Wairarapa District Council's** Positive Ageing reference group met to address issues such as transport, health, safety, help for odd jobs, footpaths and lighting that will influence the Council's Annual Plan
- **Porirua City Council** assessed the resource material on Porirua's health and social services, and redesigned it to suit older people's needs

GOAL TEN

Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- **Manukau City Council** conducted an accessibility audit of recreation centres in the area and owners of the facilities are required to implement improvements
- **Nelson City Council** held Info Lit courses to improve older people's computer literacy, increased the number of talking books and large print books available and delivered books to housebound older people
- **Horowhenua District Council** adopted the Horowhenua Positive Ageing Strategy and developed an action plan

GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE ACTION PLAN 2007–2008

The Government highlights of the planned key actions for 2007–2008 are summarised below. Thirty seven government agencies have contributed to this action plan, eight more than last year.

GOAL ONE

Secure and adequate income for older people

- **Inland Revenue Department** is encouraging New Zealanders to develop their long term saving habits and asset accumulation through KiwiSaver to improve financial independence in retirement
- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income East Coast** will run information days for clients 55 years and over in Wairoa, Kaiti, Ruatoria and Gisborne to tell them about opportunities for work, study and community involvement
- **Ministry of Social Development – Senior Services and Older People’s Policy** will launch the SuperGold Card for all older people in New Zealand by 31 August 2007

GOAL TWO

Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people

- **Accident Compensation Corporation** is increasing its target to deliver the successful falls prevention programme to approximately 4,940 older people 80 years and over in the Otago Exercise programme and to approximately 6,503 older people 65 years and over in the Tai Chi programme
- **Ministry of Health** is consulting key stakeholders on further policy work to assist District Health Boards to support and care for older people in the community
- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income Wellington** is working collaboratively with primary health providers and is connecting older people with appropriate health services through an innovative initiative which bases a public health nurse in the Porirua Office

GOAL THREE

Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people

- **Department of Building and Housing** will work with the Companies Office to register all retirement villages by 1 May 2008
- **Housing New Zealand Corporation** is supporting community-based organisations and local government through loans and grants of \$12 million to build up to 80 additional social housing units and modernise up to 350 local government housing units
- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income Bay of Plenty** in partnership with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority is promoting the Healthy Homes initiative and providing financial assistance for older clients to insulate their homes

GOAL FOUR

Affordable and accessible transport options for older people

- **Land Transport New Zealand** will increase funding for the Safe with Age driving course and promote it nationally to older people
- **Department of Internal Affairs** will provide funding for mobility scooters for older people living in the community with mobility-related disabilities
- **Ministry of Transport** will monitor the effect of the new driver licensing system on mobility and safety and will report the outcomes by mid 2008

GOAL FIVE

Older people feel safe and secure and can ‘age in place’

- **New Zealand Police** will be holding a national training seminar in Auckland for community patrollers and are improving the database of unpaid volunteers to provide better reporting, training and opportunities for volunteers
- **Ministry of Social Development – Working Age People’s Policy** will produce a Carers’ Strategy jointly with the New Zealand Carers Alliance to address the issues faced by families and carers, including older carers and carers of older people
- **Statistics New Zealand** is developing statistical information on New Zealand’s population aged 65 and over for planners, policy makers and other stakeholders
- **Ministry of Social Development – Office for Senior Citizens** will work with key stakeholders to develop new enduring powers of attorney documents and forms for inclusion in regulations to bring the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Amendment Act 2007 into force



GOAL SIX

A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people

- **Ministry of Social Development – Family and Community Services** is working with the Chinese New Settlers Group, Shanti Niwas and Noor Al Huda Women's Network to identify the needs of their older ethnic people and to assist them to access services
- **Office of Ethnic Affairs and the Office for Senior Citizens** will host a forum for ethnic Volunteer Community Co-ordinators to talk about ethnic issues affecting older people and their communities
- **New Zealand Fire Service Commission** will present fire safety information to kaumātua in Te Reo Māori

GOAL SEVEN

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

- **Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income Northland** is working in partnership with community organisations to improve access to services for older people living in rural areas
- **Te Puni Kōkiri** is surveying trustees of marae around New Zealand to identify barriers that limit the participation of older people in marae affairs

GOAL EIGHT

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

- **Veterans' Affairs New Zealand** will recognise the service of veterans of a declared war or emergency with certificates of appreciation and commemorative pins
- **Ministry of Social Development – Ministry of Youth Development and the Office for Senior Citizens** are holding a Connecting Young and Old Symposium for younger and older people to discuss intergenerational issues to identify new ways to connect the generations
- **New Zealand Customs** is awarding Certificates of Long Service to staff who have reached significant milestones

GOAL NINE

Elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** is introducing a new policy to support the retention of older staff
- **Ministry for the Environment** is designing an in-house staff mentoring programme
- **Department of Labour** will conduct a Staff Climate Survey to identify issues and actions for older workers
- **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet** will conduct a Staff Climate Survey to identify issues and actions for older workers

GOAL TEN

Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- **Ministry of Education** will collect and publish data on older people's participation in tertiary education and in life-long learning programmes
- **Sport and Recreation New Zealand** is conducting research to develop a profile of sports volunteers to identify improvements for recruiting, managing and recognising older volunteers
- **Ministry of Research, Science and Technology** through the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology is investing in major, long term research on Ageing in Place and a Longitudinal Study of Ageing to strengthen the knowledge base on positive ageing

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE ACTION PLAN 2007–2008

The local government highlights of the planned key actions for 2007–2008 are summarised below. thirty one local councils have contributed to this action plan, 10 more than last year.

GOAL ONE

Secure and adequate income for older people

- **North Shore City Council** is promoting the Rates Rebate Scheme to older people and older people's organisations through newsletters and displays at the Seniors Expo
- **Wanganui District Council** will endorse the Wanganui Positive Ageing Strategy and implement it by September 2007
- **Whangarei District Council** will establish a Positive Ageing Advisory Group representing older people and their organisations

GOAL TWO

Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people

- **Porirua City Council** is offering free Tai Chi classes to older people throughout the district
- **Auckland City Council** is working with local communities and stakeholders to assess older people's injury prevention needs to increase their safety at home
- **Stratford District Council** will continue to hold wellbeing seminars for older people in the district
- **South Taranaki District Council** is working with the District Health Board to co-ordinate older people's appointment times with transport services

GOAL THREE

Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people

- **Manukau City Council** in partnership with Housing New Zealand Corporation is building 77 new housing units for older people in Otaru Court
- **Palmerston North City Council** will conduct a satisfaction survey of the Council's housing tenants and reconfigure 16 Council housing units for older people
- **Taupo District Council** is reviewing the Council's pensioner housing and developing an action plan to address local housing issues
- **Dunedin City Council** will upgrade seven housing units and finalise a design plan for the upgrade of five additional units
- **South Wairarapa District Council** is assessing Council housing for older people and will develop a plan to reconfigure and modify the housing stock

GOAL FOUR

Affordable and accessible transport options for older people

- **Hastings District Council** will repair and alter kerbs and footpaths for safe use by pedestrians, and people in wheelchairs and those driving mobility scooters
- **Wellington City Council** is meeting with bus companies to train bus drivers on older passenger safety and access issues
- **Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council** will hold two mobility scooter courses in Motueka and Stoke to provide practical training for older people
- **Tararua District Council** is installing two additional sloped access crossings for mobility scooters in urban areas

GOAL FIVE

Older people feel safe and secure and can 'age in place'

- **Christchurch City Council** is promoting information seminars for older people and holding the seminars at six different venues
- **Invercargill City Council** is increasing funding for new large print books and audio stock and will approve the proposal for a new library to provide older people in the community with easy access to library services
- **Horowhenua District Council** will approve plans for a new library including a seniors' space to improve library services for older people



GOAL SIX

A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people

- **Manukau City Council** is providing funding for the Lui Ola plan to respond to the needs of older disabled Pacific peoples
- **Kapiti Coast District Council** will review the structure of the Positive Ageing Reference Group for wider representation
- **Waitakere City Council** is consulting kaumātua and iwi groups on Council policies and will finalise a draft Tikanga Policy on observing Māori protocols

GOAL SEVEN

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

- **Waitaki District Council** will approve a research project to consider the needs of rural people and the barriers to ageing in the community
- **Masterton City Council** is continuing to consult older people as part of its review of the Seniors' Library programme and will implement recommendations from the review
- **Horowhenua District Council** will interview seniors in the district to get their feedback on Council services and will implement suggested changes

GOAL EIGHT

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

- **Hamilton City Council** will hold inter-agency meetings every four months to share information about older people's services and promote positive ageing
- **Tauranga City Council** is seeking public submissions on the draft Elders' Strategy that outlines the Council's role to improve the wellbeing of older people in Tauranga
- **Upper Hutt City Council** is organising a series of leisure events for seniors that are safe and easy to access and will promote them throughout the community
- **Gisborne District Council** will hold a Positive Ageing Expo on 1 October to mark the International Day of Older Persons

GOAL NINE

Elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- **New Plymouth District Council** in partnership with the business community will hold a seminar to highlight the effects of the ageing population on the workforce and the value of older employees
- **Christchurch City Council** is promoting training workshops on older people's issues to Council staff
- **Palmerton North City Council** is reviewing its employment practices and establishing a mentoring programme for older Council employees to mentor younger recruits

GOAL TEN

Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- **Hauraki District Council** is developing a walking and cycling strategy and is holding an event to acknowledge and celebrate the lives of older people
- **North Shore City Council** will provide and maintain Council's facilities to support activities and events held by older people's organisations
- **Tasman District Council** is holding a ceremony to present awards to older people and others who have made an outstanding contribution to their communities
- **Rotorua City Council** will produce an updated X-ZITE information booklet on recreational facilities for older people and will distribute it to older people's organisations
- **Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council** is continuing to publish the *Mudcakes and Roses* magazine and will widely distribute it to older people in the district

LEADING POSITIVE AGEING

THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Office for Senior Citizens is part of the Ministry of Social Development, and provides the Minister for Senior Citizens with advice on issues relating to older people.

We promote and monitor the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy, and we advocate for policies that have a positive effect on the lives of older New Zealanders. We also develop legislation that protects the rights and interests of older people in New Zealand.

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