



The New Zealand  
Positive  
Ageing  
Strategy

# Achieving positive ageing

Highlights from the 2004-2005 Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report

# Focus of work

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's Annual Report shows what government departments and local councils have done to achieve the Strategy's vision and goals over the past 12 months. This leaflet summarises the highlights of the Annual Report for 2004-2005.

## Goal one: secure and adequate income for older people

- 35% of eligible workers aged over 60 have joined the State Sector Retirement Savings scheme, launched by the State Services Commission
- The Retirement Commissioner will now review the Government's retirement income policy every three years, under legislation prepared by the Ministry of Social Development
- More older people are accessing entitlements and services, thanks to information and publicity from Work and Income

## Goal two: equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people

- New guidelines will enhance health services to older people: the *Audit Work Book* about services for older people with dementia, and *Guidelines for Specialist Health Services for Older People* about services for older people with complex health needs. Both were published by the Ministry of Health
- Asset testing for older people in residential care will be gradually removed under the Social Security (Long Term Residential Care) Amendment Act 2004, prepared by the Ministry of Health
- New guidelines will ensure older amputees get high-quality post-operative care after amputations at Christchurch Public and Princess Margaret Hospitals. The guidelines were published by New Zealand Artificial Limb Board
- Community-based forums and meetings have been sharing information on older people's health needs, and establishing links between Work and Income and health care providers

## Goal three: affordable and appropriate housing options for older people

- Housing New Zealand Corporation tenants have had their homes modernised and retrofitted for energy efficiency by Housing New Zealand Corporation
- Homes of older people on low incomes will be made more energy efficient, following joint work by Work and Income, Pinnacle Primary Health Organisation, Housing New Zealand Corporation, Local Authorities
- Older people will get higher rates rebates, following adjustments to the rates rebate scheme prepared by the Department of Internal Affairs, Office for Senior Citizens, Treasury, Te Puni Kōkiri

## Goal four: affordable and accessible transport options for older people

- The proposed removal of mandatory age-based on-road testing is part of the Review of Older Driver Licensing Policy, completed by the Ministry of Transport
- The proposed removal of the 'automatic only' driver's licence and inclusion of six-monthly licence renewal are part of the legislative amendment prepared by Land Transport New Zealand
- Older people have been consulted for the review of the Total Mobility Scheme, which aims to make the scheme consistent and easy to use. The review is led by the Ministry of Transport

## Goal five: older people feel safe and secure and can age in place

- Hip protectors are now available to residents in 30 new rest homes, following an evaluation by Accident Compensation Corporation
- Health services to older people living at home will be enhanced by an integrated continuum of care being developed by District Health Boards
- Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services will have increased coverage and effectiveness, following the transfer of funding from Child, Youth and Family Services to the Ministry of Social Development
- Older people have attended regional meetings, seminars, and visits, while staff forums have focused on improving services to older clients of Work and Income
- Veterans and their families are receiving co-ordinated delivery of community based services as a result of a new case management service in Veterans' Affairs

# in 2004–2005

## The Office for Senior Citizens

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report is co-ordinated and published by the Office for Senior Citizens within the Ministry of Social Development. The Office also publishes the Positive Ageing Strategy Action

Plan, which shows what Government will do to achieve positive ageing over the coming 12 months. You'll find more about the Office for Senior Citizens on the back of this leaflet.

### Goal six:

a range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people

- Quarterly newsletters have highlighted issues affecting older Pacific peoples. The newsletters were published by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- Older Māori and Pacific peoples have attended hui and fono to get information about their entitlements from Work and Income Canterbury
- Older Māori have benefited from 528 capacity-building projects for whānau, hapu and iwi, funded and led by Te Puni Kōkiri

### Goal seven:

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

- The Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) is funding organisations to provide services to older people in rural areas. COGS is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs
- Older people in Bay of Plenty are benefiting from an information campaign about health and disability entitlements from Work and Income Bay of Plenty
- Older people in Northland are getting co-ordinated services from a Rural Housing Co-ordinator based in Work and Income, and referrals from Housing New Zealand Corporation

### Goal eight:

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

- The oral history programme *From Memory* is now available at the Alexander Turnbull Library, and a website has been launched at [www.NZhistory.net.nz](http://www.NZhistory.net.nz). The project was developed by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage
- *Diversity Index 2004* makes new data available on diversity in New Zealand workplaces, and was published by the Department of Labour
- Older people took part in the ACC Thinksafe Masters Games in Wanganui, which involved 73 events and was organised by Sport and Recreation New Zealand
- Services to older people will be enhanced through the training programme piloted for New Zealand Superannuation case managers in Work and Income Auckland Metro

### Goal nine:

elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- Choices like phased retirement and flexible working hours are part of the new Work, Life, and Family/Whānau Policy for staff at Archives New Zealand
- Safety and wellness initiatives for older workers were highlighted in the Inland Revenue Department's review of its Safety and Wellbeing Strategy
- 45,000 copies of *People Power – Successful Diversity at Work* were distributed to employers, advocating employment for older workers. The book was published by the Department of Labour and the EEO Trust
- Strategies for older employees are part of *Work-Life Balance*, a publication promoting measures to help keep older workers in the workforce, launched by the State Services Commission

### Goal ten:

increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- Older people living in New Plymouth have a new forum to take part in planning services and to promote positive ageing issues. The forum is the New Plymouth Positive Ageing Trust and it works with the New Plymouth District Council
- A Lifelong Learning Strategy is being implemented by the Christchurch City Council to provide library initiatives and library support for older people
- Eight community organisations in Northland, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu/Wanganui, and Otago are contracted to deliver the SAGES programme, which involves older people mentoring younger people. SAGES is administered by the Ministry of Social Development

# The Office for Senior Citizens: leading positive ageing

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**

We maintain a close working relationship with the community through the Volunteer Community Co-ordinators (VCC) programme. This is a nationwide network of older volunteers who keep us informed about matters affecting older people. The VCCs also distribute information and publications in their local communities.

## **More about us**

Please visit our website, [www.osc.govt.nz](http://www.osc.govt.nz) for more information about the Office and the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Action Plan and Annual Report.



OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

TE TARI KAUMĀTUA

*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*