



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
HAMILTON

3rd March, 2018

To whom it may concern:

Hamilton is a growing city in New Zealand's North Island, with a vibrant and diverse population.

Like many New Zealand cities, Hamilton is experiencing population ageing, but is well situated to respond to the needs of an increased number of older residents. The city is relatively flat and easy to negotiate, and has many facilities and services already catering to the needs of older people, which can be built onto.

The city has a number of community centres and facilities which serve as hubs for social interaction and recreation for older people. These include the Celebrating Age Centre and numerous other community centres, public aquatic facilities at Waterworld (including a modern hydrotherapy pool and classes aimed at senior citizens), and many community-led recreation programmes through agencies such as Age Concern. Parks and visitor destinations such as Hamilton Gardens are routinely enjoyed by older residents and visitors alike. Such facilities are often run by the older people themselves, such as the Rauawaawa Kuamatua Charitable Trust for older Maori people.

Older people have easy access to public transport through the city's bus network, and enjoy free access to the service during off-peak hours as part of the Government's SuperGold Card programme.

Hamilton has a unique opportunity to lead the way for other New Zealand cities in taking an age-friendly approach to future development. Relevant agencies can retain and build on features of the city that work well for older people, while working together to develop new initiatives that will benefit all older people now and in the future. Hamilton's growth is expected to continue, and to strengthen the programmes for older people will help to retain their contribution and participation in the city.

As Mayor of Hamilton, I fully support the city's application to join the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Global Network.

Andrew King

Mayor of Hamilton