

## Creating an Age friendly Aotearoa New Zealand: our highlights from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022



### Housing

The Office for Seniors has:

- published [Age friendly Urban Places](#) and is promoting this across local and central government
- supported the Minister for Seniors with feedback on applications for [fast-tracked resource management requests](#) for new retirement villages and mixed-use urban developments
- engaged across government to advocate for the needs of older people in housing and urban development programmes and policies

Kāinga Ora, the Government's housing agency, is developing public housing to meet the needs of older people and over 15% of its new builds meet universal accessibility standards



### Digital inclusion

The Office for Seniors has:

- continued to monitor the progress of the [Digital Skills for Seniors Programme](#) which will be evaluated by June 2023
- established the the [Digital Inclusion Action Group for Older People](#) to help expand Digital Skills for Seniors and other digital inclusion initiatives for older people
- contributed to the Department of Internal Affairs cross-government work to develop a Digital Inclusion Action Plan to give effect to the [Digital Inclusion Blueprint](#).
- participated in [TechWeek](#) in May 2022 to help raise awareness of digital inclusion needs for older people



### Employment

The Office for Seniors has:

- led the development of the [Older Workers' Employment Action Plan](#) ( which was launched in April 2022
- piloted 'Starting a Business Later in Life' with Selwyn District Council to equip older workers (aged 50+) with entrepreneurship skills and with follow-up support
- completed the *Experiences of Older Māori and Work* literature review which will be used to inform further work to address the needs of this group
- updated and published the [Business of Ageing](#) research report about the economic contribution of an ageing population



### Healthy ageing and access to services

The Government has continued to implement the [Healthy Ageing Strategy Priority Actions 2019 to 2024](#)

The Minister for Seniors has established an [Aged Care Commissioner](#) role to provide greater oversight of the aged care sector

The Office for Seniors has:

- worked across Government to advocate for the needs of older people in Aotearoa New Zealand's COVID-19 response
- started developing a response to the *United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing* with the Ministry of Health; we have completed a stocktake of cross-government actions against the Member State actions in the Decade's plan



### Participation and social inclusion

The Office for Seniors has:

- distributed \$250,000 of funding from the Joint Venture for Family Violence and Sexual Violence as small grants of up to \$25,000 for community-led [Elder Abuse prevention projects](#)
- run a [campaign](#) using television, radio, social and other media to raise awareness of and to promote the prevention of elder abuse to align with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- updated our [website](#) and branding to make it accessible and more user friendly
- updated and published the [Attitudes to Ageing](#) research report
- contributed to cross-government work on improving [social cohesion](#) in Aotearoa New Zealand



### Making environments accessible

The Government has:

- established Whaikaha – [Whaikaha, the Ministry of Disabled People](#) to launch on 1 July 2022
- drafted the [Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill](#), which will provide a legislative framework to help create accessible communities

Through the [Age friendly Aotearoa New Zealand Programme](#), the Office for Seniors has:

- continued to promote age friendly to communities and provided advice, feedback and tools to help them develop plans and projects
- established an [Age friendly Network](#) as a national community of practice for local councils
- provided eight [Age friendly Fund](#) grants of up to \$15,000 for age friendly projects and plans