

Creating an Age friendly Aotearoa New Zealand: our highlights from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



Housing

The Office for Seniors has:

- launched a Homeshare pilot for older people in Auckland to make it viable for them to remain in their own homes and stay connected with community
- supported the Minister for Seniors with feedback on applications for [fast-tracked resource management requests](#) for new retirement villages
- conducted desk-based research into the current state of existing and recently divested council housing
- supported the Centre for Research, Evaluation and Social Assessment (CRESA) looking at small homes reviewing both the market for them and testing approaches to make them more available for people throughout their life course
- engaged across government to advocate for the needs of older people in housing and urban development programmes and policies.



Digital inclusion

The Office for Seniors has:

- set up and met with the the [Digital Inclusion Action Group for Older People](#) to look at expanding the Digital Inclusion Programme
- expanded the Digital Inclusion Programme to provide digital literacy training to disadvantaged groups such as older Maori, Pacific and Asian learners
- presented at the 16th International Federation on Ageing Conference on digital inclusion initiatives
- participated in TechWeek in May 2023 to help raise awareness of digital inclusion needs for older pacific people.

The Department of Internal Affairs has released the Digital Strategy which includes digital inclusion.



Employment

The Office for Seniors has:

- made progress on the 11 actions detailed in the [Older Workers' Employment Action Plan](#) including:
 - reviewing and updating the Older Workers Employment Toolkit
 - presenting a deep dive on the ageing workforce to the Future of Work Forum Governance Group (partnering with government, unions and BusinessNZ)
 - removing barriers for older workers to finding work and staying employed such as extending the Ministry of Social Development's training products to people over the age of 65
- established the Senior Enterprise Programme and are testing different delivery models to support people aged 50+ years to start their own business
- contracted research looking at older Māori and work.



Healthy ageing and access to services

The Government has continued to implement phase 2 of the [Healthy Ageing Strategy Priority Actions 2019 to 2024](#)

The [Aged Care Commissioner](#) is designing a framework for monitoring and reporting on the performance of the aged care sector

Ministry of Social Development published the report [Older people experiencing vulnerability and multiple disadvantage in New Zealand](#)

Accident Compensation Corporation progressed their Live Stronger for Longer falls prevention programme launching the [Nymbi app](#)

The Office for Seniors has continued work on developing a response to the *United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing* with the Ministry of Health.



Participation and social inclusion

The Office for Seniors has:

- distributed \$155,000 of funding from the Joint Venture for Family Violence and Sexual Violence as small grants of up to \$25,000 to extend community-led [Elder Abuse prevention projects](#)
- run a month long [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
- set up elder abuse prevention networks as pilots in three regions of New Zealand
- supported locally led participation and social inclusion age friendly projects through administration of the Age friendly fund grants scheme.



Making environments accessible

The Government has:

- established Whaikaha – [Whaikaha, the Ministry of Disabled People](#) on 1 July 2022
- progressed the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill to Select Committee stage

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

- continued to promote age friendly to communities, providing advice, guides and toolkits
- doubled membership of the Age friendly Network as a national community of practice for local councils
- provided twelve Age friendly Fund grants of up to \$15,000 for locally-led age friendly projects and plans.