

Creating an Age friendly Aotearoa New Zealand: our highlights from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



Housing

The Office for Seniors has:

- continued the Homeshare pilot for older people in Auckland to make it viable for them to remain in their own homes and stay connected with community
- conducted research into levels of mortgage stress among older people in NZ, and the current state of existing and recently divested Council housing to better understand the impacts on older people.
- supported the Minister for Seniors with feedback on applications for [fast-tracked resource management requests](#) for new retirement villages

The Government is undertaking a review of the Retirement Villages Act 2003. An analysis of the 11,000 submissions received to the discussion document is currently being completed.



Digital inclusion

The Office for Seniors has:

- expanded membership of the [Digital Inclusion Action Group for Older People](#). The group meets quarterly to discuss work being done around digital inclusion for older people and digital literacy training for older people.
- continued to deliver digital literacy training to older people across Aotearoa New Zealand through Phase 2 of the [Digital Literacy Training for Seniors Programme](#), focussing on essential digital skills for disadvantaged groups such as older Māori, Pacific and Asian learners.
- Engaged an external evaluator for the Digital Literacy Training for Seniors Programme. An evaluation report is due to published in the latter part of 2026 following completion of the programme.



Employment

The Office for Seniors has:

- been involved with reviewing and updating the [Older Workers Employment Toolkit](#)
- delivered and evaluated the [Senior Enterprise Programme](#) that supported a diverse range of people aged 50+ years to start their own business
- established an Age Friendly Employer Network to facilitate advocacy, networking and sharing of best practice
- published a [Data Insights](#) report that was commissioned on what we know about older Māori and work in New Zealand



Healthy ageing and access to services

The Government is implementing the New Zealand Health Strategy, to improve access to and experiences of health services, including for older people.

The [Aged Care Commissioner](#) published her first report in March 2024. The report amplified the voices of older people and made 20 recommendations to improve the provision of quality health and disability services.

Accident Compensation Corporation is extending support for their Live Stronger for Longer falls prevention programme including continued support of the [Nymbi app](#).

The Office for Seniors has collaborated with 20 government agencies, NGOs and researchers to form the National Forum to develop New Zealand's response to the [Decade of Healthy Ageing](#). Community conversations and a media guide focused on ageism are in development.



Participation and social inclusion

The Office for Seniors has:

- 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 five regions of New Zealand and funded an evaluation of them
- supported locally led participation and social inclusion age friendly projects including intergenerational projects through administration of the Age friendly fund grants scheme.

The Ministry of Social Development has commissioned an elder abuse prevalence study.



Making environments accessible

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
- increased membership of the [Age friendly Network](#) as a national community of practice for local councils and other organisations leading age friendly initiatives in their communities. The 33 members represent 72% of New Zealand's population of over 65 year olds
- provided twelve [Age friendly Fund grants](#) of up to \$NZ 15,000 for locally-led age friendly projects and plans
- facilitated the piloting of the Age friendly Cities and Communities Questionnaire in a city in New Zealand. The questionnaire has now been validated for use throughout New Zealand.