

# RURAL CITY LIVING

20 February 2020

World Health Organization  
WHO Headquarters  
Venue Appia 20  
1211  
**GENEVA 27**



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## **WHO Global Network for Age friendly Cities and Communities Application**

I am pleased to support the application of the Gore District to become an accredited WHO Age-friendly Community.

Since 2017, the Gore District has been working towards becoming an Age-friendly Community. We gained funding from the Ministry of Business and Innovation to do a feasibility study into what is required to ensure the health and safety of our residents as we age. This was released in August 2019 and since then we have actively been working with the Office for Seniors and numerous charitable trusts to develop our Age-friendly Action Plan.

The action plan identifies areas for development across our six focus areas of health, housing, employment and volunteerism, accessibility, mobility and social participation. We will continue to work collaboratively with agencies, iwi and residents to make the district more age friendly.

The district has already delivered changes including working alongside Gore District Council staff to improve walkways, crossings, footpaths and mobility parks to create a 'liveable' space. We are currently interviewing to employ a coordinator who will work directly with clubs, organisations and residents to maximize the coordination and impact of the volunteer network and to strengthen social connectedness opportunities and in November 2019 hosted our first of many 'Healthy Aging' expos.

I know that Council officers are eager to continue to engage with Ready for Living to identify further opportunities to make the Gore District an even better place for people to live as they age.

With the financial assistance of the PH Vickery Trust, Community Networking Trust and the Gore District Council, we are committed to our long-term plan of working alongside our residents to ensure that the Gore District Continues to be a great place to work, live, play and age in.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Hicks', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tracy Hicks (JP)  
**Mayor of Gore District**