



1 December 2022

APPLICATION TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.

The three District Councils of the Wairarapa region; being the Masterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council wish to apply for membership of the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

The Wairarapa region is located in the lower half of Te Ika-a-Māui/ the North Island of Aotearoa/New Zealand. It encompasses five towns and a large rural area. The population was 46,460 at the last census in 2018. The population of people 65 plus is predicted to rise from 21.6% in 2018 to 31.5% by 2050 with local people retiring in place and also being a popular area for people to retire to.

In response to this population prediction, the three Wairarapa District Councils partnered to develop the Wairarapa Regional Positive Ageing Strategy (the Strategy).¹ Launched in 2019, the vision for the Strategy is that "Our kaumātua/older residents lead valued, connected and fulfilling lives". It is consistent with Aotearoa/New Zealand's national Strategy Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034.

The Strategy outlines the ways in which the Masterton, Carterton, and South Wairarapa District Councils will work together to ensure our older community is both valued and looked after. It sets out six goal areas for focus:

- **Goal one: Community Support and Health Services/Whāinga Tuatahi:** Hauora Ratonga Hapori - Community and health services support older peoples' well-being,
- **Goal two: Communication and Engagement/Whāinga Tuarua: Whakaputa Kōrero, Whakawhitiwhiti Kōrero** - Communication and Engagement with older people is respectful, appropriate and engaging,
- **Goal three: Transport/Whāinga Tuatoru: Waka Hari Tāngata** - Transport options are safe, affordable and accessible for older people

¹ <https://cdc.govt.nz/your-district/seniors/wairarapa-region-positive-ageing-strategy/>

- **Goal four: Cultural Diversity/Whāinga Tuawhā: Taha Tikanga Rerekē** -Cultural diversity – our community is proud of, and inclusive of, all cultures
- **Goal five: Housing/Whāinga Tuarima: Whakakāinga Hauora** - Housing options are appropriate, healthy and accessible for older people.
- **Goal six: Places, Spaces and Activities/Whāinga Tuaono: Ngā Wāhi, Ngā Rēhia** - Places, spaces and activities are safe, affordable and provide fun and enjoyable choices for older people.



The three Councils have committed to supporting this work with a paid employee that works across each Council. The Positive Ageing Strategy Co-ordinator both supports staff internally to develop an older persons lens on their work and supports community partners working with older people to create positive change. This role is responsible for reporting the progress made to both the three Councils' governance structure and to the community.

The three Councils are already well on the pathway of being an Age Friendly region by:

- Undertaking an extensive engagement programme to understand what the issues are for older people in our community.
- Developing the Strategy informed by community feedback.
- Committing to implementation with a corresponding action plan and resources.
- Completing a one-year work-plan and developing a further 3-year workplan.

As Mayors of the three Councils, we support this application for the Wairarapa membership of the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Ngā mihi nui,

Mayor Gary Caffell
Masterton District
Council

Mayor Martin Connelly
South Wairarapa District Council



Hon Mayor Ron Mark
Carterton District Council

c.c Lisa Matthews
Wairarapa Region Positive Ageing Strategy Co-ordinator