



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Palmerston North City Council

28 May 2025

WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities  
Bridgepoint Drive  
1 Suite G.238  
Toronto  
Canada

Kia Ora Sir/Madam

**Formal Commitment to Becoming an Age-friendly City**

As Mayor of Palmerston North, I am writing to express our city's formal commitment to becoming an age-friendly city and to support our application to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).

Palmerston North is a thriving and diverse city in the Manawatū region of New Zealand with a population of over 93,000 residents, 21.4% of whom are aged 60 years and older. We recognise the importance of creating a community in which older people are valued, supported, and empowered to live healthy, connected, and purposeful lives.

Palmerston North City Council fully endorses the vision, mission, and values of the WHO GNAFCC. We are committed to promoting equity, inclusion, intergenerational respect, and the active participation of older adults in civic and community life. We are aligning our local actions with the WHO's age-friendly domains through our Age Friendly Action Plan, which integrates with our Community Support Plan, Urban Design Plan, Transport and Housing strategies, and broader city development goals.

Our Council has established a 0.5FTE Community Development Advisor – Age Friendly role and associated budget to facilitate the implementation of our Age Friendly Action Plan. A dedicated internal steering group has been established across departments, and we are working closely with our Seniors Reference Group and the Age Friendly Palmerston North community group to ensure our initiatives are informed and co-designed by older people.

Membership in the Global Network represents the next important step in our journey. It will enable us to deepen our commitment, share our learnings, and benefit from international best practices and collaboration.

Palmerston North City Council looks forward to actively contributing to the Global Network by sharing progress reports, participating in knowledge exchanges, and engaging in opportunities to support global efforts to promote age-friendly cities and communities.

Thank you for considering our application. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grant Smith | JP  
Mayor of Palmerston North City