



The New Zealand
**POSITIVE
AGEING**
Strategy

**the year
ahead**

Highlights from the 2005-2006
Positive Ageing Strategy
ACTION PLAN



In April 2001, the Minister for Senior Citizens launched the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy. The Strategy's vision is that New Zealand will be:

A place where people can age positively, where older people are highly valued, and where they have continuing opportunities for participation.

The Positive Ageing Strategy has 10 goals to support this vision.

The Strategy's annual Action Plan shows what government departments and local councils will do to achieve the Strategy's vision and goals over the coming 12 months. This leaflet summarises the

highlights of the Action Plan for 2005-2006.

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy Action Plan is co-ordinated and published by the Office for Senior Citizens within the Ministry of Social Development. The Office also publishes the Positive Ageing Strategy Annual Report, which

KEY ACTIONS

GOAL ONE: secure and adequate income for older people

- New Zealanders will be supported by the Inland Revenue Department to save for their retirement through changes to the tax treatment of investments
- Up-to-date information on the living standards of older people will be available in *New Zealand Living Standards 2004*, to be published in December 2005 by the Ministry of Social Development
- All older people with a partner in long-term residential care will be eligible for the single rate of New Zealand Superannuation because of policy implemented by the Ministry of Social Development

GOAL TWO: equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people

- The Accident Compensation Corporation will refine and expand home-based rehabilitation care packages
- By February 2006, the Ministry of Health will publish the Dementia Community Care Standard Audit workbook and Community Care Guidance booklet, both concerned with the quality and safety of care for older people with dementia
- The Ministry of Health will develop and implement training for home-based support workers for older people in the community and in residential care

GOAL THREE: affordable and appropriate housing options for older people

- Following the Residential Tenancies Act review, the Department of Building and Housing will improve its information, education, and service delivery for older tenants
- By July 2006, Hamilton City Council will install smoke alarms in all council units
- A further 6,500 older people with Community Services Cards will have their homes insulated through a joint project by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority

GOAL FOUR: affordable and accessible transport options for older people

- To encourage access to the city's amenities, Dunedin City Council will increase access to free car parking for people aged 75 and over
- To promote road safety for older people, Land Transport New Zealand will support territorial local authorities to implement Road Safety Guidelines for Older People
- The Ministry of Transport will implement changes to the older driver licensing regime, including the removal of mandatory age-based on-road testing

GOAL FIVE: older people feel safe and secure and can 'age in place'

- Banks Peninsula District Council will distribute information on keeping safe in the home and community to older residents
- The New Zealand Police will increase the number of older people becoming area co-ordinators or contact persons for Neighbourhood Support groups, and the number of older people joining community patrols
- The Office for Senior Citizens will develop a Home Equity Release industry code of practice, consulting with key stakeholders and considering international best practice



shows what departments and councils have done over the previous year. You'll find more about the Office for Senior Citizens on the back of this leaflet.

Involvement of local councils

Seventeen councils contributed to the 2005-2006 Action Plan, and many of their projects involve working with community organisations for older people. Council actions in the 2005-2006 Action Plan include:

- providing better access to local transport, parking, and housing services for older people
- holding sports and recreation events for older people,

including events to mark the International Day of Older People on 1 October

- working with community organisations to promote positive attitudes to ageing, to share information about ageing issues, and to reduce elder abuse and neglect in communities
- encouraging older people to get involved with council decisions that will affect them
- ensuring that older people can easily get to public facilities like parks, libraries, recreation centres, walkways, and shopping areas.

FOR 2005-2006

GOAL SIX: a range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people

- A New Zealand War Memorial in London will represent the relationship between New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and commemorate the sacrifices made in two World Wars. The memorial will be designed and installed by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage
- Ways for older Pacific peoples to share their cultural knowledge with younger generations will be the subject of a publication from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- Te Puni Kōkiri will provide resources to Māori organisations for capacity building projects, including those that recognise the contribution of older Māori to their whānau, hapu and iwi
- By June 2006, Work and Income (Auckland) will have completed its analysis of issues faced by New Zealand Superannuation clients from Auckland's migrant communities

GOAL SEVEN: older people living in rural communities are not disadvantaged when accessing services

- Work and Income (Central) will work with rural networks and older people's support groups to improve awareness of its services among older people
- Work and Income (Nelson, Northland) will use the Heartland Services centres in their regions to deliver personal services to older people living in rural or remote places
- To improve access to library services, Tararua District Council will provide books in large print and audio format, and deliver reading material to housebound older people and older people in rest homes

GOAL EIGHT: people of all ages have positive attitudes to ageing and to older people

- Older people will be supported to take part in their communities, and to hand on their skills and experience to others, through the SAGES mentoring programmes administered by Family and Community Services, Ministry of Social Development
- The Office for Senior Citizens will promote Greats and Grands month in October 2005, through school initiatives involving children and older people
- Sport and Recreation New Zealand will review older people's participation in physical activity and sport, and will develop a national policy framework to encourage their participation

GOAL NINE: elimination of ageism and promotion of flexible work options

- Older people will be part of a labour force participation model being developed by the Department of Labour
- The State Services Commission will provide information to government departments on how to eliminate ageism and promote flexible work practices

GOAL TEN: increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation

- The New Plymouth City Council will work with the New Plymouth Positive Ageing Trust to organise events for older people on the International Day of Older People, 1 October 2005
- Ways in which war veterans have contributed to New Zealand will be the subject of an education strategy developed by Veterans' Affairs
- The Accessible Wellington programme will enable older people to access all services and participate in all community events run by the Wellington City Council



The Office for Senior Citizens LEADING POSITIVE AGEING

The Office for Senior Citizens is part of the Ministry of Social Development, and provides the Minister for Senior Citizens with advice on issues relating to older people.

We promote and monitor the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy, and we advocate for policies that have a positive effect on the lives of older New Zealanders. We also develop legislation that protects the rights and interests of older people in New Zealand.

Volunteer Community Co-ordinators

The Office maintains a close working relationship with the community through the Volunteer Community Co-ordinators (VCC) programme. This is a nationwide network of older volunteers who keep us informed about matters affecting older people. The VCCs also distribute information and publications in their local communities.

More about us

Please visit our website www.osc.govt.nz for more information about the Office and the Positive Ageing Strategy Action Plan and Annual Report.



OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

TE TARI KAUMĀTUA

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development