

the NEW ZEALAND

Ageing Positive Strategy

*Towards a society for all ages –
He anga oranga kau mō ngā
whakatipuranga katoa*

Hon Lianne Dalziel
Minister for Senior Citizens
April 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy has involved valued input from a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations. The advice and comments from the following contributors is particularly acknowledged:

Positive Ageing Reference Group

Ministerial Advisory Council for Senior Citizens

Volunteer Community Co-ordinators and focus group participants

Age Concern New Zealand and forum participants

Te Puni Kōkiri and hui participants

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and fono participants

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Foreword

– Minister for Senior Citizens



It gives me great pleasure to launch the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy. The Strategy sets out Government's commitment to positive ageing and reaffirms the value of older people in society.

Older people have skills, knowledge and experience to contribute to our country, and Government has an interest in ensuring that they are able to remain active participants in society for as long as possible. The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy is expected to improve opportunities for older people to participate in the community and to ensure that government policies support this aim.

I believe that Professor Sik Hung Ng of Victoria University, who was instrumental in establishing the New Zealand Institute of Research on Ageing, encapsulates the purpose of the Positive Ageing Strategy with the following words:

"New Zealanders who are now 65 plus are more highly educated and healthier than their predecessors. Their capacity for productive work of all kinds, not necessarily for pay, is a national treasure...Their contribution to New Zealand society is and will continue to be immense. If they are ignored undervalued, or otherwise excluded from society, New Zealand can hardly be competitive against other countries that have found a way of harnessing this immense resource."

During its development, the Positive Ageing Strategy had significant input from a wide range of individuals and from different sectors in the community working together. I would like to pay special tribute to their contributions, which I believe are strongly reflected in this Strategy.

The Positive Ageing Strategy establishes a set of principles as a framework for integrating policies and programmes across the government sector. But the Positive Ageing Strategy is more than a set of principle statements – it is a living document that is a basis for action.

A Positive Ageing Action Plan has been developed consisting of specific work items from a wide range of government agencies towards the achievement of ten priority goals. I will be monitoring progress on the Action Plan and will report annually to Government. I am also responsible for overseeing the development of a new Action Plan each year to ensure continued progress towards the positive ageing goals.

The Positive Ageing Strategy reflects the wishes of New Zealanders to create a society in which people can age positively. This requires more than Government action – it requires commitment and action from all sectors of society. It is my hope that central government, local government, business and community organisations will work together to achieve this vision.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Lianne Dalziel". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Lianne Dalziel
Minister for Senior Citizens

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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy reinforces Government's commitment to promote the value and participation of older people in communities. Older people are important members of society and have the right to be afforded dignity in their senior years. They have skills, knowledge and experience to contribute to society, and the expected growth in the proportion of older people during the coming decades will provide New Zealand with a valuable resource. Further, continued participation in older age has benefits for the individual concerned, the community, and the country as a whole.

The aim of the Positive Ageing Strategy is to improve opportunities for older people to participate in the community in the ways that they choose. This will be achieved through identifying barriers to participation and working with all sectors to develop actions to address these, while balancing the needs of older people with the needs of younger and future generations.

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy provides a framework within which all policy with implications for older people can be commonly understood and developed. The framework incorporates broad principles that will guide the development of policies and services from a wide range of government agencies. It also identifies key areas that contribute to positive ageing.

A review of existing policies and services has been undertaken to ensure consistency with the Positive Ageing Principles. In addition, extensive public consultation has identified priority areas for action, leading to the development of a government Action Plan for positive ageing in New Zealand.

The following Positive Ageing Principles will guide the development of policies and services across the government sector into the future.

Effective positive ageing policies will:

- Empower older people to make choices that enable them to live a satisfying life and lead a healthy lifestyle;
- Provide opportunities for older people to participate in and contribute to family, whānau and community;
- Reflect positive attitudes to older people;
- Recognise the diversity of older people and ageing as a normal part of the lifecycle;
- Affirm the values and strengthen the capabilities of older Māori and their whānau;
- Recognise the diversity and strengthen the capabilities of older Pacific people;
- Appreciate the diversity of cultural identity of older people living in New Zealand;



- Recognise the different issues facing men and women;
- Ensure older people, in both rural and urban areas, live with confidence in a secure environment and receive the services they need to do so; and
- Enable older people to take responsibility for their personal growth and development through changing circumstances.

The Positive Ageing Strategy identifies ten priority goals, with recommended actions to achieve these goals. Specific work items will be undertaken by government departments to work towards the goals. However, their achievement also depends on the contributions of other sectors of society.

Towards a Society for All Ages:

He Anga Oranga Kau mō ngā
Whakatipuranga Katoa

Towards a Society for All Ages:

He Anga Oranga Kau mō ngā Whakatipuranga Katoa

The growth in the older population has significant policy implications for all nations throughout the world. In developed nations in particular, much of the debate on the ageing population centres around expected increases in health and retirement income expenditure. However, people are not just living longer; they are also living healthier and can contribute many more years to society. In New Zealand, a feature of the older population is the increasing ethnic and social diversity, with higher proportions of Māori, Pacific peoples and Asians who will have different needs and expectations.

There are many opportunities to be realised as future generations of older people are expected to be healthier, more skilled and educated, and remain more active in the workforce than their predecessors. Positive attitudes to ageing and expectations of continuing productivity challenge the notion of older age as a time of retirement and withdrawal from society. The focus is on lifetime experiences contributing to well-being in older age, and older age as a time for ongoing participation in society.

The development of a New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy reinforces Government's commitment to promote the value and participation of older people in communities. Older people are important members of society and have the right to be afforded dignity in their senior years. They have skills, knowledge and experience to contribute to society and the expected growth in the proportion of older people during the coming decades will provide New Zealand with a valuable resource. Further, continued participation in older age has benefits for the individual concerned, the community, and the country as a whole.

Unfortunately, for some older people, full participation in society is prevented through low sense of worth or because of restricted opportunities. Social exclusion may arise through one or more of a range of circumstances, including a lack of access to personal, community or state resources and facilities, insufficient personal capacity and opportunity, and negative attitudes to ageing.

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy seeks to address the risk of social exclusion among older people by identifying gaps in government policy that might contribute to this risk. The purpose of the Strategy is to develop a strategic framework and action plan to promote and support positive ageing in policy and service development across a broad range of portfolio areas.

The concept of "Positive Ageing" embraces a number of factors, including health, financial security, independence, self-fulfilment, community attitudes, personal safety and security, and the physical environment. The underpinning premise is that the years of "older age" should be both viewed and experienced positively. The focus is therefore not only on the experience of older individuals, but also on younger generations' attitudes, expectations, and actions regarding ageing and older people. Promoting positive attitudes to ageing is the first step to achieving this goal.



The ability to age positively is assisted by good investment in education throughout life, to provide individuals with a repertoire of skills and an ability to set and achieve goals. It is also dependent on an environment that provides opportunities for older people to remain involved in society. Positive ageing policies aim to improve each individual's life experiences and create an environment that offers opportunities for continuing participation.

DETERMINANTS OF POSITIVE AGEING

A stable and secure income in retirement is essential for people to be able to age in a positive and productive way. An inadequate income has negative effects on health and on the ability of older people to remain active participants in society. Good health and positive relationships in childhood, healthy lifestyle choices, and appropriate health and social support services throughout life increase the probability of good health in older age. Māori, in particular, consider that the ability to develop and deliver the holistic, whānau-based services that they want is essential to their well-being. Similar views have been expressed by Pacific people and by other ethnic communities.

Positive ageing is closely aligned with the ability to "age in place"; that is, to be able to make choices in later life about where to live, and receive the support needed to do so. For older people to maintain their independence and age in place successfully, it is important that they have adequate and affordable housing that meets their needs. Most older people do not require support services to live at home, but people aged 80 and over are more likely to require assistance. Concerns about safety and security are also greatest among older people who are vulnerable because of frailty, lack of resources, or isolation.

It is in everyone's interest that older people are encouraged and supported to remain self-reliant, and that they continue to participate and contribute to the well-being of themselves, their families, and the wider New Zealand community. Factors influencing their ability to access services and participate in their community include not only health status and income but also access to and availability of transport.

Retirement from the paid workforce does not mean that people cease to contribute to society – it provides opportunities for participation in different ways and in a range of roles: as employees, volunteers, family members, neighbours, caregivers, committee and trust members, kaumātua, business mentors and advisors, and members of communities.

The choice to work later in life is important in meeting the challenge of positive ageing. The evidence suggests that those who work longer enjoy better health in their old age. In order to achieve this objective, more emphasis must be given to life-long learning for workers of all ages, so that they maintain and increase their skills and productivity as they grow older. It also involves



changing everyone's attitudes to ageing and older workers, and providing employment options for older workers, including part-time, job share, flexible hours, and retraining budgets through workplace reforms.

The benefits of positive ageing for individuals are obvious: good health, independence, intellectual stimulation, self-fulfilment and friendship are just some of the valued outcomes. Society as a whole has a lot to gain from these outcomes: a healthy, happy, and confident ageing population contributes a wealth of expertise and skills to the community and the workforce, places less demand on social services, and provides positive role models for younger generations.

Positive ageing policies are those designed to support people, as they grow older, in leading productive lives in the economy and society. It is important that government policies across the range of issues – including employment, health, housing and income support – allow and encourage older people, and future generations of older people, to experience ageing as a positive and productive phenomenon. The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy has been developed to achieve this objective.

A Vision for Positive Ageing in New Zealand

A Vision for Positive Ageing in New Zealand

The Positive Ageing Reference Group, consisting of community representatives, has developed the following Vision for Positive Ageing in New Zealand. Members of the Reference Group were appointed by the Minister for Senior Citizens because of their interest in and understanding of positive ageing issues. Appendix 6 lists the Reference Group members.

Our vision is for a society where people can age positively, where older people are highly valued and where they are recognised as an integral part of families and communities. New Zealand will be a positive place in which to age when older people can say that they live in a society that values them, acknowledges their contributions and encourages their participation.

This will be a reality when:

- Society respects older people, values their knowledge, wisdom and skills, and acknowledges the considerable contributions they make to family, whānau and the community;
- We have created communities where people of all ages can enjoy a satisfying life;
- Ageing is a positive experience, regardless of gender, age, culture, or ability;
- Older people can participate in the community in the ways they choose and their participation is valued and respected by others;
- The community works together to provide an environment where people can age positively;
- Partnerships that support positive ageing are developed between local and central government, communities and support agencies;
- Older people are welcomed as mentors for younger generations;
- Ageing provides opportunities for opening new doors and offering new experiences;
- Society recognises the potential and talent of a steadily growing number of older people;
- Older people are able to continue to learn and make the most of their talents;
- Ageism is eliminated from all sectors of society and everyone is valued for who they are regardless of age;
- Flexible employment practices support older people in the workforce;
- The importance of a healthy lifestyle, leisure and recreation is recognised throughout life;
- Health promotion supports a wellness model of ageing;
- Older people are able to live in a safe and secure environment and receive the necessary support when they can no longer live independently;
- New Zealanders have access to a continuum of health services;



- There is security and stability in retirement income policies that provide a reasonable standard of living in older age;
- Accessible transport supports community participation;
- Adequate housing is available to ensure people can live with dignity;
- A wide range of services supports ageing in place;
- Older people living in isolated and sparsely populated rural communities are not disadvantaged when accessing services;
- New Zealanders have positive attitudes to ageing and older people; and
- The concept and importance of positive ageing is widely understood.

Developing the Strategy

Developing the Strategy

The development of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy encompassed the following tasks:

- Developing a strategic framework for government policies and services through an agreed set of **positive ageing principles**;
- **Consulting** with community and stakeholder groups to seek feedback on the principles and agreement on priority areas for government action;
- Establishing **goals** for positive ageing according to the priority areas raised in consultations;
- Undertaking a **stocktake** and assessment of existing government policies and services in terms of the positive ageing principles;
- Compiling an inter-departmental **action plan** to work towards achieving the goals and addressing issues identified in the consultations and the policy stocktake exercise; and
- Identifying mechanisms for regular **monitoring**, reporting and review of progress on the Strategy.

POSITIVE AGEING PRINCIPLES

The Advisory Council for Senior Citizens developed a draft set of statements to guide the development of policies and services across the public sector. The Advisory Council for Senior Citizens is a panel of community representatives that provides the Minister for Senior Citizens with independent advice on issues concerning the well-being of older people. Membership of the Advisory Council is included in Appendix 6.

The Positive Ageing Principles state that:

Effective positive ageing policies will:

1. Empower older people to make choices that enable them to live a satisfying life and lead a healthy lifestyle;
2. Provide opportunities for older people to participate in and contribute to family, whānau and community;
3. Reflect positive attitudes to older people;
4. Recognise the diversity of older people and ageing as a normal part of the lifecycle;
5. Affirm the values and strengthen the capabilities of older Māori and their whānau;
6. Recognise the diversity and strengthen the capabilities of older Pacific people;
7. Appreciate the diversity of cultural identity of older people living in New Zealand;
8. Recognise the different issues facing men and women;



9. Ensure older people, in both rural and urban areas, live with confidence in a secure environment and receive the services they need to do so; and
10. Enable older people to take responsibility for their personal growth and development through changing circumstances.

CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation was undertaken with communities, with the non-government and the aged-care sectors, with local government, and with various advisory and expert groups. The purpose of the consultation was to seek feedback on the Positive Ageing Principles and to identify priority issues for action in the Positive Ageing Strategy.

Community consultation was undertaken through focus groups managed by the Senior Citizens Unit of the Ministry of Social Policy, Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Working with Communities

The Senior Citizens Unit Volunteer Community Co-ordinators hosted **focus group** meetings in Northland, Whangārei, Auckland, Hamilton, Coromandel, Tauranga, Rotorua, New Plymouth, Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North, Wanganui, Wairarapa, Kapiti, Wellington, Nelson, Hokitika, Greymouth, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill. Specific focus groups for Māori were held in Hamilton, Whakatāne, Tauranga and Rotorua. A summary of the report from the community focus group meetings outlines the priority issues identified by over 600 participants, and is attached as Appendix 2.

In addition, Te Puni Kōkiri organised hui in Gisborne, Lower Hutt, Christchurch, and Invercargill and reports from these meetings identified issues of particular interest and concern to **Māori**. Appendix 3 summarises these issues.

The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and the Senior Citizens Unit jointly hosted a focus group with **Pacific people** in Christchurch, and gatherings for Pacific people in Auckland were arranged through the Pacific Older People's Auckland Network. Findings from these meetings are attached as Appendix 4.

Age Concern New Zealand organised a forum for the **non-government and aged-care sectors** to contribute to the development of the Positive Ageing Strategy. Over 100 key opinion leaders from voluntary, business, health, education, and other non-government sectors participated in the forum. The Executive Summary of the report prepared by Age Concern is attached as Appendix 5.



It includes a list of thirteen points of action that were recommended by the forum as key components of a Positive Ageing Strategy.

Information about the development of the Positive Ageing Strategy and a questionnaire seeking input from **local government** was sent to all Mayors and local government Chief Executives. Responses to the questionnaire, combined with information gathered at a one-day seminar for local government, have also informed the development of the Strategy.

Feedback on Positive Ageing Principles

As part of the consultation process, participants were asked if they agreed with the Positive Ageing Principles and whether there was anything important that had been omitted. A wide range of comments was received from the various meetings, with comments expressing one particular view often being contradicted by another. Overall, however, there was general agreement with the Positive Ageing Principles.

The report from the non-government forum, organised by Age Concern New Zealand, suggests that the Positive Ageing Principles need to be "re-written as explicit and meaningful action statements", to provide a clear guide for action and a basis for measuring progress. These wishes for measurable actions have been addressed in the development of the Positive Ageing Strategy inter-departmental action plan.

Priority Areas for Action

Participants were also asked to identify priority areas for government action, in order to create a society in which people can age positively. Feedback from this request has been used to develop ten Positive Ageing Goals, with recommended actions to achieve these goals. Specific work items will be undertaken by government departments to work towards the goals, but their achievement also depends on the contributions of other sectors of society.

Positive Ageing Goals and Key Actions

Positive Ageing Goals and Key Actions

1. INCOME

GOAL: *Secure and adequate income for older people*

ACTIONS:

- 1.1 Enactment of legislation that increases the security of publicly provided retirement income into the future
- 1.2 Review income support provisions to ensure they provide an adequate standard of living
- 1.3 Monitor changes in living standards for all people

2. HEALTH

GOAL: *Equitable, timely, affordable and accessible health services for older people*

ACTIONS:

- 2.1 Promotion of holistic-based wellness throughout the life cycle
- 2.2 Develop health service options that allow integrated planning, funding and delivery of primary, secondary, residential care and community support services
- 2.3 Ensure the availability of multi-disciplinary comprehensive geriatric needs assessment throughout New Zealand

3. HOUSING

GOAL: *Affordable and appropriate housing options for older people*

ACTIONS:

- 3.1 Maintain income-related rents policy for state housing
- 3.2 Provide adequate assistance towards the cost of local authority rates
- 3.3 Strengthen legal protection for retirement village residents
- 3.4 Work with local government to increase the supply of universal design and energy-efficient low-rental housing, including supported pensioner housing complexes
- 3.5 Investigate options for government assistance to enable low-income families to purchase homes



4. TRANSPORT

GOAL: *Affordable and accessible transport options for older people*

ACTIONS:

- 4.1 Review public transport options so that they are user-friendly in terms of routes, egress, timetables and affordability, and are safe for all ages
- 4.2 Review driver re-licensing provisions for older drivers to ensure they are based on ability, not age
- 4.3 Ensure lack of transport is not a barrier to accessing health services

5. AGEING IN PLACE

GOAL: *Older people feel safe and secure and can "age in place"*

ACTIONS:

- 5.1 Promote and implement safety awareness programmes for older people
- 5.2 Develop a wide range of services that support ageing in place
- 5.3 Develop policy options that facilitate ageing in place
- 5.4 Improve delivery of information about provisions and services that enable older people to age in place

6. CULTURAL DIVERSITY

GOAL: *A range of culturally appropriate services allows choices for older people*

ACTIONS:

- 6.1 Increase the number of quality services provided by and for Māori
- 6.2 Increase the number of quality services provided by and for Pacific peoples
- 6.3 Identify issues of specific concern to older people from ethnic communities and develop options for addressing these



7. RURAL

GOAL: *Older people living in rural communities are not disadvantaged when accessing services*

ACTIONS:

- 7.1 Promote and support policies that encourage opportunities for growth and development for older people living in rural communities
- 7.2 Improve service delivery to rural areas
- 7.3 Ensure policies address the additional costs associated with providing services to sparsely populated and rural communities
- 7.4 Ensure equity of access to health services for people in rural areas
- 7.5 Develop options to address the transport needs of rural older people accessing services and activities in urban areas

8. ATTITUDES

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

ACTIONS:

- 8.1 Ensure government agency advertising and publicity campaigns portray positive images of older people
- 8.2 Promote intergenerational programmes in schools and communities
- 8.3 Foster collaborative relationships between central and local government, business, non-government and community sectors that promote positive ageing

9. EMPLOYMENT

GOAL: *Elimination of ageism and the promotion of flexible work options*

ACTIONS:

- 9.1 Implement human resources policies in the government sector that support employment of older workers; provide family-friendly workplaces by recognising those with caring responsibilities and allowing flexible and reduced hours of work; and ensure entitlements for training are provided to all workers, including older workers
- 9.2 Ensure those providing services to older people have an understanding and awareness of older people's issues
- 9.3 Work with local government and the business sector to promote mentoring programmes that harness the skills and experience of older people



10. OPPORTUNITIES

GOAL: *Increasing opportunities for personal growth and community participation*

ACTIONS:

- 10.1 Improve opportunities for education for all
- 10.2 Implement adult education and retraining initiatives
- 10.3 Encourage utilisation of the experience and skills of older people
- 10.4 Promote and support volunteer organisations.

POLICY STOCKTAKE AND ACTION PLAN

Policies with implications for older people will be developed and delivered by a range of government agencies. A comprehensive and integrated Positive Ageing Strategy therefore needs to incorporate action from all of these agencies. Appendix 1 is a diagram of the key government departments involved and some of the issues considered as part of the Positive Ageing Strategy.

The inter-departmental action plan is the most important part of the Positive Ageing Strategy because it provides the mechanism for achieving the positive ageing goals and for Government to work towards creating a society in which people can age positively.

Each year, Chief Executives of government agencies will identify and discuss with their Ministers proposed work items that will form their department's contribution to the Positive Ageing Action Plan. The action plan identifies the individual work items to be undertaken and co-ordinated by many government departments, developed in response to issues raised during public consultations. It also includes work items identified by departments in their assessments of the changing social environment and the ability of current policies to meet the needs and challenges of an ageing population.

The first Positive Ageing Action Plan is for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Another important component of the Positive Ageing Strategy is the monitoring and reporting mechanisms that support the co-ordinated approach to positive ageing policies and ensure continued assessment of policies and services in terms of the Positive Ageing Principles. A two-tier monitoring, review and reporting process will be implemented.



The first tier involves monitoring and reporting on progress achieved in the work items included in the annual Positive Ageing Action Plan. Reporting will occur in July each year, to coincide with regular departmental reporting processes. This level of reporting is focused on the achievement of the specific work items identified by various departments as part of their contribution to the Positive Ageing Strategy.

In addition to monitoring progress on specific work items, a report will be published regularly, at approximately three-yearly intervals, on the situation of older people and on positive ageing in New Zealand. This report will be compiled from information available through New Zealand sources, such as the Census, the Time Use Survey, and other recent research. International data from the United Nations, the OECD and other significant sources will also be analysed to allow international comparisons.

This "status" report will not only provide a valuable summary of the situation of older people in New Zealand, but will also help to identify issues requiring government action as part of an ongoing Positive Ageing Strategy. The publication of the first "baseline" report is planned for September 2001.

LOOKING FORWARD

Creating a society in which people can age positively requires more than government action. Achieving this vision depends on the involvement of central and local government, business, non-government and community sectors. Everyone has a part to play.

The success of the Positive Ageing Strategy will depend on everyone working together.

People need to think about where they are now and the choices they will want to make to have a positive older age. Most people want to continue to contribute to society. There is a role for central and local government to work with communities to enable this to happen. There is much debate to take place on how this will best be achieved, and this debate needs to take place at the local level.

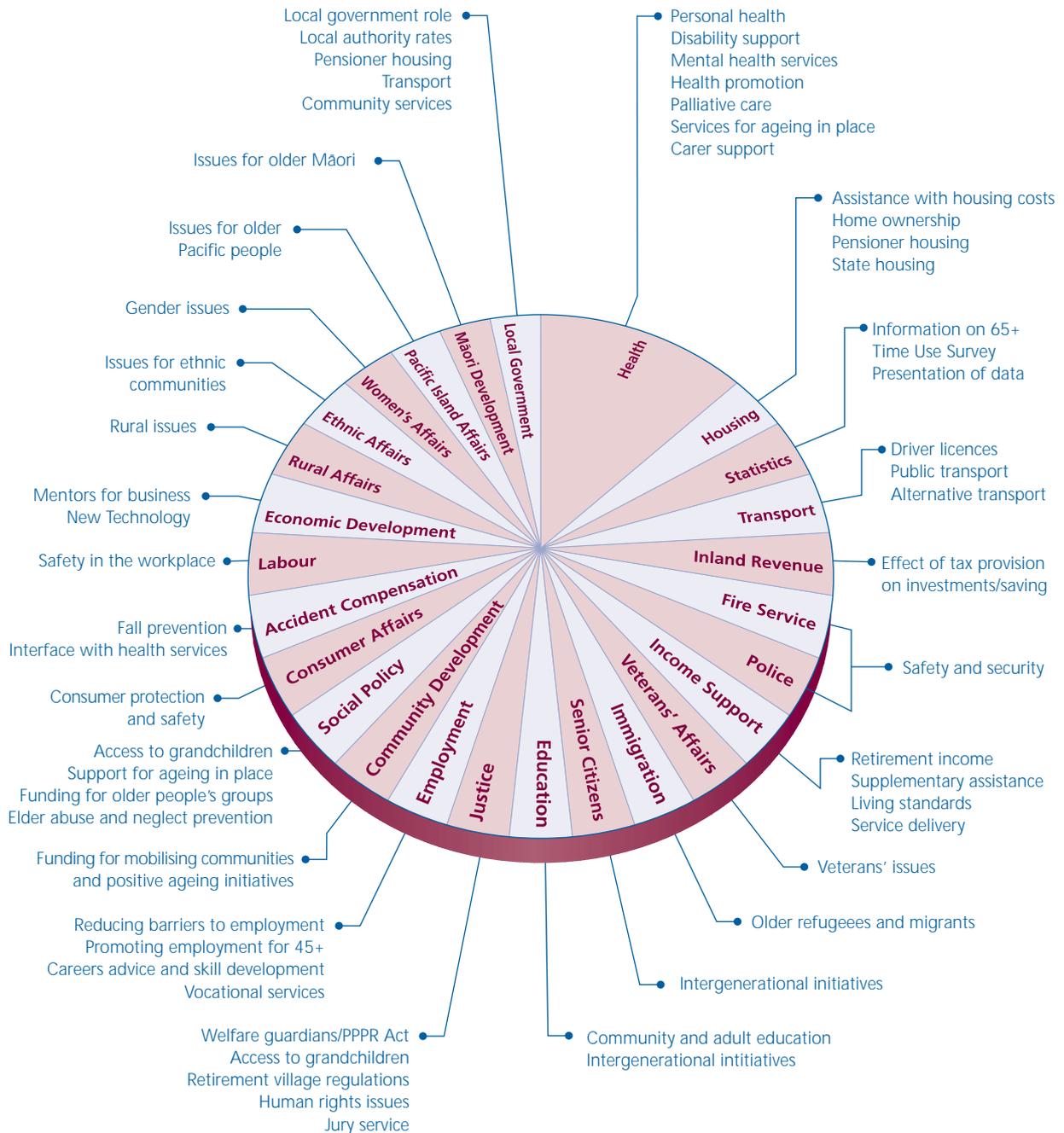
The Positive Ageing Strategy has been developed in partnership with a wide range of people and organisations. It is a living document. Continuing and building on these relationships is essential in order to achieve its goals.

Appendices

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Positive Ageing Strategy - Key Portfolios and Issues



The above diagram symbolises the integrated nature of the Positive Ageing Strategy. The sections of the circle are the key government portfolios integral to the strategy. Examples of relevant policy issues in each portfolio area are listed around the circle. Other relevant portfolios and policy issues will continue to be identified during the ongoing development of the strategy.



APPENDIX 2

Positive Ageing Strategy Community Consultations Report – Summary

The report outlines the findings from the Positive Ageing Strategy's community consultations. The Positive Ageing Strategy is a project designed to improve opportunities for older people to participate in the community. The purpose of the community consultations was to get feedback on the important areas that the Government could focus on in order to create a society in which people could age positively, and on the list of draft statements guiding the development of the Strategy.

The community consultations were run by Volunteer Community Co-ordinators. The Senior Citizens Unit of the Ministry of Social Policy provided information and resources for the community consultations and each Volunteer Community Co-ordinator determined the format of the consultations.

A total of 34 consultations were held throughout New Zealand, including four meetings specifically for Māori. 585 individual response forms and nine group responses were received from the community consultations.

Participants were given a consultation response form and asked to:

- Identify the six most important areas that the government could focus on in order to create a society in which people could age positively; and
- Comment on the list of draft statements developed to guide positive ageing policies.

The findings in the report are principally taken from the answers given on the individual response forms. These responses provided a greater depth of information and details of participant demographics than did the group response forms.

Participants indicated that, in their opinion, **the most important areas** that government could focus on to create a society in which people could age positively were **health, income support, positive ageing, transport, home support services and carers, and government planning/policy.**

The most commonly identified priority issues were: accessible and adequate health services; adequate New Zealand Superannuation/retirement income; positive ageing education programmes; recognition and value of the contribution, abilities, achievements and diversity of older people; certainty of retirement income; accessible public transport; and suitable housing options. Across all of the issues mentioned there were common themes of **affordability, access and information.**

The report also highlights issues that have been raised by, or are of particular relevance to, Māori, women and rural communities. Issues of particular relevance to Māori included the need for information and cultural awareness in health services and the need to recognise and provide for kaumātua. Women participants made a significant number of comments regarding home support services, carers and residential care. Most of the issues specific to rural areas concerned the need to have greater access to services.

Copies of the Positive Ageing Community Consultations Report are available from the Senior Citizens Unit, Ministry of Social Policy.



APPENDIX 3

Consultation with Māori

Specific consultations were held with Māori during the development of the Positive Ageing Strategy. Te Puni Kōkiri hosted hui in Gisborne, Lower Hutt, Christchurch and Invercargill. The Senior Citizens Unit Volunteer Community Co-ordinators held focus groups with Māori in Hamilton, Whakatāne, Tauranga and Rotorua.

Feedback from the individual participants at the Hamilton, Whakatāne, and Rotorua consultations are included in Appendix 2. The priority issues identified in the group responses provided by the hui in Tauranga, Gisborne, Lower Hutt, Christchurch and Invercargill are outlined below.

Key priorities

- All groups identified concerns with **health sector issues**. These included access to information about health services, a lack cultural awareness and sensitivity of health provider organisations, and the cost and difficulty of access to GPs. Some specific suggestions were offered such as the reduction of prescription and medication costs, a reduction in the cost of hearing aids, and the employment of older Māori as call centre operators to respond to queries and requests for advice or information. It was also suggested that fuller inclusion of whānau when explaining treatment and medication to Māori patients would improve service delivery.
- A key theme that ran through the responses was the need for **services to be provided 'by Māori for Māori'**. This issue surfaced in the area of health services and the provision of home support services. There was also a call for more support and funding for kaumātua/kuia community and marae-based programmes and services. Groups felt that there was a need for a range of models and treatment regimes to be available that would better accommodate the cultural requirement of older Māori and their whānau.
- **Income support issues** were raised by three of the five groups. These were focused predominantly on the adequacy of New Zealand Superannuation and the inability of many Māori to accumulate savings to supplement New Zealand Superannuation. The need to provide financial support to younger generations who were unemployed reduced the ability of older Māori to provide for their own retirement adequately. Concerns about the supply of information regarding entitlements were also raised. It was suggested that marae and churches were under-utilised at present as means for disseminating information.
- **Intergenerational issues** were raised by three out of five groups and a general concern was expressed regarding a lack of respect for older Māori from the younger generations. It was felt that there should be more opportunities for older Māori to pass on their skills and knowledge to younger generations and to act as positive role models for younger Māori. There was a suggestion that opportunities for positive ageing education programmes for younger people should be provided.
- **Strengthening families** was seen as way of addressing some of the concerns about rural/urban separation. Two of the groups felt that older Māori in rural areas were becoming isolated from their whānau and had lost many of the support systems that are provided through a closer connection with family.
- Three out of five groups raised concerns that the **role and significance of kaumātua** were not understood or adequately recognised by government.



APPENDIX 4

Consultation with older Pacific people

Three consultation meetings were arranged with older Pacific people. In Christchurch, a workshop was held at the Pacific Waves Conference¹, and TOA Pacific Network² organised two meetings with older Pacific people in Auckland.

Positive ageing principles

Participants at the Auckland meetings unanimously supported the ten positive ageing principles. They commented that as well as recognising the diversity and strengthening the capabilities of older Pacific people, it is important to be aware of the difficulties faced by many older Pacific people. These include language barriers, mobility and transport problems, extended family dynamics, expectations that they will look after grandchildren, and difficulties accessing information.

While the Christchurch Pacific community did not discuss the draft positive ageing principles in detail, the key priorities identified were in line with the draft principles.

Key priorities

Participants at the three consultation meetings indicated that for older Pacific people, positive ageing would be achieved by:

- Maintaining the leadership roles of older Pacific people within families, churches, community groups and in their own network groups;
- Ensuring older Pacific people have:
 - adequate income;
 - affordable and appropriate housing, that is suitable for extended family living;
 - accurate information about services and entitlements;
 - appropriate health and home support services that meet the needs of Pacific people, and the opportunity to choose the services they require; and
 - venues to meet together, such as a Pacific peoples centre;
- Establishing education and support programmes to ensure the safety of older Pacific people;
- Providing opportunities for older Pacific people to:
 - pass on their cultural traditions, stories, skills, and arts and crafts to younger generations;
 - share stories with their peer group; and
 - learn new skills;
- Families, communities and New Zealand society, valuing and celebrating the contributions of older Pacific people;
- Families and community networks providing older Pacific people with support, love and respect; and
- Involving older Pacific people in developing their own solutions.

1 The Pacific Waves Conference was held in Christchurch on 3 August 2000, as part of the Capacity Building Process for Pacific communities which was facilitated by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

2 Treasured Older Adults Pacific Network, previously known as Pacific Older People's Auckland Network (POPAN).



APPENDIX 5

Age Concern New Zealand Report of the Positive Ageing Strategy Forum – Executive Summary

Age Concern held a forum to contribute to the development of the proposed New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy, on 27 September 2000 in Wellington. Over 100 key opinion leaders from the voluntary, business, health, education, local government and central government sectors participated in the forum.

Forum participants welcomed the Government's initiative to develop a Positive Ageing Strategy. However, they were critical of the proposed Positive Ageing Principles as failing to provide a clear and strong foundation upon which to base the Strategy.

The forum considered the Positive Ageing Principles should be re-written as explicit and meaningful action statements. These would provide a clear guide for action, and a basis for measuring progress.

A list of thirteen points of action were recommended as key components of a Positive Ageing Strategy.

Recommended Points of Action

- Provision of secure and adequate income for older people;
- The establishment of a multi-party agreement on retirement income;
- Provision of accessible, timely, co-ordinated and equitable health services for older people;
- Provision and funding of health care services must be integrated;
- Ensure the availability of a continuum of care for frail older people, including adequately resourced home and community care services, mental health services and rehabilitation services;
- Provision of affordable and appropriate, private and rental housing for older people;
- Elimination of ageism in the workforce, and the promotion of flexible employment options for older people;
- Fostering life-long learning for all age groups;
- Promotion of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons;
- Government should model positive ageing behaviour and eliminate ageism (e.g. by fully complying with the Human Rights Act);
- Encourage positive images of older people in the media and public arena;
- Foster collaborative relationships between the government, NGO, business, and community sectors to act in the interests of older people, and the whole community; and
- Provision of additional funding for the not-for-profit (NGO) sector.

The development of a Positive Ageing Strategy is a significant step forward for New Zealand. We must all ensure that the Government is held accountable for ensuring that the objectives are appropriate and successfully implemented.



APPENDIX 6

Key contributors to the Positive Ageing Strategy

POSITIVE AGEING REFERENCE GROUP

The Positive Ageing Reference Group was established to provide advice to the Ministry of Social Policy on positive ageing issues and provide input to the development of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy. The following members were appointed by the Minister for Senior Citizens because of their interest and understanding of positive ageing issues.

Brian Absolum, Wellington	Government Superannuitants Association
Frances Cook, Wellington	NZ Nurses Organisation
Betty Cuthbert, Auckland	Council of Women, Grey Power, Māori Women's Welfare League
Dr Margaret Guthrie, Wellington	NZ Association of Gerontology, Age Concern NZ
Wharekura Hornfeck, Rotorua	Senior Citizens Unit Volunteer Community Co-ordinator, Māori Women's Welfare League, Life Skills programme
John Patterson, Christchurch	Canterbury Development Corporation Third Age
George Potae, Coromandel	JP, Jaycee, Golden Shears
Wally Ranfurly, Wellington	Fanau Centre, Niue Community Porirua
Graham Stairmand, Christchurch	Grey Power, Disability Strategy Reference Group
Di Valentine, Taihape	Older and Bolder Collective, REAP

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Advisory Council for Senior Citizens is a panel of community representatives that provides the Minister for Senior Citizens with independent advice on issues concerning the well-being of older people. Cabinet appoints members to the Advisory Council because of their knowledge of older people's issues and their community interest, rather than as representatives of particular interest groups. The Advisory Council members are:

Ron Francis (Chair), Hutt Valley
Beverley Chappell, Kapiti
Anne Delamere, Wellington
David Dobson, Wellington
John Probert, Christchurch



VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATORS

The Senior Citizens Unit Volunteer Community Co-ordinators organised consultations in their communities to seek feedback on the Positive Ageing Principles and to identify priority issues for action in the Positive Ageing Strategy. Their names are listed in geographic order.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NOMINATING ORGANISATION</u>
Margaret Ryan-Bell	Age Concern Mid-North
John Ankcorn	Age Concern Whangarei
Vaughan Tabuteau	Age Concern North Shore
Liz Holsted	Age Concern Auckland
Malia Hamani	Pacific Older Peoples Auckland Network, Methodist Mission
Audrey Harris	Retired Persons Association, Te Kauwhata
Sandra Larsen	Age Concern Hamilton
June Kelly	Frankton/Dinsdale Rau Awaawa Charitable Trust, Hamilton
Florence Shearman	Te Whare Iwi, Whangamata
Yvonne Vere Williams	Western Bay of Plenty Grey Power, Tauranga
Alfred Bidois	Huria Community Care, Tauranga
Roma Cook	Age Concern Rotorua
Wharekura Hornfeck	Rotorua Māori Women's Welfare League
Kathleen Stewart	Ngati Awa Social & Health Service Trust, Whakatāne
Judith Pirie	Mature Employment Service, Napier
John Cunningham	New Plymouth Grey Power
Maikara Tapuke	Pukeariki Kaumātua Kauhera, Waitara
William Frith	Manawatu Grey Power
George Bowers	U3A, Wanganui
John Tenquist	Wairarapa Organisation for Older Persons
Evan Thomas	Age Concern Kapiti Coast
Margaret Wright	Wainuiomata Grey Power
Lys Noble	Age Concern Wellington
Joan Taylor	Age Concern Wellington
Marilyn Adams	Age Concern Nelson
Maurice Roberts	Hokitika Grey Power
Robin Taylor	Mature Employment Service, Christchurch
Dale Brooker	AMES Trust, Timaru
David Henry	Age Concern Otago
Colin Schaab	Mature Employment Service, Invercargill



POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY PROJECT TEAM

Responsible Manager: Neil Martin, Senior Manager, Ministry of Social Policy

Project Manager: Jenni Nana, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Social Policy

Project Team: Natalie Lavery, Manager, Senior Citizens Unit
Stuart Irvine, Policy Analyst, Ministry of Social Policy
Chris Thompson, Policy Analyst, Ministry of Social Policy
Carla Wilson, Researcher/Analyst, Ministry of Social Policy

Steering Group: Peter Carr, Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Social Policy
Margaret Earle, Senior Policy Analyst, Senior Citizens Unit
Paulette Finlay, Senior Analyst, Ministry of Health
Judy Glackin, Manager Health of Older People Policy, Ministry of Health
John Jensen, Special Advisor, Ministry of Social Policy
Ross Mackay, Special Advisor, Ministry of Social Policy
Bettina Schaer, Advisor, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet