

Age-friendly New Zealand: one community at a time

Local Government Community Boards
Conference

April 2019

New Plymouth



Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

What we'll cover today

- Who we are
- Why are we here – changing times
- What age-friendly is and why we need it
- How communities become age-friendly
- Giving it a go – working through some of the questions and processes



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Te Tari Kaumātua

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Who are we?

- Office for Seniors within MSD
- Led by Diane Turner, Director
- Work to Minister for Seniors, Hon Tracey Martin
- Focused on improving the future for New Zealanders as they age
- Develop policy and strategies to enable older people to thrive



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Better later life



New Zealand Government

Better Later Life He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034

DRAFT

Making the future better for
New Zealanders as we age
Kia Oranga Kaumātua
ō Rā ki te Ao

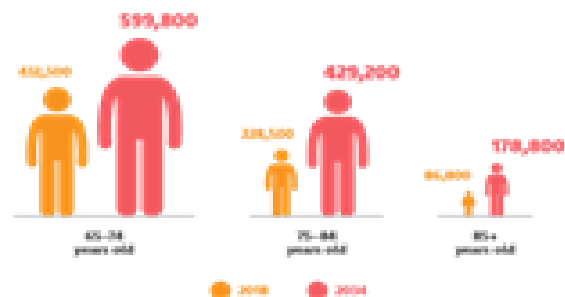
APRIL 2019



Why are we here?

2034

- Over 1.2 million people 65+
- Nearly 180,000 aged 85+
- Our older population is increasingly diverse with predicted increases across all ethnicities
- This is a significant change and one that is worth celebrating



Numbers of older people are increasing across all ethnicities.



Better later life

Guiding Principles

- **Valuing people as they age**
- **Keeping people safe**
- **Recognising diversity and that everyone is unique**
- **Taking a whole-of-life and whānau-centred approach to ageing**
- **Taking collective responsibility to plan and act for later life**

Key areas for action



Preparing for financial and economic security



Improving access to health and social services



Providing housing choices and options so people can age in the community



Enhancing opportunities for social connection and participation



Providing accessible built environments so people can participate in their community

Possible Initial Priorities



Providing accessible built environments so people can participate in their community

- **Encourage local authorities to plan for and take action to respond to an ageing population**
- **Continue to encourage the development of the Age-friendly Cities and Communities programme**

What is age friendly?

World Health Organization Age Friendly Communities

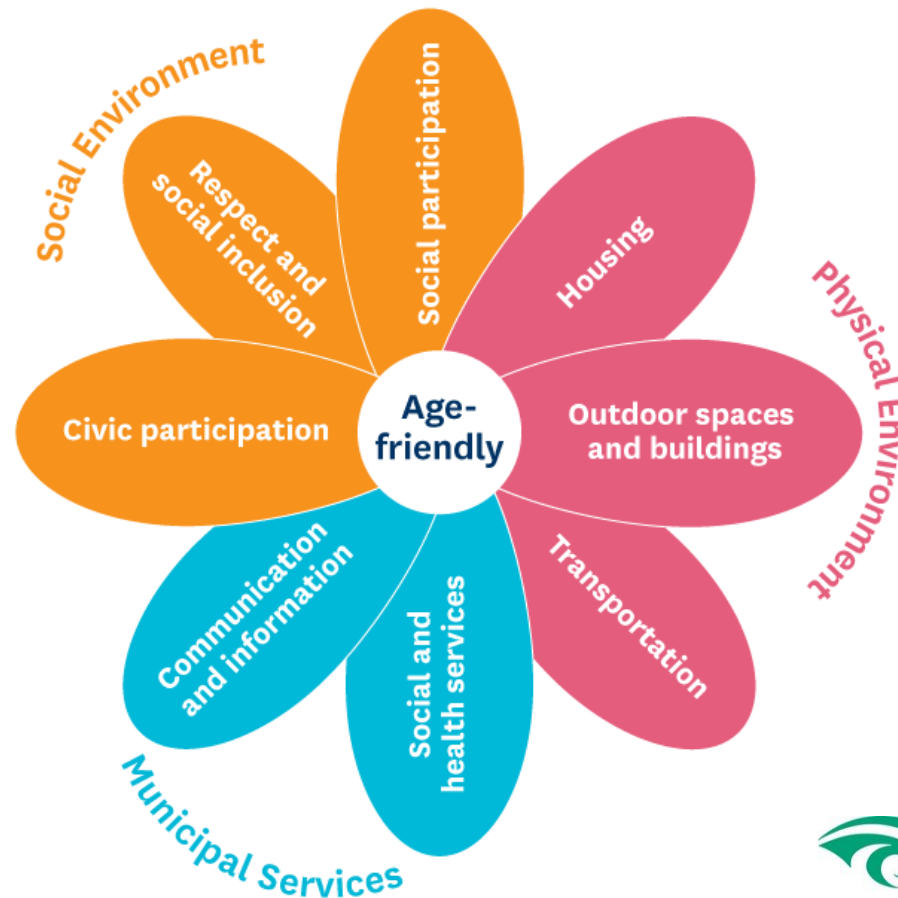
Acknowledging the demographic reality
Preparing well for the changing shape
of communities



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The domains of age-friendly



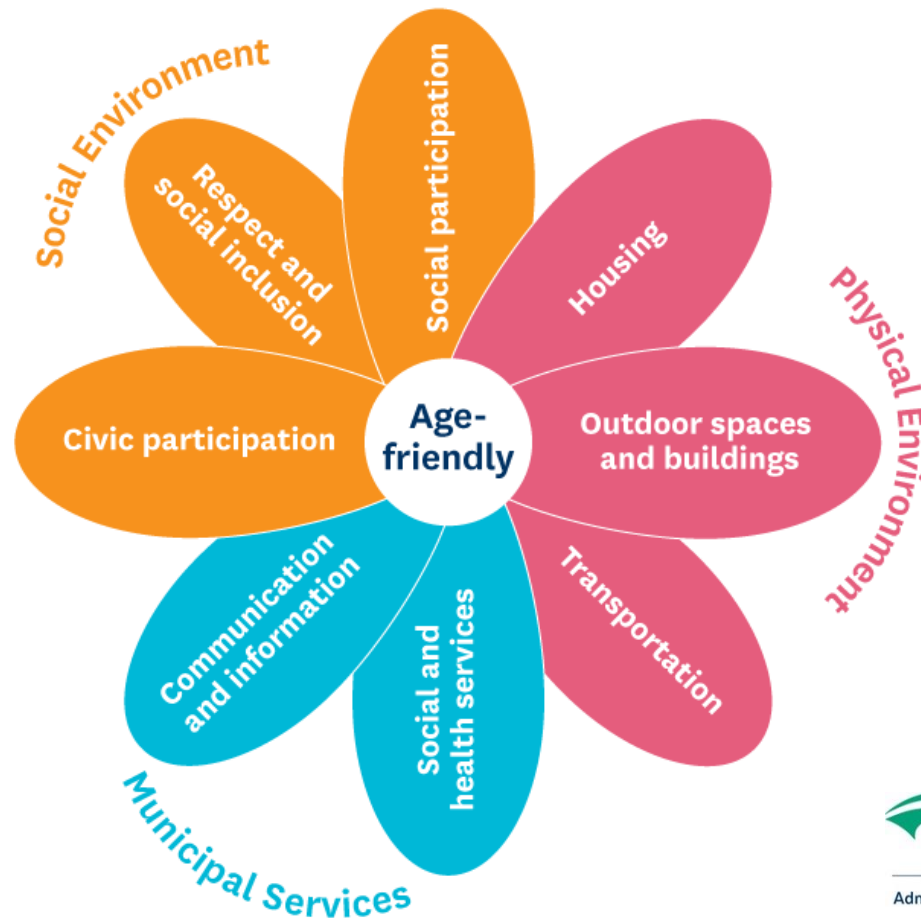
What does AF look like on the ground?



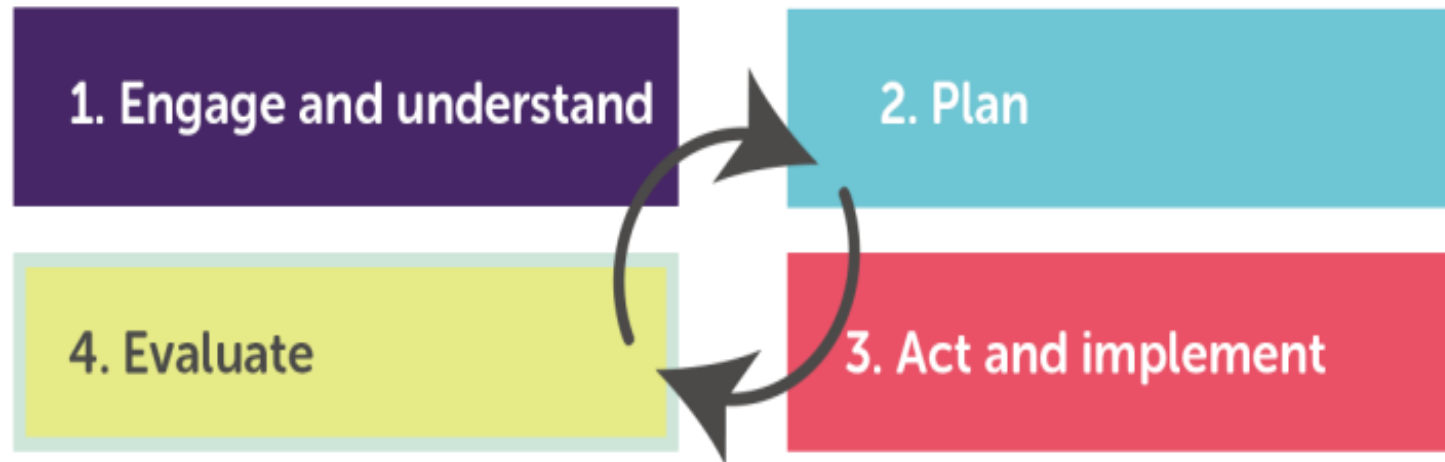
What does AF look like on the ground?



Now it's your turn



How do you get there?



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Age-Friendly success factors

- Top-down and bottom-up support:
 - Buy-in from central and local government
 - Steering groups with diverse representation and a clear vision
 - Challenging ageism, promoting age-friendly
- Community participation
 - Needs assessments to identify needs
 - Building on strengths of community
 - Clearly identified projects

Support from the Office



ELDER ABUSE
IT'S NOT OK

SPEAK OUT

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FOR OUR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE

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[Making Communities Age-friendly](#)

Community Connects Grants

[Age-friendly Activities](#)

[Resources and Useful Information](#)

[Age-friendly News](#)

[Age-friendly forum](#)

Community Connects grants

The Office for Seniors' Community Connects fund supports communities to become Age-friendly.

The fund targets projects to promote the inclusion and contribution of older people in community life, and support their community to prepare for an ageing population.

Find out more about Age-friendly communities here.

You can apply for funding to either:

- start development of an Age-friendly Communities Plan, or
- implement an Age-friendly Community project.

Grants have a value up to \$15,000 (the fund has an annual budget of \$100,000). All funded activities funded must be completed within 12 months.

There are up to two grant rounds each financial year.

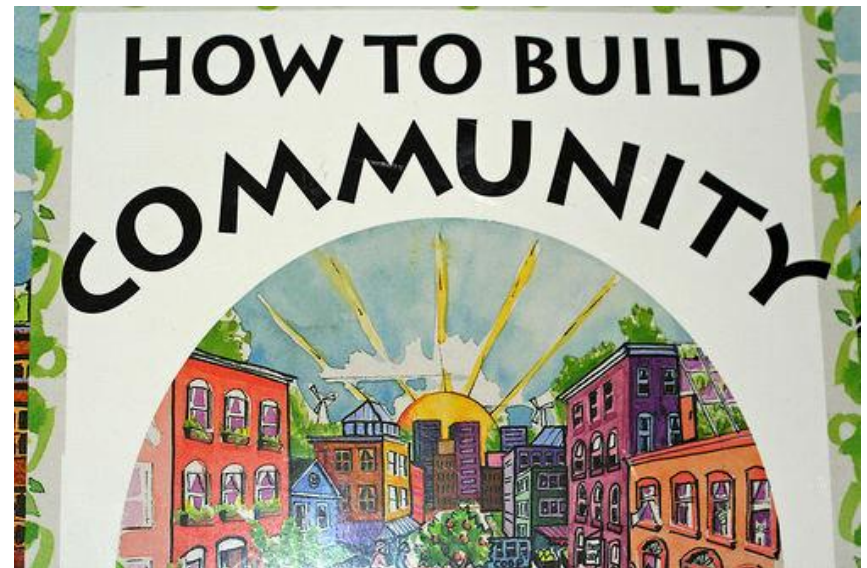
The current round is now closed.

The successful applications for the October 2018 round include:

- Nelson City Council to investigate the particular experiences and challenges of ageing from the perspective of five different groups in Nelson: Māori, Pasifika, refugees, older migrants and LGBTI, to inform the development of the wider Nelson Age-Friendly Strategy
- Taupō District Council to develop an Age-friendly Communities Strategy to support the ageing population in Taupō districts
- Enliven Woburn – Lower Hutt (Presbyterian Support) to run a pilot volunteer buddy programme to support older people with dementia (and their carers)
- Wesley Community Action to work with the community to develop an Ageing Well Network in the Lower Hutt and wider Wellington region.

Strengths-based approach

- Strong local input
- Assess what is already in place
- Trials - you can start small
- Build community sustainability



Strengths-based approach

Now it's your turn

- How could a strengths-based approach work in your community, town or city?



What would you do?

Feedback

What is one thing you will do?

What is one thing we can do to help?



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‘I look forward to the day when, all over the world, older people know they are not a category apart, but individuals whose wisdom and experience we cherish’

Koffee Annan



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