

Wairarapa Positive Ageing Strategy update #1

Date: September 2018

From:

Our population is ageing – quickly. In the next twenty-five years, the number of Wairarapa residents aged over 65 is expected to increase by nearly 79% to nearly 15,000 or 1 in 4 residents. It could be you, it will certainly be people you care about. In addition, the Wairarapa is an increasingly attractive place for older adults. Let's be ready. Let's be an Age-Friendly community.

Joint Positive Ageing Strategy

The South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils are developing a joint Positive Ageing Strategy. Developing this will include:

- Following the principles of the [Age-Friendly Communities guidelines](#)
- Consulting with Councils, residents, organisations and businesses that support older adults through surveys, interviews and workshops
- Developing a draft strategy for feedback
- Finalising the strategy

How can I be a part of it?

You can participate in a number of ways:

- Take the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PositiveAge>
- Distribute the survey link to your family, members, clients, customers. This will also be available in hard copy from District Council websites, libraries, information centres.
- Display the Positive Ageing Strategy postcard and flyer
- Attend our workshops - more information coming soon

What have we learnt so far?

Early research has told us that:

- Families are changing and more older people are living alone
- The ethnic diversity of older adults is increasing
- Regions are ageing at different rates – towns are ageing faster than rural centres or cities
- Older adults are making a growing contribution to our economy – both as paid employers and consumers
- Fewer older adults will own their own homes in the future
- In the Wairarapa, early results from our initial District Council staff and politicians survey tell us that transport, services to older adults and opportunities for social connection are important issues.

If you have any questions, or would like to be kept updated, please go to your local District Council website or contact:

South Wairarapa District Council: enquiries@swdc.govt.nz

Carterton District Council: gerry@cdc.govt.nz

Masterton District Council: aaronb@mdc.govt.nz; hoanip@mdc.govt.nz

If you'd like to find out more about Positive Ageing Strategies in New Zealand and internationally, go to <http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/age-friendly-communities/index.html>

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