



Positive Ageing Strategy Coordinator

Wairarapa Regional Positive Ageing Strategy Te Hōkai Nuku Update: August 2023

Public transport was highlighted as a big problem in 2018/2019 when we talked to the Wairarapa community about the Wairarapa Region Positive Ageing Strategy (the Strategy) and the issues that needed to be addressed.

Public transport concerns ranged from:

- The distance to Masterton from rural Wairarapa for hospital services,
- The ability to access to Wellington for more specialised services,
- The access to transport for those who no longer drive,
- Not being able to use the SuperGold Card both ways on the train,
- Lack of public transport in rural areas,
- Poor timetabling.

In fact, only 18.45% of the 233 people that answered the survey question about the quality of public transport thought it was “Good” or “Very Good”.¹ Because of this, the Strategy includes working towards making transport options are safe, affordable and accessible for older people.

Has anything improved since then? A couple of things at least. Firstly, the number of services on the 200 bus route increased in July 2022. The 200 connects the five towns of Masterton, Carterton, Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough, and railway stations. Also, I raised the inability of our older persons (on behalf of Carterton and South Wairarapa District Council) to use the SuperGold Card both ways on the train last year when the Greater Wellington Regional Council undertook a Fare Review. Although not part of this review, there was commitment to look at this problem.

Due to the high level of concern reported from the community, I recently applied for and was successful in becoming a member of the Greater Wellington Regional Council’s (GWRC) Public Transport Advisory Group. GWRC is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the transport system in the region. It does this through funding Metlink but also planning monitoring and building public transport infrastructure. This Group is an advisory body to the GWRC Transport Committee. It provides advice (from a community perspective) to inform the business of Metlink and the Transport Committee.

¹ There was a survey as part of the engagement process for the Wairarapa Region Positive Ageing Strategy.

Please get in touch If you are interested in talking to me about your public transport concerns and I can bring them to the Group.



If you want to know more about the work of the Positive Ageing Strategy, please contact Lisa Matthews, Regional Positive Ageing Strategy Coordinator on 027 444 1887 or email lisa@cdc.govt.nz

The aim of the Positive Ageing Strategy is to improve and integrate council services for older people to help them lead valued, connected and fulfilling lives. You can read the full Strategy on your Council website.