

# Ageing Population

# ROTORUA

## Rotorua District Older Persons Profile 2007





## FOREWORD

More than six centuries ago, Te Arawa people moved inland from their landing at Maketu, on the Bay of Plenty coast to Rotorua, an area discovered by their ancestors. The district is centred around a thriving urban area on the southern shore of Lake Rotorua, and extends to include a substantial rural area as well as lakeside communities.

Rotorua is a bicultural district with an increasingly multicultural population. Rotorua is the heart of Te Arawa people and Maori culture in New Zealand, and has a population of 65,901 (2006 Census).

European settlers arrived in New Zealand throughout the 18th Century. The development of the district was driven by tourism generated through the unique geothermal and cultural attractions of the area.

Today, the Rotorua District Council has responsibility, under the Local Government Act, for the provision of a wide range of services to the community and for coordination and planning of Rotorua's future social, cultural, economic and environmental development.

Part of the district council's work is to achieve the Community Outcomes identified by the people of the district. These outcomes contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community.

This report is part of an expanding series of publications produced by Council's Community Policy and Resources department to track the social trends, and to assist with community planning.

Incorporating 2006 Census data will be publications on:

- Changing Communities Rotorua – Rotorua District Demographic Profile 2007.
- Young People Rotorua – Rotorua District Youth Demographic Profile 2007.
- Aging Population Rotorua – Rotorua District Older Persons Profile 2007.
- Social Monitor Rotorua – Rotorua District Indicators of Social Wellbeing 2007.

Other publications based on the census will follow and will sit alongside 'Good Health, Rotorua District Health and Wellbeing Services,' to provide up-to-date information for businesses, students, not-for-profit organisations as well as local and central government agencies.

Naku noa na

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This document is available on the Rotorua District Council website:  
[www.rdc.govt.nz](http://www.rdc.govt.nz) (keyword. "demographic")

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document presents statistics on older people in the Rotorua area, with a focus on people aged 65+. The report sets a baseline for monitoring changes in the wellbeing of Rotorua's older people, to help Council and others plan for the future. It was prepared to help development of Rotorua District Council's Older Persons Policy, and as a community resource for the benefit of all older people in the Rotorua District.
- Although Rotorua still has a youthful population profile compared with other parts of New Zealand, its population is gradually growing older. As at Census night 2006, there were 7,296 Rotorua District residents aged 65+. This represents 11.1% of the total population, up from 10.6% in 2001. Forecasts show that by 2021 there will be 12,240 people aged 65+ in the District, or 16% of the overall population. Around 55% of older people in Rotorua aged 65+ are women, and this gender difference is projected to continue.
- Suburbs with particularly high numbers of older people include Springfield, Glenholme and Fenton. These areas contain substantial numbers of pensioner units, retirement villages and rest homes.
- 78.4% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are in the European ethnic group, and 13.8% are in the Maori ethnic group. Nationally, 4.9% of people aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group. The number of older Maori in New Zealand is projected to triple within the next 20 years.
- Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65+ are widowed (32.1%), which is similar to the national average. There is a national trend towards older people increasingly living alone.
- Elderly Rotorua residents have a lower level of attainment of high school qualifications than younger Rotorua residents. Over one-third (35.9%) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 have no formal academic qualification.
- 18.6% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are in paid employment, an increase from 12.2% in 2001. Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include agriculture, property and business services, retail trade, education, and health and community services.
- Residents aged 65+ are much more likely than younger residents to be self-employed (25.2% compared to 8.6%) or in unpaid family work (8.7% compared to 1.6%).
- 85.5% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ earn income from NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pensions and 67.7% have an income of less than \$20,000 per annum. Only 5.7% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ have an income of more than \$50,000 per annum.

- Real median personal income for people aged 65+ in the Rotorua District mirrored the national trend over the period 2001 to 2006, increasing from \$12,565 to \$12,895.
- Over the past decade, home ownership has been falling at the national level. However, in the 65+ age group 79.4% of Rotorua homes are still owned by their occupiers, which is well above the national average of 66.9% for this age group.

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# INTRODUCTION

There is no fixed age at which one becomes “old”. In the words of Age Concern New Zealand (A Guide to Positive Ageing), you can be young at heart at 80 or old before your time at 40.

This document presents statistics on older people in the Rotorua area, with a focus on people aged 65+. The report sets a baseline for monitoring changes in the wellbeing of local older people. It was prepared to help the development of Rotorua District Council’s Older Persons Policy, and is provided as a community resource for the benefit of all older people in the Rotorua District.

Council acknowledges the many organisations and services with a commitment to Rotorua’s older people. Our hope is that this will be an active document to help plan for Rotorua’s ageing population.

The information in this report describes Rotorua’s age profile and trends, including ethnicity, education, and health. Most of the report relates to Census statistics, including comparisons with New Zealand overall, and trends from 1991 to 2006.

## *Cautionary notes*

Three important points should be kept in mind when interpreting the information in this report.

- 1) For confidentiality purposes Statistics New Zealand rounds all Census figures to the nearest multiple of three. This means that the columns and rows of tables often do not total precisely.
- 2) This report follows the approach of Statistics New Zealand when calculating percentage figures, of first excluding invalid responses such as “Not stated”, “Refused to answer” or “Not elsewhere included”. These categories exist because some Census responses are unclear or unanticipated, and in some cases have been left blank.
- 3) Caution should be taken when interpreting comparisons for the European ethnic group because in the 2006 Census, people who stated they were a New Zealander have been classified as ‘Other’ whereas in 2001 they were provided the category of New Zealander as an option.

## *Definitions*

‘Unemployed’      The census definition for ‘unemployed’ is: ‘All people in the working-age population (people aged 15 years and over) who, during the week ended 5 March 2006, were without a paid job, were available for work and: had actively sought work in the past four weeks (ended 5 March 2006); or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.’

‘Not in the Labour Force’: ‘Any person in the working-age population who is neither employed nor unemployed is deemed to be not in the labour force. This category includes, for example, retired people, people with personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare, people attending educational institutions, people permanently unable to work due to physical or mental handicaps, people who were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week, people who are not actively seeking work.’

# ROTORUA DISTRICT AGE PROFILE

Information on Rotorua's age profile is important for measuring economic, social and demographic change.

## KEY POINTS:

- Although Rotorua currently has a youthful population profile compared with other parts of New Zealand, the District population is growing older.
- There are more women than men aged 65+.
- Suburbs with particularly high numbers of older people include Springfield, Glenholme and Fenton.



The median age of Rotorua residents is currently 34.0 years, compared with 35.0 for all of New Zealand. However, the number of people in Rotorua's younger age groups is diminishing over time while older age groups are increasing (refer Table 1). The 55 and over age group in Rotorua increased from 19.1% of the population in 2001 to 21.0% in 2006. The 65+ age group increased from 10.6% to 11.1% over the same period. Population ageing is a feature of most areas throughout New Zealand.

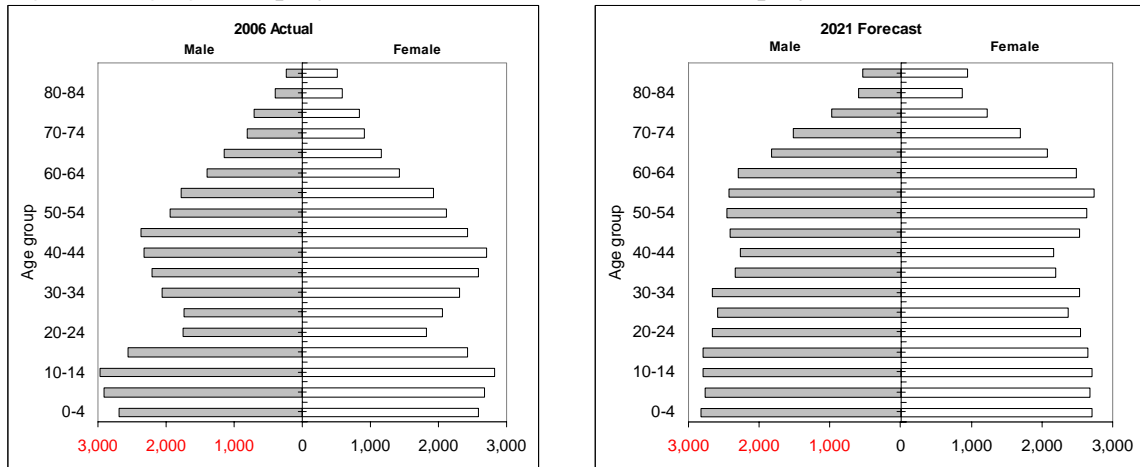
**Table 1: Age profile, Rotorua District, 1996 – 2006**

Age range	1996		2001		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less Than 55	53,310	82.6%	52,191	81.0%	52,068	79.0%
55-59 Years	2,661	4.1%	2,961	4.6%	3,714	5.6%
60-64 Years	2,184	3.4%	2,499	3.9%	2,823	4.3%
65+ Years	6,354	9.9%	6,822	10.6%	7,296	11.1%
Total Population	64,509	100.0%	64,473	100.0%	65,901	100.0%

## Population projections

Within the next 15 years, the number of Rotorua people in the 50+ age range is forecast to almost double (refer Figure 1). Part of this increase is due to the ageing of those currently aged in their 40s-60s – the baby boomer generation – that appear as a bulge in Rotorua's age profile. Also, due to an increasingly longer life expectancy, the number of people aged 85 and over in Rotorua is projected to almost double by the year 2021 (from 744 to 1,470).

**Figure 1: Age-gender profile, Rotorua District, 2006 – 2026 (projected)**



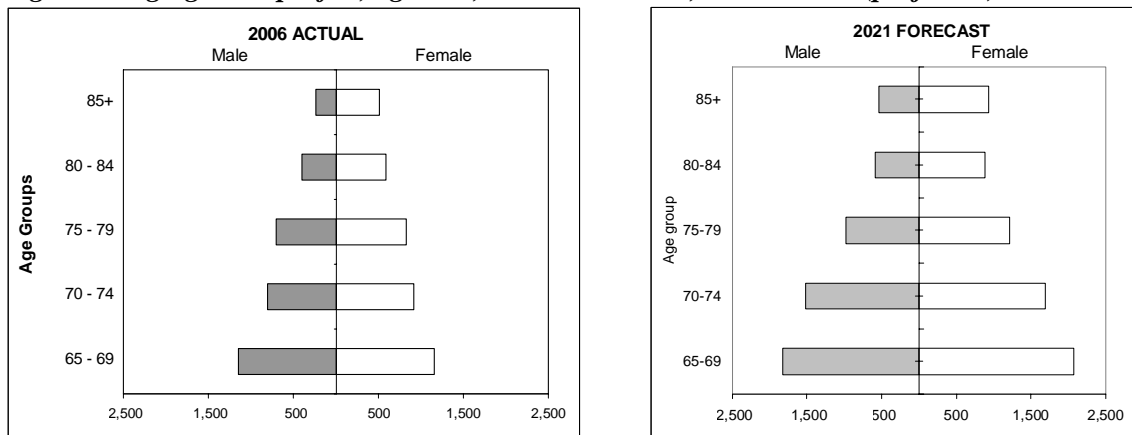
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: 2021 projections are from the 1996 Census base, assuming medium fertility, medium mortality, and medium migration.

**Gender**

Figure 2 shows more clearly the projected growth in the number of Rotorua residents aged 65+. It also shows that there is currently a higher number of females than males in this age group, and that this gender difference is forecast to continue. As at Census night 2006, 55.0% (4,011) of Rotorua people aged 65+ were women compared with 45.0% (3,288) who were men. This ratio is expected to continue as the overall population ages. By the year 2021 there is expected to be 6,800 women and 5,440 men in Rotorua aged 65+.

**Figure 2: Age-gender profile, age 65+, Rotorua District, 2006 – 2026 (projected)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: Refer Figure 1.

### *Suburbs and rural communities*

Appendix 1 shows the age profile of different suburbs and rural communities in the Rotorua District. The areas with the highest number of people aged 65+ as at Census night 2006 include Springfield (726), Glenholme East (579), Fenton (372) and Lynmore (369). This corresponds with areas of overall high population and/or areas with high numbers of pensioner units, retirement villages and rest homes. The highest *percentages* of people aged 65+ are in Glenholme East (29.2%), and Fenton (26.7%).

Over the previous ten year period, the largest increases in the number of older people in Rotorua were in the Fenton and Lynmore areas. Specifically, the number of Lynmore residents aged 65+ increased from 264 in 1996 to 369 in 2006, and the number of Fenton residents aged 65+ increased from 303 to 372 during the same period. The largest *percentage* increases were in Owkata South (increasing from 6.2% to 10.8% of all residents) and Fenton (increasing from 22.2% to 26.7%).

**Figure 3: Rotorua Suburbs**



*Note: Based on official statistical areas*

# ETHNICITY

“Ethnicity” is a label used to distinguish groups within the population on the basis of ancestry, language, cultural values, customs, and other common features.

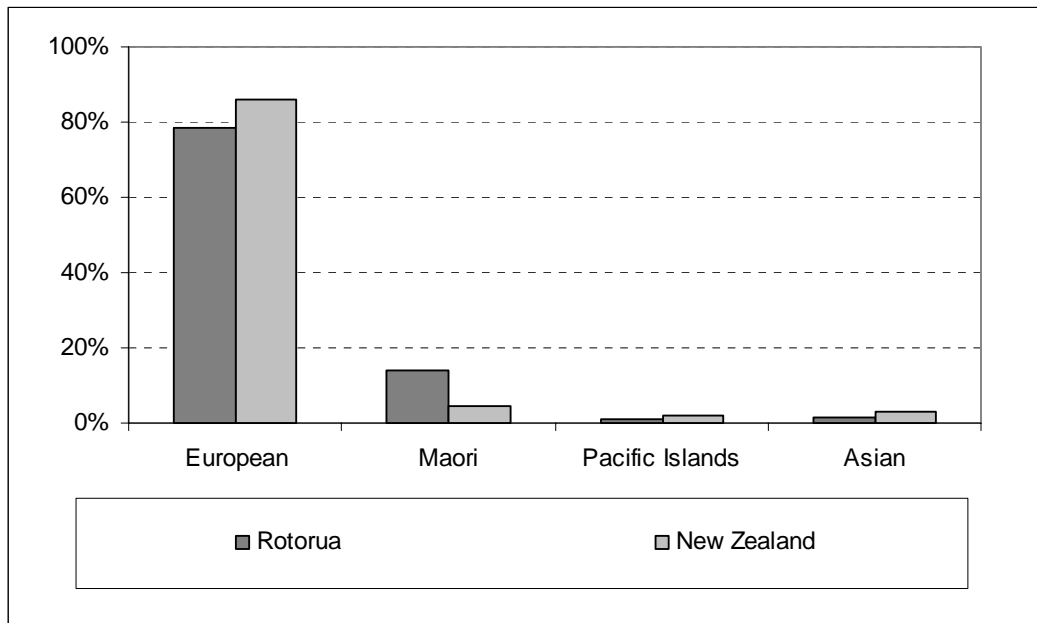
## KEY POINTS:

- 78.4% (5,721) of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are in the European ethnic group compared with 86.1% nationally.
- 13.8% (1,008) of Rotorua people aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group compared with 4.7% nationally.

The majority of older people in Rotorua are in the European ethnic group (refer Figure 4). In 2006, 78.4% (5,721) of residents aged 65+ were in the European ethnic group compared with 86.1% for New Zealand as a whole. Around one in every eight Rotorua residents aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group compared with one in twenty-five nationally. There are 1.2% (90) of Rotorua residents aged 65+ who are in the Pacific Islands ethnic group and 1.4% (105) in the Asian ethnic group. The comparable national figures are 2.0% and 3.2% respectively.



**Figure 4: Ethnic groups, 65+ years, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 2006**



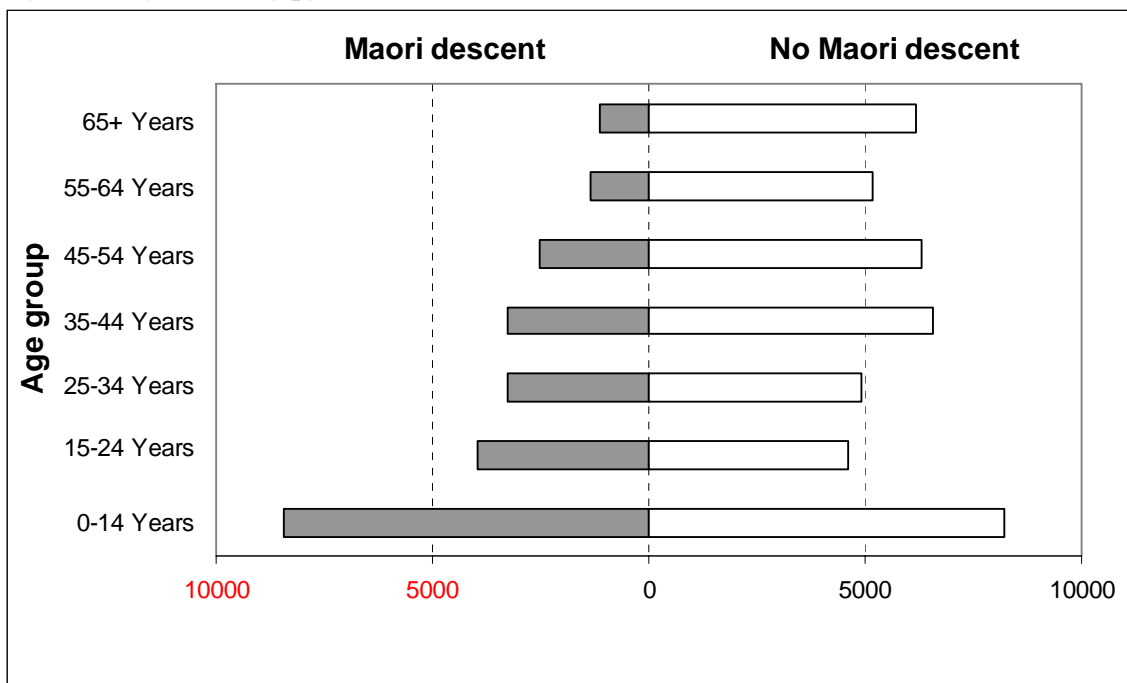
Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation. Percentages sum to more than 100.0% because one person can belong to more than one ethnic group.

**Maori older people**

Overall (all ages), 36.4% of residents in the Rotorua District are in the Maori ethnic group. At present there are many more younger Maori than older Maori (refer Figure 5). 13.8% (1008) of Rotorua people aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group compared with 4.7% nationally. In the suburbs of Ngapuna and Ohinemutu, almost one-half of all residents aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group. Other parts of the District in which more than one in three older people are Maori include Koutu, Fordlands, Reporoa, and the rural settlement of Kaingaroa Forest. The number of older Maori in New Zealand is projected to triple within the next 15 years as a result of increasing life expectancy.

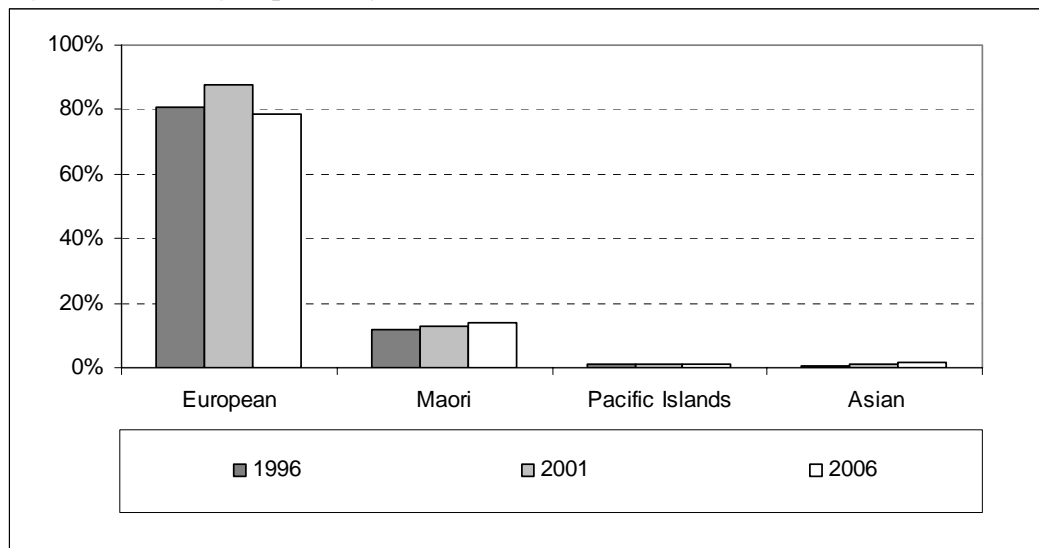


**Figure 5: Age-ethnicity pyramid, Rotorua District, 2006**



**Ethnicity trends**

Figure 6 shows that the number of Rotorua residents aged 65+ in the European ethnic group decreased from 87.4% in 2001 to 78.4% in 2006. The total number of Maori residents in this age range increased, from 747 (11.8%) in 1996 to 1008 (13.8%) in 2006. Rotorua’s older population is projected to become more ethnically diverse in future years. Caution should be taken when interpreting comparisons for the European ethnic group because in the 2006 Census, people who stated they were a New Zealander have been classified as “Other” whereas in 2001 they were provided the category of New Zealander as an option.

**Figure 6: Ethnic groups, 65+ years, Rotorua District, 1996 – 2006**

Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation. Percentages sum to more than 100.0% because one person can belong to more than one ethnic group.

### **Country of birth**

Older age groups in New Zealand have become increasingly multicultural, and this is reflected in birthplace statistics for the Rotorua District (refer Table 2). As at Census 2006, almost three-quarters of Rotorua residents aged 65+ (74.7%) were born in New Zealand, down slightly from 76.0% in 1996. The percentage of older immigrants in Rotorua that are from the UK and Ireland is also slowly falling, from 15.5% in 1996 to 14.9% in 2006. There has been a slight increase compared with 1996 in the number of Rotorua older people, that have migrated from other parts of the world. These include Australia (1.7%), Asia (1.8%), and Polynesia (1.5%).

**Table 2: Birthplace, 65+ years, Rotorua District, 1996 - 2006**

Birthplace	1996	2001	2006
New Zealand	76.0%	75.0%	74.7%
United Kingdom and Ireland	15.5%	15.0%	14.9%
Europe	3.8%	4.3%	4.1%
Australia	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%
Polynesia	1.1%	1.4%	1.5%
Asia	0.8%	1.1%	1.8%
North America	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Other	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation.



# FAMILY

As people grow older their living arrangements change, which has implications for the availability of support and overall wellbeing.

- KEY POINT:**
- 53.7% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are legally married.
  - Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65+ (32.1%) are widowed, which is similar to the national average.

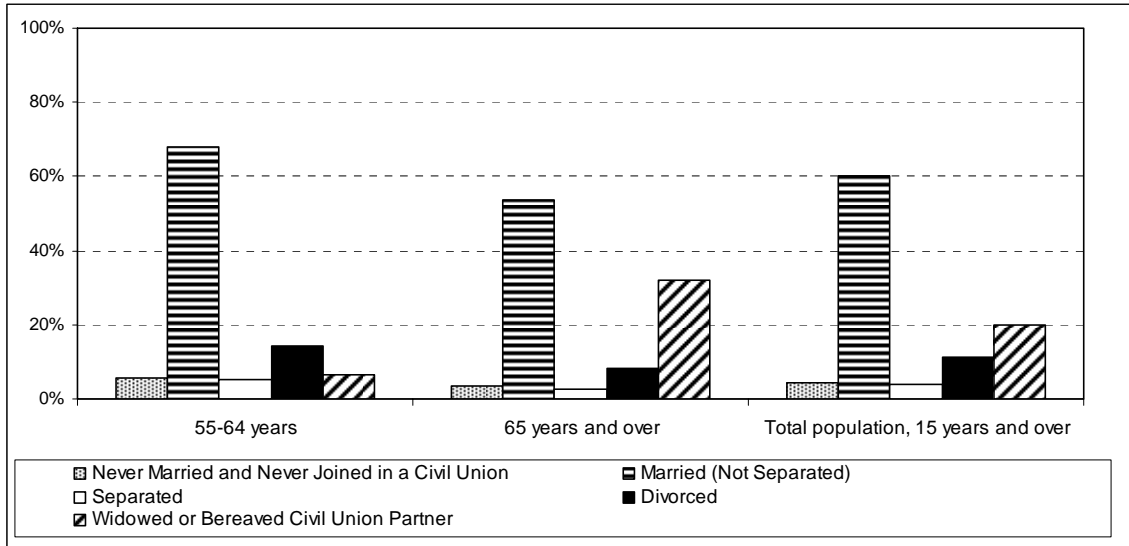


The latest Census results show that 67.8% (3,417) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are married, and 53.7% (3,309) of residents aged 65+ are married (refer Figure 7). Residents aged 65+ in the Asian ethnic group are more likely than other ethnic groups to be married.

Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65+ (32.1%) are widowed, which is similar to the national average. The percentage of European residents aged 65+ that are widowed is higher than other ethnic groups in

Rotorua (refer Table 3).

**Figure 7: Legal marital status, Rotorua District older people, 2006**



Note: The “Not Elsewhere included” category was omitted prior to calculation.

**Table 3: Legal marital status by ethnicity, Rotorua District people aged 65+, 2006**

	European		Maori		Pacific Islands		Asian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Never Married	8640	31.1	7227	54.1	780	54.3	582	32.1
Married (Not Separated)	13554	48.8	3852	28.8	462	32.2	1068	58.8
Separated	1122	4.0	783	5.9	66	4.6	39	2.1
Divorced	2475	8.9	846	6.3	72	5.0	66	3.6
Widowed	2004	7.2	648	4.9	57	4.0	60	3.3
Not Elsewhere Included	1110		1287		153		219	
Total	28905	100.0%	14643	100.0%	1590	100.0%	2034	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

Only 6.9% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are in a non-marriage partnership and only 3.0% of residents aged 65+ are in a non-marriage partnership (refer Table 4). The comparable figure for all ages 15 and over is 14.7%. The rate of non-marriage partnership is slightly higher in Rotorua than nationally for both older people and all ages combined.

**Table 4: Social marital status, Rotorua District older people, 2006**

	55 - 64 Years	65+ Years	Total, All Ages
Partnered, Not Further Defined	1.8%	1.6%	2.0%
Legal Spouse	66.7%	53.2%	44.4%
Other Partnership	6.9%	3.0%	14.7%
Non-partnered, Not Further Defined	1.6%	3.5%	3.4%
Non-partnered, Never Married	4.1%	2.6%	22.2%
Non-partnered, Separated	3.5%	1.7%	3.2%
Non-partnered, Divorced	9.9%	6.5%	4.9%
Non-partnered, Widowed	5.6%	28.0%	5.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding. The "Not Stated" category was omitted prior to calculation.

According to the Ministry of Health, the proportion of New Zealand older people living alone has been increasing since the 1960s. This could be due to a number of factors, which could include decreased family cohesion, increasing numbers of older women who in general live longer than men, more dispersed family networks, and/or more services supporting older people to live independently. A reflection of this trend may be the increased percentage of one-person households in the Rotorua District (all age groups combined), up from 21.9% of all households in 2001 to 22.3% in 2006.

## EDUCATION

Education increases employment opportunities and enhances people's overall wellbeing. Lifelong learning is becoming an important feature of New Zealand society.

### KEY POINT:

- Older age groups in Rotorua are less likely than younger age groups to have attained a high school qualification.

The 55 and over age group has a relatively high proportion of people with no formal qualification, and a relatively low proportion of people with tertiary qualifications (refer Table 5). In total, 35.9% of Rotorua people aged 55-64 have no formal academic qualification, compared with 28.5% for all age groups combined.



**Table 5: Highest qualification by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+	Total
No Qualification	32.3%	18.7%	22.2%	26.5%	35.9%	41.6%	28.5%
School Qualification	47.9%	34.0%	32.2%	30.0%	25.1%	27.5%	33.3%
Post School Below Bachelor	16.3%	31.2%	30.9%	30.1%	28.9%	25.5%	27.3%
Bachelor or Higher	3.5%	16.1%	14.7%	13.4%	10.1%	5.4%	10.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The "Not Elsewhere Included" category was omitted prior to calculation.

Of the 1,776 Rotorua people aged 65+ who specified a post-school qualification on their Census questionnaire, the most prevalent qualifications were in the fields of engineering and related technologies (456), health (330), education (231), and architecture and building (198).

# EMPLOYMENT

Employment provides earned income, self-esteem, and a sense of community connection. This section looks at features and trends in employment and unemployment for Rotorua's older people, including labour force status, industry and occupation.

## KEY POINTS:

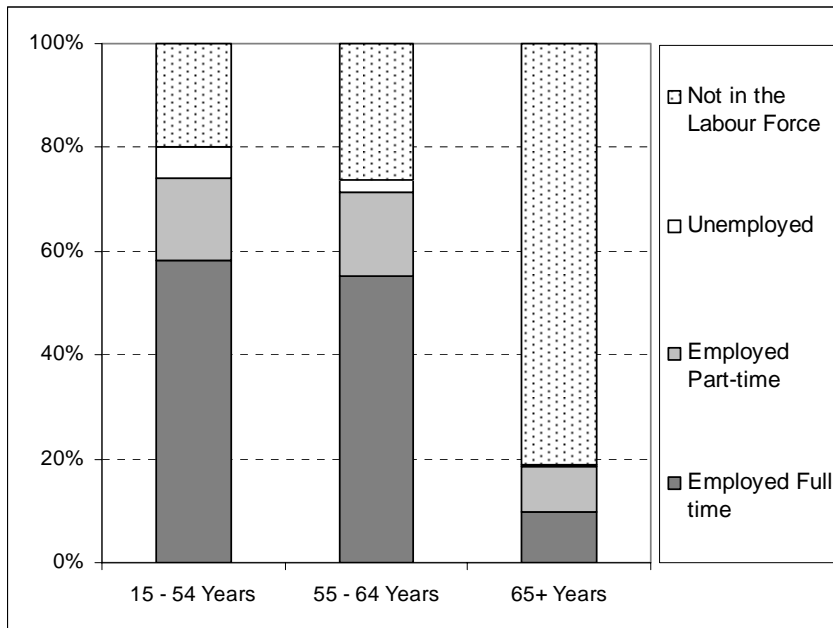
- 9.0% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are employed part-time, 9.6% are employed full-time, and 0.3% are unemployed.
- Unemployment in the 55 – 64 year age group has decreased in the last 5 years.
- 2.4% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are unemployed, compared with 1.8% nationally.
- 8.6% (114) of Rotorua workers aged 65+ are employed in primary industries (e.g. agriculture). Other Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include property and business services, retail trade, education, and health and community services.

Figure 8 shows that 81.1% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are not in the labour force<sup>1</sup> (e.g. retired), which is similar to the national average of 82.9%. Rotorua's labour force aged 65+ comprises 9.0% who are employed part-time, 9.6% who are employed full-time, and 0.3% who are unemployed<sup>2</sup> and seeking work. The comparable national figures are 8.1% full-time, 8.7% part-time, and 0.2% unemployed. Summing these, the labour force participation rate for Rotorua people aged 65+ is equal to 18.9% compared with 17.0% for New Zealand as a whole.



<sup>1</sup> Any person in the working-age population who is neither employed nor unemployed is deemed to be not in the labour force. This category includes, for example, retired people, people with personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare, people attending educational institutions, people permanently unable to work due to physical or mental handicaps, people who were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week, people who are not actively seeking work.

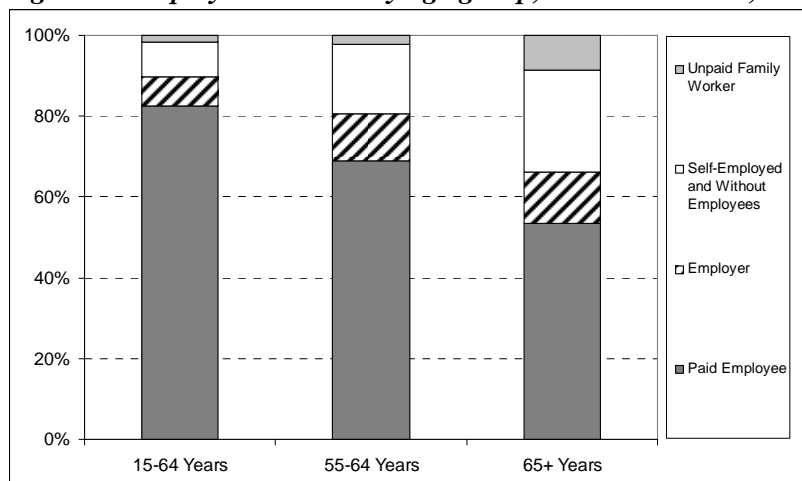
<sup>2</sup> The census definition for 'unemployed' is All people in the working-age population (people aged 15 years and over) who, during the week ended 5 March 2006, were without a paid job, were available for work and: had actively sought work in the past four weeks (ended 5 March 2006); or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.

**Figure 8: Work status by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

Note: The “Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable” category was omitted prior to calculation.

The 55-64 age range is typically a transition period between work and retirement. The proportion of Rotorua people not in the labour force (e.g. retired) is 26.2% in the 55-64 age range compared with just 20.0% in the 15-54 age range. A total of 71.4% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are employed (full-time or part-time) compared with 74.1% in the 15-54 age group who are employed. Labour force participation is lower for females in the 55-64 age group, with 65.1% employed (full-time or part-time) compared with 77.7% of males. Unemployment for the 55-64 age group in Rotorua is 2.4% which is above the national average of 1.8%, but has dropped considerably over the past five years, from 3.6% in 2001.

For residents that remain in the labour force, the pattern of employment status changes with age (refer Figure 9). Paid employment falls from 82.6% in the 15-54 age range to 68.9% in the 55-64 age range, to just 53.5% in the 65+ age range. Balancing this, the proportion of people who are self-employed (with or without employees) increases from 14.8% in the 15-54 age group to 37.8% in the 65+ age group. Also, the proportion of people engaged in unpaid family work rises from 1.6% in the 15-54 age group to 8.7% in the 65+ age group.

**Figure 9: Employment status by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

Note: Excludes residents who are “Not in the Labour Force”. Also, the “Not Stated” category was omitted prior to calculation of percentages.

### **Industry and occupation**

The Property and Business sector is the single largest employer of people aged 65+. Table 6 shows that 14.1% (147) of Rotorua workers aged 65+ are employed in the Property and Business sector. This compares with 25.2% for New Zealand overall. Other Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include retail trade (120 workers aged 65+), agriculture (114), and health and community services (105).

**Table 6: Industry by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

	15 - 54 Years		55 - 64 Years		65+ Years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1,977	8.3%	273	6.5%	114	10.9%
Mining	21	0.1%	9	0.2%	-	0.0%
Manufacturing	2,943	12.4%	408	9.8%	84	8.0%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	105	0.4%	24	0.6%	3	0.3%
Construction	1,743	7.3%	273	6.5%	60	5.7%
Wholesale Trade	1,146	4.8%	210	5.0%	48	4.6%
Retail Trade	3,342	14.1%	468	11.2%	120	11.5%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	2,079	8.8%	288	6.9%	78	7.5%
Transport and Storage	759	3.2%	195	4.7%	51	4.9%
Communication Services	198	0.8%	24	0.6%	6	0.6%
Finance and Insurance	456	1.9%	81	1.9%	9	0.9%
Property and Business Services	2,370	10.0%	561	13.4%	147	14.1%
Government Administration and Defence	642	2.7%	114	2.7%	27	2.6%
Education	1,869	7.9%	450	10.8%	90	8.6%
Health and Community Services	2,160	9.1%	534	12.8%	105	10.1%
Cultural and Recreational Services	966	4.1%	111	2.7%	45	4.3%
Personal and Other Services	954	4.0%	153	3.7%	57	5.5%
Not Elsewhere Included	1,287		294		264	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,017</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

Table 7 shows that 11.9% (156) of Rotorua workers aged 65+ are in “professional” occupations compared with 13.1% of workers in the 15-54 age group. The largest employment categories for the 55-64 age group are administrators and managers (16.6%), professionals (15.2%), labourers and related elementary workers (13.4%), service and sales (11.8%). The pattern of employment for older people is similar for New Zealand as a whole.

**Table 7: Occupation by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

	15-54 Years		55-64 Years		65+ Years	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	3,390	13.5%	747	16.6%	171	13.1%
Professionals	3,270	13.1%	684	15.2%	156	11.9%
Technicians and Associate Professionals	2,736	10.9%	465	10.4%	105	8.0%
Clerks	2,436	9.7%	501	11.2%	102	7.8%
Service and Sales Workers	4,032	16.1%	534	11.8%	129	9.9%
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	1,821	7.3%	246	5.5%	123	9.4%
Trades Workers	2,256	9.0%	372	8.3%	90	6.9%
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	2,106	8.4%	342	7.6%	90	6.9%
Labourers and Related Elementary Workers	2,997	12.0%	600	13.4%	342	26.1%
Total	25,044	100.0%	4,491	100.0%	1,308	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

### Unpaid activities

The pattern of unpaid activities undertaken by Rotorua residents in the four weeks prior to Census night is similar to that of New Zealand overall. In 2006, 16.9% (1,236) of Rotorua people aged 65+ reported undertaking voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae. The comparable figure for the 15-54 age group is 15.3% (5,433).

## INCOME AND ASSETS

Income is a key contributor to overall quality of life. It determines how much can be spent on food, transport, clothing, health care, and other goods and services. While income levels for older people are typically low, many older people have the security of owning their own home.

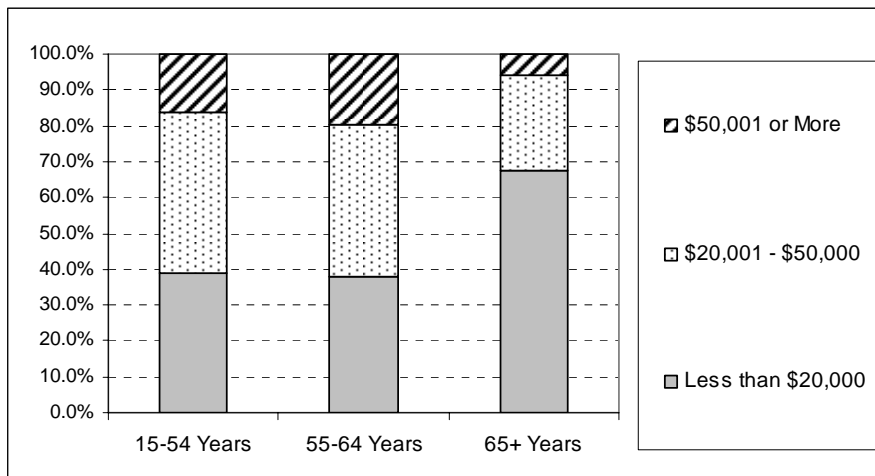
### KEY POINTS:

- 67.7% of Rotorua people aged 65+ have an income of less than \$20,000 per annum.
- 85.5% (6240) of Rotorua residents aged 65+ earn income from NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension, 36.2% (2643) earn income from interest, dividends, rent and other investments, and 12.0% (876) earn income from other superannuation, pensions and annuities.
- Real median personal income for people aged 65+ in the Rotorua District mirrored the national trend over the period 2001 to 2006, increasing from \$12,565 to \$12,895.
- In the 65+ age group, 79.4% of Rotorua homes are owned by their occupiers compared with the national average of 66.9% for this age group.

The age-income profile of the Rotorua District follows a similar pattern to that of New Zealand overall. A total of 37.8% of Rotorua people aged 55-64 earn less than \$20,000 per annum. This proportion increases to 67.7% in the 65+ age group (refer Figure 10). The personal income profile for women is lower than that of men, with 74.7% of Rotorua women aged 65+ earning less than \$20,000 compared with 59.8% of men in this age group. Only 5.7% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ earn more than \$50,000 per annum, compared with around 16% in younger age groups.



**Figure 10: Personal income by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**



Note: The "Not Stated" category was omitted prior to calculation.



### ***Income sources***

The 2006 Census asked respondents to mark as many spaces as they needed to show all the ways they got income in the previous 12 month period. Table 8 shows how these sources of income vary between different age groups. In the 15-54 age group in Rotorua, the most frequent sources of income are wages, salary, etc (66.3% of residents), self-employment (14.2%) and interest, dividends, rent and other investments (13.4%). In comparison, the 55-64 age group includes relatively higher proportions of people earning income from interest, dividends, rent and other investments (29.7%), and self-employment (23.7%), and has a lower proportion of people earning wages, salary, etc (52.5%). In the 65+ age group, 85.5% (6,240) of residents earn income from NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension, 36.2% (2,634) earn income from interest, dividends, rent and other investments, and 12.0% (876) earn income from other superannuation, pensions and annuities. This earnings pattern is similar for New Zealand as a whole.

***Table 8: Sources of personal income by age group, Rotorua District, 2006***

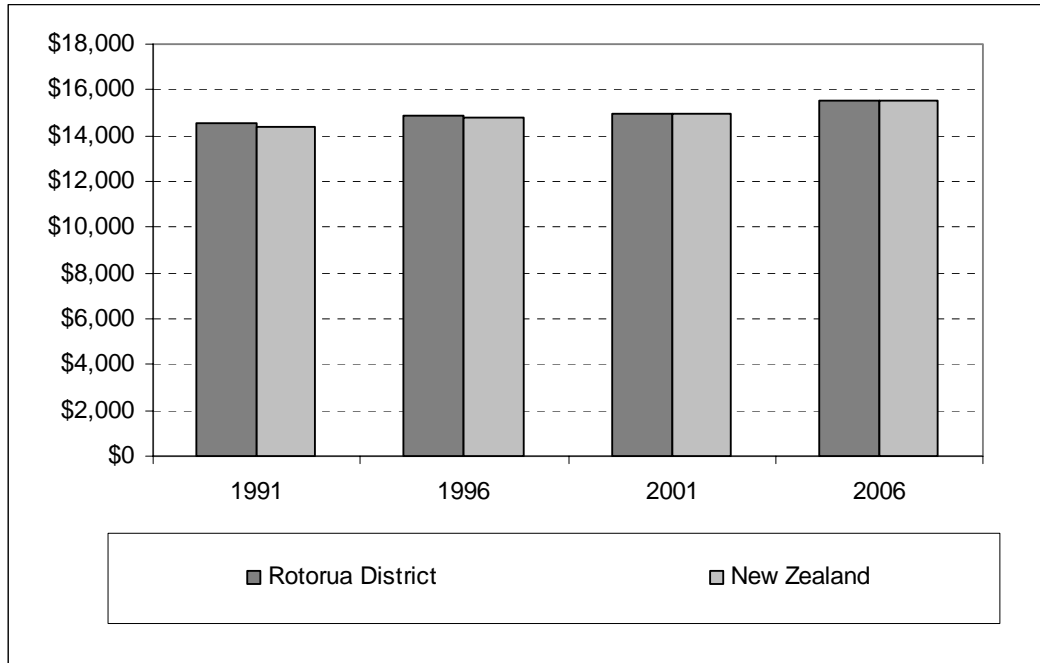
	15 - 54 Years		55 - 64 Years		65+ Years	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
No source of income	2,160	6.1%	189	2.9%	54	0.7%
Wages, salary, etc	23,478	66.3%	3,435	52.5%	783	10.7%
Self-employment or business	5,040	14.2%	1,551	23.7%	570	7.8%
Interest, dividends, rent, other investment	4,740	13.4%	1,941	29.7%	2,643	36.2%
Regular payments from ACC or private insurer	585	1.7%	180	2.8%	42	0.6%
NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pensions	51	0.1%	225	3.4%	6,240	85.5%
Other superannuation, pensions, annuities	72	0.2%	216	3.3%	876	12.0%
Community Wage - Job Seeker	1,533	4.3%	336	5.1%	39	0.5%
Community Wage - Sickness Benefit	927	2.6%	273	4.2%	45	0.6%
Domestic Purposes Benefit	2,376	6.7%	66	1.0%	21	0.3%
Invalids Benefit	702	2.0%	378	5.8%	69	0.9%
Student Allowance	744	2.1%	9	0.1%	-	-
Other Government benefits	1,350	3.8%	123	1.9%	171	2.3%
Other sources of income	795	2.2%	57	0.9%	69	0.9%
Income sources not stated	2,718	7.7%	441	6.7%	507	6.9%
Total people	35,412		6,537		7,296	

Note: Columns do not add to 100.0% because this is a multiple response item.

### ***Income trend***

Median income is a measure of the “average” personal income of the population. The median income of Rotorua residents aged 65+ increased from \$10,658 in 1991 to \$13,081 in 2001 to \$15,500 in 2006. Figure 11 shows the median personal income trend after adjusting for inflation. In 2006 dollars, median personal income in the Rotorua District increased from \$14,932 in 2001 to \$15,500 in 2006.

**Figure 11: Real median personal income, age 65+, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 1991 to 2006**

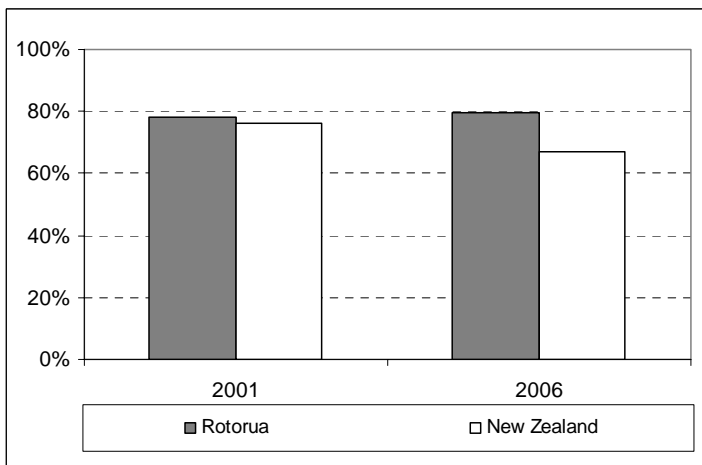


Note: Figures are inflation-adjusted to June 2006 dollars.

**Home ownership**

Home ownership represents the largest investment decision for most New Zealanders, and is traditionally seen as the most secure form of tenure. A high level of home ownership is indicative of community stability and social cohesion, and is generally reflected in lower crime rates. Over the past decade, home ownership has been falling at the national level, however not at the local level. In 2006, in the 65+ age group, 79.3% of Rotorua homes are still owned by their occupiers, which is above the national average of 66.9% for this age group (refer Figure 12). The comparable figures for 2001 are 78.2% locally and 76.4% nationally.

**Figure 12: Home ownership, age 65+, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 2006**



Note: The “Not Stated” category was omitted prior to calculation.

# HEALTH

Older people's quality of life is closely linked with their health status. The majority of older people in Rotorua are fit and healthy, but others require care and disability support.

## KEY POINTS:

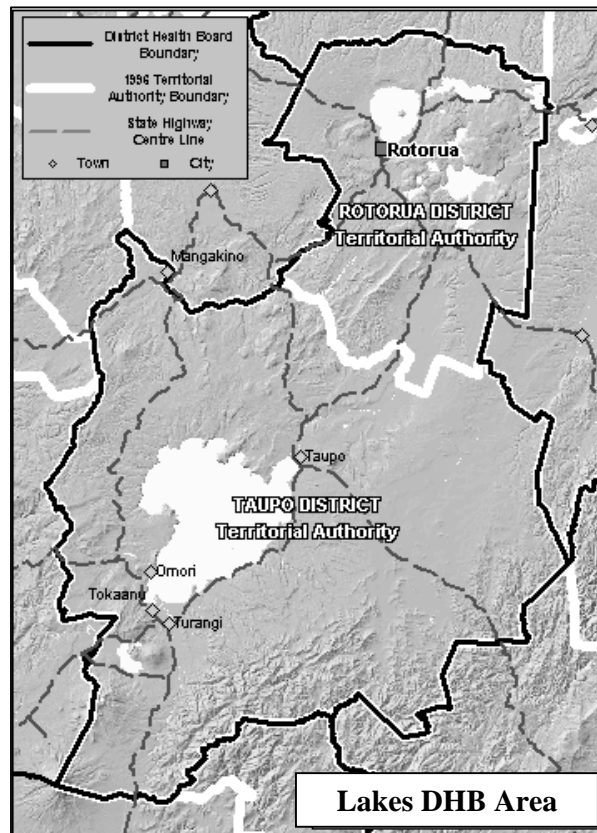
- Only 28.1% of people in the Lakes District Health Board area (Lakes DHB) live past 80 years of age compared with 39.8% nationally. The Lakes DHB area has a high proportion of Maori, and despite recent improvements Maori still have a lower life expectancy than the European ethnic group.
- Diseases that dominate in the older age range include diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, and respiratory infections. Most deaths are caused by progressive illnesses that are preventable from an early age.

The information in this section relates to the health status of the Lakes DHB area, which includes the Rotorua and Taupo local authority areas. The information was largely sourced from "An Assessment of Health Needs in the Lakes District Health Board Region", published in 2001 by Lakes DHB.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY NO UPDATED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THAT OF 2001.

The population of the Lakes DHB area has a below-average life expectancy. Recent estimates show that females in the Lakes DHB area have a life expectancy at birth of 78.8 years compared with 80.5 years nationally, while the life expectancy for males is 73.5 years compared with 75.2 years nationally.<sup>3</sup>

Mortality<sup>4</sup> rates in the Lakes DHB area for almost every age-group are higher and often significantly higher than for New Zealand as a whole (see figures 13-16). The exception is for the 0-14 years in 2004. The mortality rate for 45-64 year olds in the Lakes DHB area had been declining since 2001

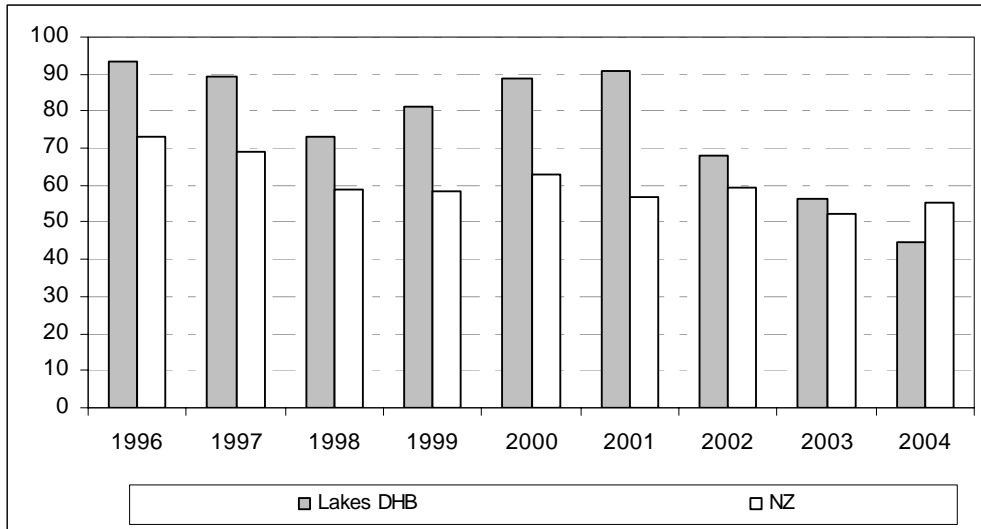


<sup>3</sup> The 2000-2002 official estimates for Rotorua District (The Rotorua TLA area) at birth is 74.0 years for males and 78.5 years for females which is an increase of 2.3 and 0.4 respectively from 1995-1997. At 65 years, the estimate for males is another 15.3 years and 19.0 years for females, which is an increase of 0.9 and 0.2 respectively from 1995-1997.

<sup>4</sup> Mortality is defined as death rate; often given as ratio of deaths per 100,000.

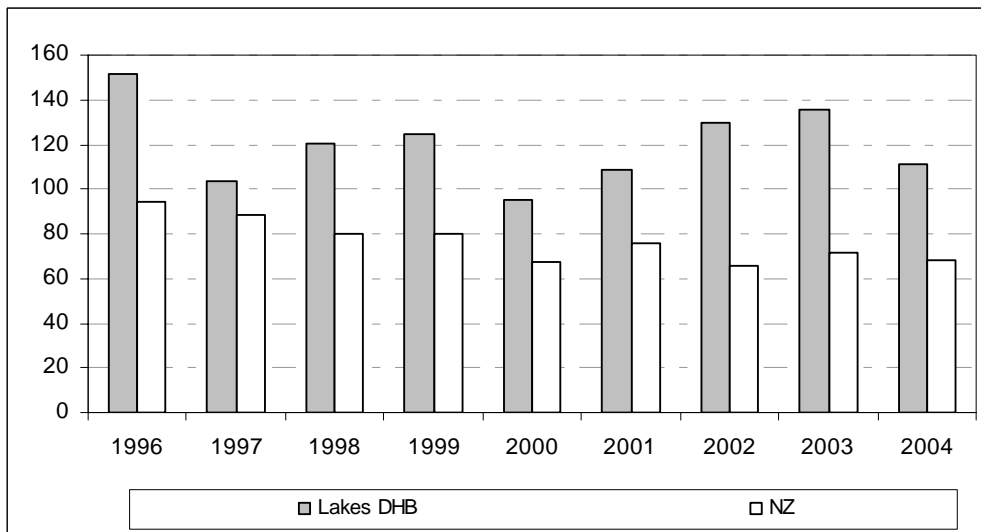
however in 2004 the mortality rate increased, while the mortality rate for New Zealand as a whole slightly decreased over the period 2000-2004.

**Figure 13: Age standardised mortality<sup>5</sup> rates per 100,000 for the 0-14 age group, Lakes DHB area and New Zealand, 1996-2004**



Source: Ministry of Health

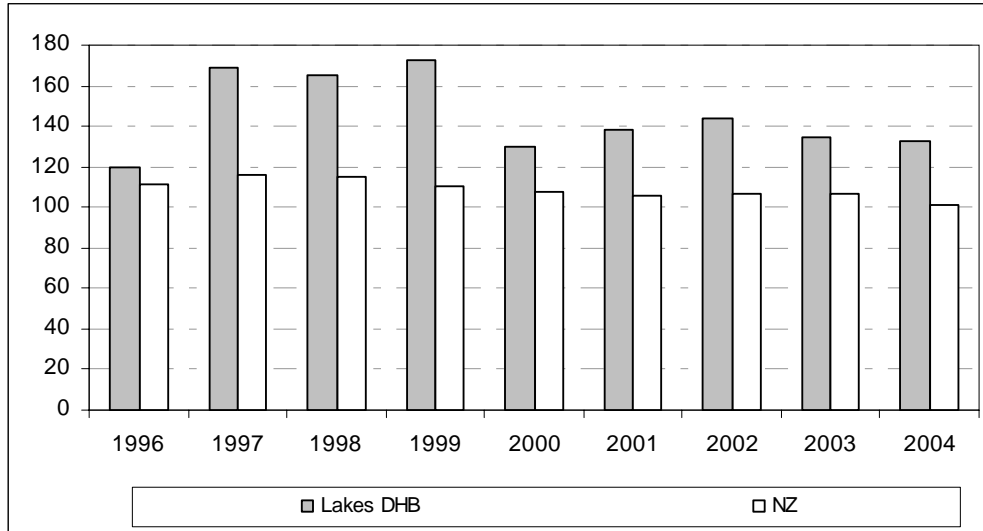
**Figure 14: Age standardised mortality rates per 100,000 for the 15-24 age group, Lakes DHB area and New Zealand, 1996-2004**



Source: Ministry of Health

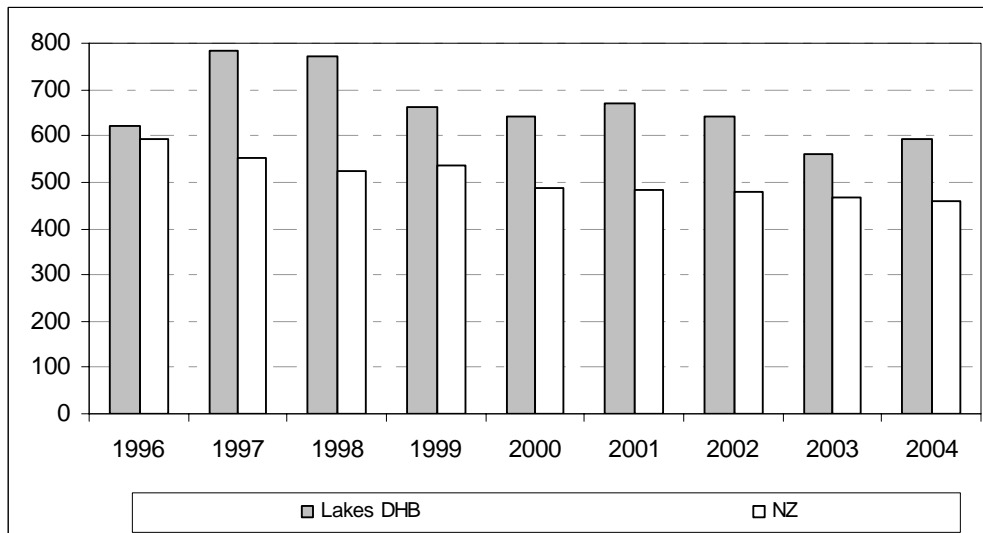
<sup>5</sup> Age-standardised rate or age-adjusted rate is a summary measure of a rate that a population would have if it had a standard age structure. Standardisation is necessary when comparing several populations that differ with respect to age because age has such a powerful influence on the risk of cancer. The most frequently used standard population is the World standard population. The calculated incidence rate is then called the World Standardised incidence rate. It is also expressed per 100,000.

**Figure 15: Age standardised mortality rates per 100,000 for the 25-44 age group, Lakes DHB area and New Zealand, 1996-2004**



Source: Ministry of Health

**Figure 16: Age standardised mortality rates per 100,000 for the 45-64 age group, Lakes DHB area and New Zealand, 1996-2004**



Source: Ministry of Health

**Physical activity**

The best available data on physical activity is from the Hillary SPARC Facts Survey, which was carried out over the period 2000 to 2001. Information was collected from 1076 adults living in the Bay of Plenty region (which incorporates much of the Lakes DHB area ) including 416 people aged 50 and over. Table 9 shows that ‘average’ older person in the Bay of Plenty Region engages in an above-average level of physical activity.

**Table 9: Physical activity of people aged 50 and over, Bay of Plenty and New Zealand, 2000-2001**

	Bay of Plenty Region	New Zealand
Active (2.5+ hours of activity per week)	72.0%	70.5%
Active 5 or more days per week	49.5%	44.0%
Hours active per week average	12.0	10.3

Source: SPARC New Zealand

### **Smoking**

Cigarette smoking is one of the most significant preventable causes of ill health, particularly for Māori. Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer, and historical smoking patterns are significant in determining mortality rates. The lung cancer mortality rate in the Lakes DHB area is 33.3 per 100,000 compared with 25.9 nationally. Results from the 1996 Census show that 30.0% of people aged 15 years and over in the Rotorua District smoke cigarettes compared with 23.7% for New Zealand overall.

### **Cancer**

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death for middle to older age groups, and the Lakes area has a higher cancer mortality rate than New Zealand overall. The annual average mortality rate from cancer (all types) in the Lakes DHB area for 1996-98 was 153.1 per 100,000 people, compared with 135.6 nationally. The mortality rate for males is higher than that for females. Also, the mortality rate from cancer for Māori in the Lakes DHB area is 279.3 per 100,000 compared with 128.8 for non-Māori.

### **Cardiovascular disease and stroke**

Although cardiovascular disease is declining in New Zealand, it is still the leading cause of death in New Zealand, mainly due to ischaemic heart disease (coronary artery disease) and stroke. The rate of hospitalisation for cardiovascular disease is 9.0 per 1,000 in the Lakes DHB area compared with 7.3 nationally. The rate for Māori is higher than for non-Māori, and males have more than double the rate of hospitalisations of females.

Stroke mortality is the third most common cause of death in New Zealand following cancer and ischaemic heart disease. The incidence of stroke increases with age, particularly above 65 years old. The hospitalisation rate for stroke in the Lakes DHB area is 8.1 per 1000 compared with 7.8 nationally. Stroke incidence is higher for Māori and Pacific peoples compared with other ethnicities.

### **Diabetes**

Diabetes is a major cause of morbidity and early mortality in developed nations. The commonest type of diabetes is non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (type II), which is diagnosed most frequently in middle and older ages. This form of diabetes accounts for nearly nine out of every ten cases of diabetes. The hospitalisation rate for diabetes is 110.9 per 100,000 in the Lakes DHB area compared with 77.3 nationally. Māori and Pacific Islanders are three to four times more likely to develop diabetes than people in European ethnic groups. The incidence of diabetes in New Zealand is expected to double in the next 20 years.

# RECREATION

Sport and recreation is an important contributor to health and wellbeing, for older people and for all ages.

## KEY POINT:

- According to survey results, 50% of Rotorua District residents aged 55 and over participate in walking as their main sport or physical activity. Other popular activities for older residents in Rotorua include golf, gardening, fishing, swimming, tramping, reading, and playing cards.



In early 2001, Council commissioned a Recreation Survey to collect background information for the development of a Recreation Strategic Plan. The survey involved 400 telephone interviews, including 151 interviews with people aged 55 and over. Please note that there is no updated information available from that of 2001.

The results of the Recreation Survey show that half of all older people in Rotorua participate in walking as their main sport or physical activity. Other popular activities for older residents include golf (23%), gardening (23%), fishing (10%), swimming (8%), and tramping (7%). A total of 70% of older residents said they undertake their favourite physical activity because they want to meet and spend time with other people, and 45% said they do it to help other people.

Apart from these relatively informal activities, older people also participate in many clubs and organisations in Rotorua. A total of 12% of older respondents said they had been involved in fundraising for a sport or physical activity over the previous 12-month period, and 39% said they had been involved as a supporter (e.g. attending team events). The main sports and activities supported by older people include rugby (34%) and golf (17%).

The Recreation Survey asked people to list the barriers to their increased participation in sports and activities. A substantial number of residents aged 55 and over said that poor health (44%) and old age (35%) were barriers to participation in many physical activities (with the exception of walking).

Apart from physical activity, 84% of respondents in the 55 and over age group said they had participated in a non-physical recreation, pastime or hobby over the previous 12-month period. This compares with 75% for all ages combined. The main non-physical activities mentioned by older people were reading (35%), gardening (24%), and playing cards (12%).

# APPENDIX 1: AGE PROFILE OF SUBURBS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

*Age profile, Rotorua District Area Units, 2006 (Refer to map on page 5 for Area Units)*

	55-59 Years	60-64 Years	65+ Years	Total, All Ages
Ngongotaha North	180	144	309	2,874
Ngongotaha South	90	60	153	1,101
Poets Corner	12	3	6	267
Ngapuna	30	18	36	513
Owhata South	33	18	63	585
Lynmore	192	129	369	3,132
Owhata West	177	129	297	3,576
Owhata East	78	81	360	2,133
Hamurana	156	150	228	2,388
Tikitere	204	156	282	2,829
Kaingaroa Forest	18	21	15	483
Tarawera	84	66	105	1,398
Golden Springs	63	33	45	1,287
Reporoa	30	18	24	474
Ngakuru	99	57	72	1,701
Arahiwi	3	0	6	147
Waiwhero	42	33	51	699
Mamaku	42	27	36	726
Selwyn Heights	75	45	57	1,128
Western Heights	159	126	294	3,822
Fairy Springs	78	96	189	2,013
Pukehangi North	81	60	105	2,190
Pukehangi South	144	102	321	2,790
Mangakakahi	132	90	189	2,448
Sunnybrook	108	105	180	1,941
Fordlands	60	51	108	1,908
Utuhina	66	57	165	1,404
Pomare	102	87	168	1,494
Hillcrest	69	42	153	1,602
Springfield	333	219	726	4,278
Kawaha Point	123	78	189	1,641
Koutu	102	72	147	1,896
Ohinemutu	15	12	51	282
Kuirau	60	66	189	1,110
Victoria	105	84	285	1,647
Glenholme East	156	126	579	1,986
Glenholme West	114	81	342	2,274
Fenton	87	72	372	1,395
Whakarewarewa	18	12	24	333
<b>Rotorua District</b>	<b>3,714</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>7,296</b>	<b>65,901</b>



**People aged 65+, Rotorua District Area Units, 1996 – 2006 (Refer to map on page 5 for Area Units)**

	1996		2001		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ngongotaha North	219	7.5%	264	9.1%	309	10.8%
Ngongotaha South	114	10.4%	132	12.1%	153	13.9%
Poets Corner	12	4.3%	9	3.5%	6	2.2%
Ngapuna	39	6.2%	42	7.5%	36	7.0%
Owhata South	30	6.2%	42	8.3%	63	10.8%
Lynmore	264	9.5%	306	10.1%	369	11.8%
Owhata West	159	5.1%	192	6.1%	297	8.3%
Owhata East	264	12.5%	339	15.9%	360	16.9%
Hamurana	153	8.0%	195	9.0%	228	9.5%
Tikitere	195	7.1%	243	8.6%	282	10.0%
Kaingaroa Forest	15	2.6%	15	2.7%	15	3.1%
Tarawera	123	7.5%	117	7.4%	105	7.5%
Golden Springs	60	4.7%	60	5.0%	45	3.5%
Reporoa	15	2.6%	24	4.3%	24	5.1%
Ngakuru	51	3.5%	72	4.7%	72	4.2%
Arahiwi	6	4.8%	6	4.9%	6	4.1%
Waiwhero	36	6.0%	48	7.8%	51	7.3%
Mamaku	33	5.4%	36	5.2%	36	5.0%
Selwyn Heights	54	4.5%	48	4.0%	57	5.1%
Western Heights	288	7.5%	312	8.6%	294	7.7%
Fairy Springs	177	8.5%	177	8.7%	189	9.4%
Pukehangi North	87	3.8%	96	4.7%	105	4.8%
Pukehangi South	222	11.3%	273	11.0%	321	11.5%
Mangakakahi	183	7.3%	222	9.4%	189	7.7%
Sunnybrook	123	6.3%	144	7.7%	180	9.3%
Fordlands	84	4.0%	102	5.1%	108	5.7%
Utuhina	174	12.7%	195	14.6%	165	11.8%
Pomare	129	9.1%	159	10.8%	168	11.2%
Hillcrest	198	11.6%	174	11.0%	153	9.6%
Springfield	633	14.9%	657	15.3%	726	17.0%
Kawaha Point	165	11.2%	174	10.5%	189	11.5%
Koutu	129	6.2%	153	7.4%	147	7.8%
Ohinemutu	54	19.6%	45	15.8%	51	18.1%
Kuirau	198	16.3%	195	17.0%	189	17.0%
Victoria	387	19.6%	246	14.5%	285	17.3%
Glenholme East	555	27.4%	528	26.2%	579	29.2%
Glenholme West	408	18.0%	402	18.1%	342	15.0%
Fenton	303	22.2%	357	26.3%	372	26.7%
Whakarewarewa	15	5.8%	24	8.7%	24	7.2%
<b>Rotorua District</b>	<b>6,354</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>7,296</b>	<b>11.1%</b>

## APPENDIX 2: MYTHS AND REALITIES ABOUT GROWING OLDER

*Ageing is Living Project – Age Concern New Zealand*

*What is Positive Ageing?*

*"Positive ageing is not about how to live longer nor how to avoid growing old. It is about celebrating older age."*

Key factors for positive ageing include:

- Approaching older age with a vision of your needs and how to meet them.
- Having choices and feeling in control of your life.
- Being able to respond and adapt to change.
- Being physically and mentally active.
- Being involved.
- Continuing to learn.
- Feeling secure.
- Having healthy lifestyle habits.
- Having contact with family and friends.
- Gaining satisfaction in the things you do and your relations with others.

Planning and thinking ahead will assist us to enjoy richness and fullness of life as we age.

### Myths and Realities

#### *Myths*

Views of older age and older people are influenced by myths and stereotypes. According to the common stereotypes, older people are seen as mostly frail, ill or disabled and likely to live in institutions. They may also be seen as conservative in their views and approach to life and considered unable to learn new skills or absorb information.

A prevailing myth is that older people are "past it". Another is that of the "greedy oldies", selfishly taking away resources or opportunities from younger people. These views of older people ignore the real contributions that older people make in our community.

#### *Realities*

- Most older people in New Zealand live independently in the community, either alone or with a relative.
- The health of older people is improving. Healthy lifestyles and habits in younger and middle age will increase the likelihood of good health in older age.

- Currently, most older people in New Zealand live on an income of less than \$15,000 a year.
- Older people contribute through voluntary work – 15 % of unpaid work is carried out by older people.
- Older people contribute at home – studies in families show that older people give more support than they receive.
- A growing number of older people are doing paid work, either full or part time.
- Older people can and do learn new skills and absorb new information. Some skills improve with age.
- Older people are not all the same and diversity of opinions, knowledge and skills is highest in the older age group.

### **Promoting Positive Ageing in the Community**

As individuals and as members of groups we can help to bring about change by influencing those who develop policy and make decisions. A society that enables us to age well will be one where:

- Positive attitudes to ageing and older people are encouraged through education, health promotion and intergenerational activities.
- The worth and activities of older people are acknowledged and valued.
- Older people are consulted and involved in planning and design of services, products and facilities.
- Barriers to older people participating are identified and removed.
- Policies on health care, housing, employment and income are developed according to an integrated national plan that ensures all generations have the opportunity to age well.
- 

Older people have noted the following as being needed:

- Adequacy of income in older age for daily needs, future planning and participation in society.
- Increased opportunities to be involved in social, recreational, physical, educational and creative pursuits, including life long learning.
- Prompt access to health care, reduced waiting times for surgery and sufficient support and rehabilitation services to maintain independence.
- Improved door-to-door services and transport.
- Improved information on services and community support available.
- Research on the needs and experiences of older people.
- Education and health promotion strategies that encourage healthy lifestyle planning and early preparation for older age – socially as well as financially.

SOURCE:

<http://www.ageconcern.org.nz/?/services/positiveageing>