

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.’