



NZ Council of Christian Social Services

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More Compassion, Greater Justice and More
Fairness for Older People
November 2007



A just and compassionate society...

- ...is where the voices of disadvantaged and marginalised are heard and where they can live fulfilled lives with dignity.
- Social services have a long history of being there for older people.
- Our particular commitment is to those on the margins who through their high levels of need and/or lack of financial means are left with few options in their later lives.



Older person's voice...

"Being able to look after myself, having a family and friends call for fellowship, stay at home to the end if possible, God willing"

"Transport, companion/visitor programmes. When one reaches mid-eighties one finds oneself alone, friends have all passed on. No relatives in district."

"Some socialising, helping people to learn new ways of ups instead of downs, learning new crafts."





Justice & compassion in services for older people

1. Ageing population is an opportunity and an enormous social achievement
2. Strong continuum of support and care – what this really means
3. Integrating affordable housing & accessible support services
4. Pay attention to the transitions between types of care and accommodation
5. Workforce that is genuinely valued
6. Flexible service delivery & funding models
7. Understand the changing sector
8. Planning, leadership, coordination and partnership



NZCCSS at work...

- Rising to the Challenge report
- Aged Care Options & Impacts feasibility study
- Services for Older People Conference 2008 – Justice & Compassion in Action
- Landscape of the Aged Care Sector paper
- Submissions & representation in sector fora



Our ageing society is huge social achievement!

Ageing in the Maori culture is a “positive life course transition that augments mana or prestige. To be older is to be an elder or kaumatua with the necessary experience, wisdom and cultural knowledge to fulfil well-defined roles and responsibilities” (Durie)





Focus on researching the social risks facing older people

- Those with few assets & low incomes are at risk of having few or no options
- Almost two-thirds of people over 65 receive almost all of their income from national superannuation
- Those with high needs e.g. dementia



Strong continuum of support & care

- Increasingly the care is coming to you - 95% of older people are in "their own place"
- Proportionately few older people are seeking out residential care and at an older age (Av. Age 82+)
- Holistic approach including spirituality



Care & Support Continuum:

- Independent living
- Social support
- Home-based support
- Supported living
- Residential care



Integrating affordable housing & support

- Rental options important
- Affordable retirement village
- Living with support linked to wider networks

NZCCSS calls for affordable housing models that work for older people





Transitions between types of care & accommodation

- Barriers to moving between types of care (e.g. home/residential)
- Differential funding
- Care & accommodation

NZCCSS calls for the funding for care & support to be split from the funding of accommodation





Workforce that is genuinely valued

- Historical legacy of low-wage, low training care workforce
- Disparity in wages between public sector & non-government providers



NZCCSS calls for a comprehensive strategy for a robust workforce – wages, training & career options



Planning, leadership, coordination & partnership

- Little or no planning for a transition to future models
- Looking beyond Health of Older People Strategy end 2010
- Health, Housing, Social Development departments

NZCCSS call for improved coordination across government in robust partnership with wider sector



Vision for our future

- older people are supported to make their own good choices about how they wish to live and build support networks they require = justice & compassion
- an investment in wider social wellbeing beyond market financial sustainability
- health and social benefits exceed the financial costs = good social investment