

Position Statements and Priority Area Update Workshop

Supporting Age Concern New Zealand
with information from our membership

Rachel Mackay
Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua
Senior Policy Analyst



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services



New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga
& Samoa Territory



Kaiwhakahaere Matua

Alicia Sudden



Child and Family

Melanie Wilson



Equity and Inclusion

Dr Katie Schraders



Older Persons

Rachel Mackay

Communications

Karen Allan



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

Kaitiakitanga

Whakapapa

Whanaungatanga

Whakatipua

Ō Tātou Aronga

Our Vision

**Calling Forth a Just and
Compassionate Aotearoa**

Justice

Karaitianatanga

Te Tiriti o Waitangi



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

Our members provide

Community Programmes

Standard Bed ARRC

Day Programmes

Dementia Supports

Psychogeriatric ARRC

Affordable Rentals

Respite Care



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

Our five priority areas for action are:



Health services and access



Elder abuse services and prevention



Loneliness and social connection



Housing and urban design



Income and cost of living



Health Services and Access

Older People are the dominant users of the Health System

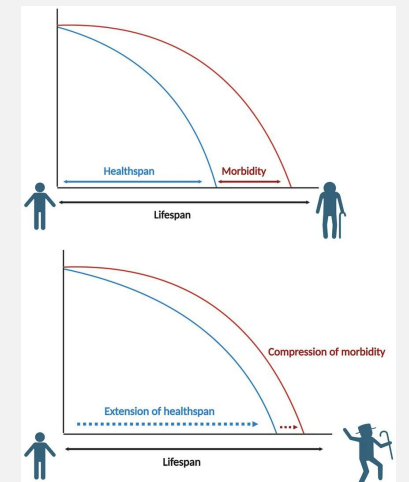
- 17% of the population are over 65

- 42% of the health service use is by over 65s

The new Te Pae Waenga National Health Plan **does not** identify Older People as a 'population with greater needs', despite noting that reduced life expectancy in other target groups is something the plan is looking to address

In 2024, at least 60% of Older People had two or more long-term conditions

According to the Global Burden of Disease study, our life expectancy has increased faster than the healthy life expectancy, resulting in more years in poor health at the end of life. Research into the 'healthspan' and how to compress the period of ill health is an increasing field



Health Services and Access

In the 2024/2025 year, Health NZ funded:

9,910,000 Aged Residential Care (ARC) Bed Days (27,150 full years)

9,335,000 Home Care Support Hours

In the 2024/2025 year:

86.7% of 65-74 year olds and 93.8% of over 75s accessed GP services

65-74 year olds went to the GP an average of 3 times

75+ year olds went to the GP an average of 3.6 times

25% of those aged over 75 had all their teeth removed due to decay

7.8% of 65-74 year olds had unmet GP needs due to cost

20% of 65-74 year olds and 14.8% of over 75s had unmet GP needs
due to wait times to access care

21% of 65-74 and 24.4% of over 75s visited the Emergency
Department



Health Services and Access

Home and Community Support Services (HCSS)

Provides key support to those who need it to remain safely at home in the community.

Can range from household management tasks (cleaning, shopping, etc) to personal cares (dressing, showering, etc).

Recent changes have been undertaken to reduce 'in-between travel' (IBT) which was understood to account for 20% of the total funding costs of the service

Flexibility in care prioritised by clients, so moving away from task-based care plans

Has high uptake among Māori and Pacific clients, as remaining at home with whānau/aiga is a priority for these Older People



Health Services and Access

Aged Residential Care (ARC)

Provides 24/7 residential care for those who can no longer remain at home

Bed availability varies across the country, from 149 beds per thousand people in Northland to 272 beds per thousand people in Christchurch

Wait times for admission also vary significantly, from 82 days in MidCentral to 219 days on the West Coast. The national average is that 46.3% of individuals who have been assessed with a MAPLe score of 4 or 5 will be in ARC within 12 months.

ARC has significant ethnic disparity, with significant underutilization by Māori and Pacific Older People. This is likely due to cultural differences and mirrors the elevated levels of Māori and Pacific Older People accessing HCSS.

People are more likely to access ARC at higher rates of acuity, with an increase in people entering at hospital care, not rest home level.

Estimates place the national bed numbers at 13,000 short in the next 8 years as the population both grows and ages.



Health Services and Access

Aged Residential Care (ARC)

Currently have 686 registered ARC across the country, with 43,000 beds

In a 2024 survey of about half of all ARC:

- 56% were running at a net loss

- There was an average increase of 46% in total expenses (2017-2023)

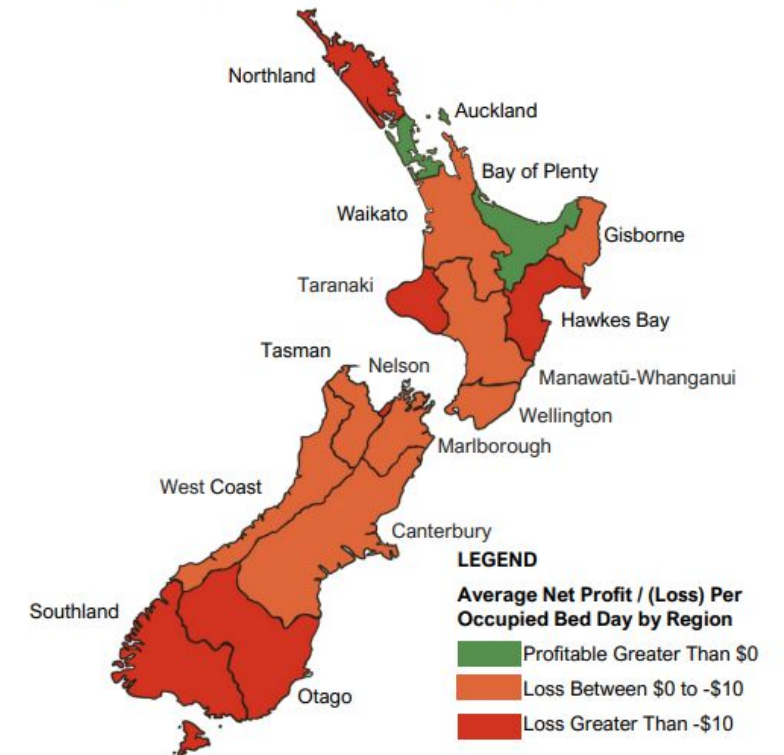
- There was an average increase of 28% in funding in the same period

- Only 31% had any capital development in the two years prior

“Costs have increased at a rate well ahead of income. Our losses have spiralled to the point that consideration is being given to close.”

– Survey Respondent

Figure 1: Average Net Profit / (Loss) Per Occupied Bed Day by Region



Health Services and Access

Location	Day rate
HCSS	~\$20
ARC	~\$173
Specialised ARC (Psychogeriatric)	~\$317
Hospital Ward	~\$1,700

Health Services and Access

Current concerns

Pressure from underfunding ARC beds is rippling back down the continuum

- People are coming into ARC frailer and dying faster

- HCSS are responsible for caring for higher acuity individuals

- GPs and EDs bare the burden of untreated medical needs

- Other healthcare system users delayed by prolonged ward stays

- Carers and staff experience higher rates of distress

- No space in the budget to hold beds for respite care

Specialised care needs are increasing

- Dementia and psychogeriatric patients being cared for in standard ARC

- Increased pressure on staffing

- Bariatric patients becoming a more frequent occurrence

Limited community support impacts assessment and intervention

- Socially isolated individuals in community often aren't assessed before crisis

- Limited funding opportunities for outreach

- Day programmes often linked to carer respite payments

Lack of EPOAs impact transfer

- Further delays from hospital even if beds are available



Health Services and Access

NZCCSS response

Part of the A21 funding negotiation group

Advocated for ARC to be part of national infrastructure planning

NZCCSS member responses

Provide 2500 not-for-profit beds across the country, including many of the Standard Beds available

Provide Home and Community Services throughout the country

Provide respite care and day programmes to support older people in their social and mental health needs

Have innovative programmes to visit socially isolated older people with complex needs at home and support them to manage their lives

Member on the Ministerial Advisory Group





Aotearoa Aged Care Action Plan

The Aotearoa Aged
Care Action Plan

Action Overview



Objective One

Sector-wide decisions are bipartisan and long-term in nature

- 1.1 - Secure cross-government support for the objectives of this plan to ensure they are independent of the electoral cycle
- 1.2 - Reduce the siloing of government departments and support unified funding, allowing the sector to act sector-wide

Objective Two

Holistic, spiritual care is integrated throughout the sector

- 2.1 - Develop spiritual care guidelines for adoption throughout the care system
- 2.2 - Ensure access to cultural and spiritual care is available through the sector

Objective Three

Funding for the sector creates options and choice for kaumātua and whānau, while being needs-based and equitably provided

- 3.1 - Reassess means testing levels to ensure that available funding is spent appropriately
- 3.2 - Funding for day programmes is separated from the carer respite programmes and is kaumātua-centred
- 3.3 - Provide funding for engagement with allied health professionals

Objective Four

Housing Options for kaumātua are diversified, accessible, and affordable

- 4.1 - Establish an infrastructure fund for the development of accessible, affordable rentals for kaumātua
- 4.2 - Analyse the most effective way to fund supportive cohousing arrangements
- 4.3 - Support lenders to provide finance to multigenerational and kaumātua-centred housing projects
- 4.4 - Update the National Planning Framework guidelines (RMA) to include specific kaumātua housing provisions
- 4.5 - Develop a specific joint strategy for addressing homelessness and housing insecurity in the over 65 population

Objective Five

Aged Residential Care facilities are sustainably funded to maintain and grow Standard beds

- 5.1 - Replace the mechanism for agreeing the Maximum Contribution
- 5.2 - Establish an infrastructure fund for the development and maintenance of Standard Beds

Objective Six

Aged Care is funded and supported in a flexible and mana-preserving way

- 6.1 - Undertake analysis on extending the Individualised Funding (IF) model to Aged Care
- 6.2 - Family and community carers are supported in their own wellbeing via Mahi Aroha
- 6.3 - Individuals living with dementia are supported via the Dementia Mate Wareware Plan
- 6.4 - Cultural Safety training is implemented across the sector
- 6.5 - Ensure consistent funding for palliative care

Objective Seven

Community is seen as and supported to be the core of service provision

- 7.1 - Ensure the Aged Care providers are remunerated equitably to their hospital counterparts
- 7.2 - Reconfigure funding parameters to allow for cross-departmental projects
- 7.3 Community providers are supported to provide non-clinical, wellbeing focused services

Objective Eight

Needs Assessments are proactive, timely, and responsive to community and location

- 8.1 - Fund the expansion and region-specificity of InterRAI as a tool for assessment
- 8.2 - Return assessment authority to providers to increase responsiveness and timeliness
- 8.3 - Increase numbers of NASC to increase assessment capacity

Objective Nine

Technology is embraced as a critical component of sustainable Aged Care

- 9.1 - Support avenues for age-appropriate training in technology
- 9.2 - Explore the opportunities for voice-activated technology in service provision and support
- 9.3 - Utilise data from InterRAI to undergo proactive modelling for future service need



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

Health Services and Access

Kaitiakitanga

Care for the Collective

Whakapapa

Commitment

Whanaungatanga

Community Connection

Whakatipua

Cultivation



Housing and Urban Design

Home Ownership

Those who remain in their own homes find that they are less able to afford essential repairs and maintenance to their properties

Many systems are already in place to support those who own their own home when money doesn't stretch far enough:

- Council rates rebates

- Recoverable Assistance Payments for housing repairs

Increasing instances of reverse mortgages where older people are 'asset rich but cash poor'



Housing and Urban Design

Renting and Tenancy

Currently, approximately 20% of all over 65s live in homes they do not own

This number is anticipated to rise to more than half by 2048

Renting invites precarity:

- 90 day no-reason evictions
- annual rent increases
- sale of property without tenant input
- restrictions on modifications to property (must be able to reinstate to previous condition)
- limitations on grant receipt for support structures
- difficulty finding a new property in a contentious rental market
- reduced insight into the long-term impacts of renting on health and wellbeing in older adults as most research focuses on children (only included in interRAI in last 18 months)



Housing and Urban Design

Retirement Villages

Currently a hot-button topic, with the review of the Retirement Village Act underway

Villages provide opportunities for connection and engagement with peers, activities, wellbeing support, and security

The ethicality of business practices in terms of returning capital to departing residents or to estates is under scrutiny

Concerns also exist in the overlap between Retirement Villages and Aged Residential Care in the form of Care Suits - aged care provision but with an occupational rights agreement



Housing and Urban Design

Current concerns

- Lack of consideration for Older People in Urban Design
 - Unless there has been an Age Friendly communities plan
 - Even initiatives that appear age friendly lack important elements
- Ageing population in ageing homes
 - Increasingly deferred maintenance
 - Concerns around safety and ability to age safely in place
- Increases in older renters
 - Housing insecurity and precarity
 - Tenancy law not set up for long term or older tenants
 - Lack of capital to provide options in accommodation



Housing and Urban Design

NZCCSS response

Maintain an Older Persons focus in housing issues

Maintain an Older Persons focus in renting and tenancy issues

Advocate for inclusive research and advocacy in the housing space

NZCCSS member responses



Partnership between Selwyn, Auckland Council and Kāinga Ora to create and manage dedicated affordable rentals for older people



Key awareness campaign into the growing urgency of older persons housing needs



Providers of not-for-profit retirement village homes to provide choice in the market

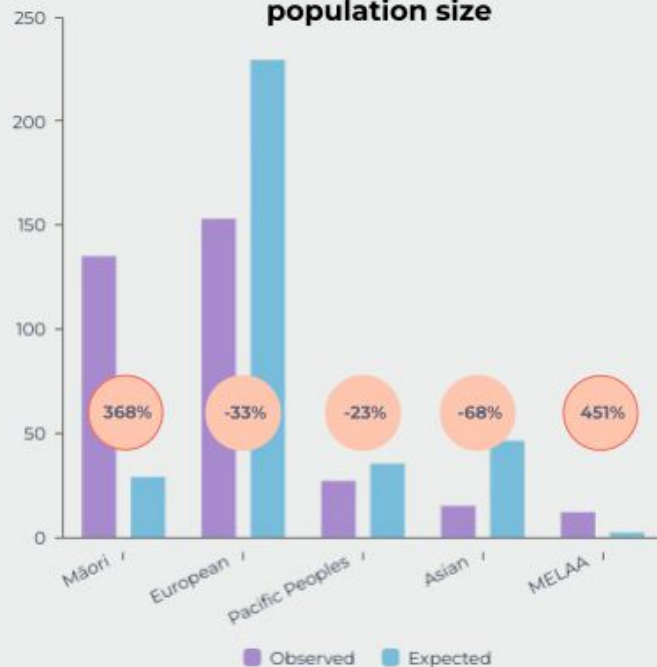


New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

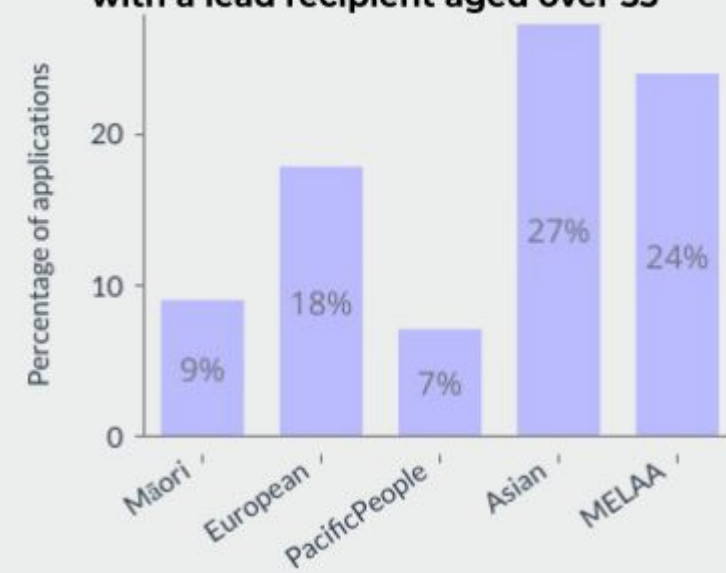


Housing Insecurity in Over 55s

Expected and observed over 55 EH-SNG numbers for each ethnicity based on population size



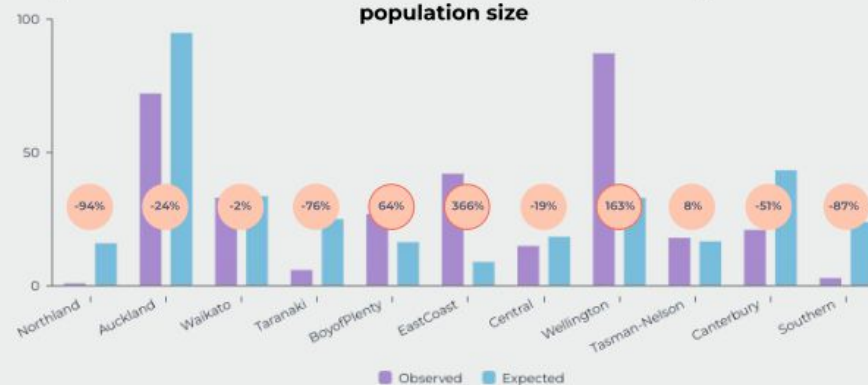
Percentage of recipients per ethnic group with a lead recipient aged over 55



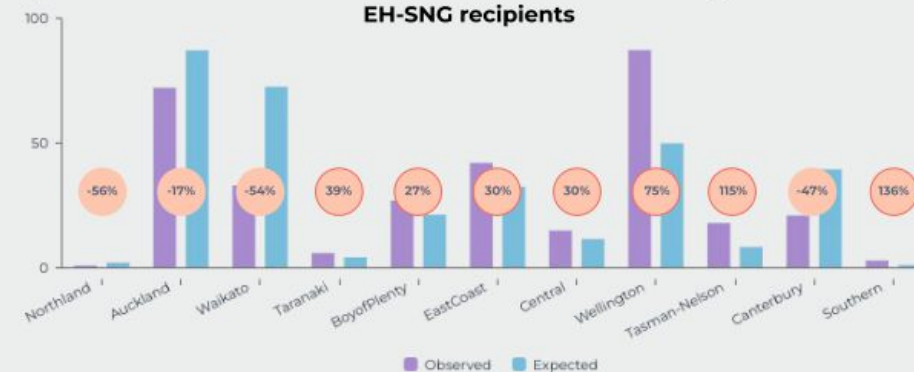
Duration of EH-SNG receipt



Expected and observed over 55 EH-SNG numbers for each region based on population size



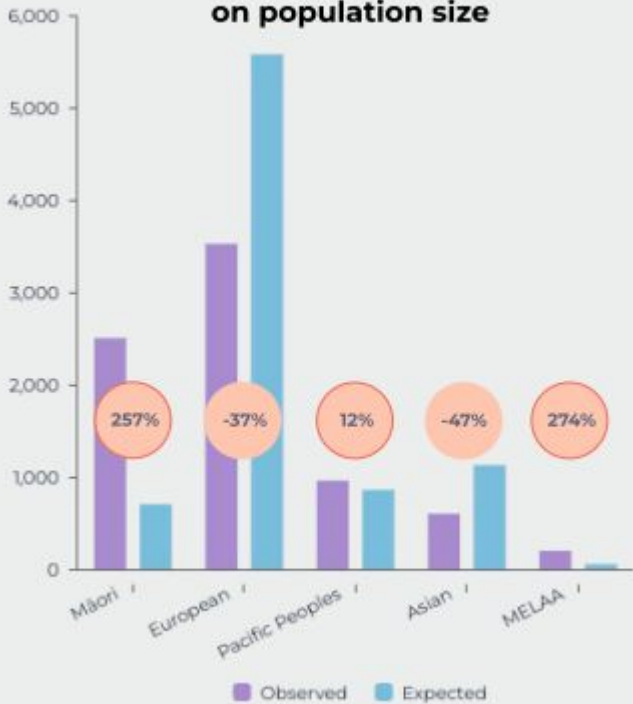
Expected and observed over 55 EH-SNG numbers for each region based on total EH-SNG recipients



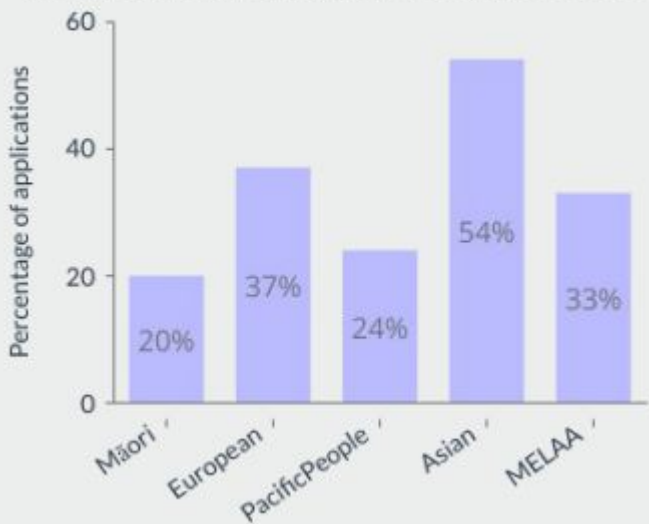


Housing Insecurity in Over 55s

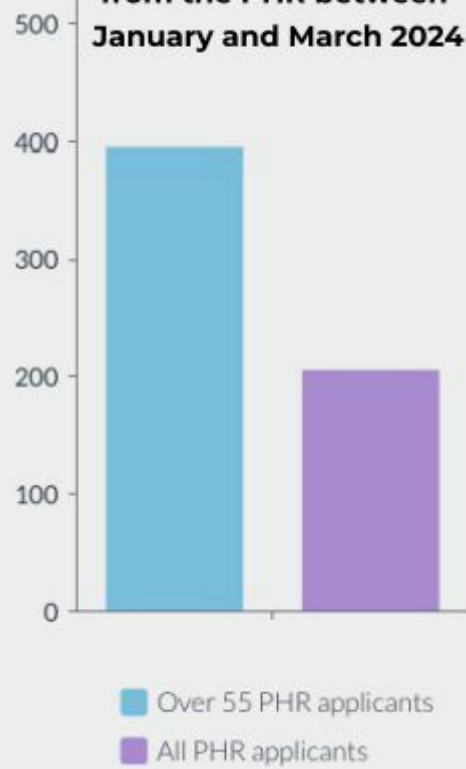
Expected and observed over 55 PHR applicants for each ethnicity based on population size



Percentage of applications per ethnic group with a lead applicant aged over 55



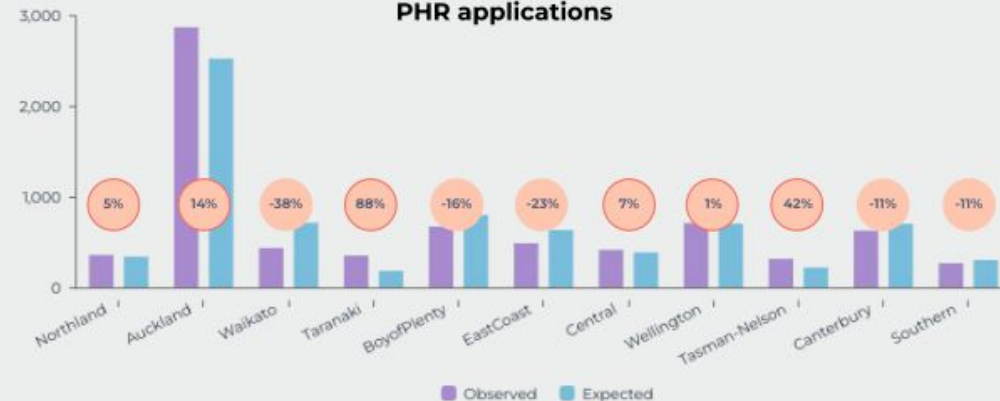
Average days to house from the PHR between January and March 2024



Expected and observed over 55 PHR applications for each region based on population size



Expected and observed over 55 PHR applications for each region based on total PHR applications



Housing and Urban Design

Kaitiakitanga

Care for the Collective

Whakapapa

Commitment

Whanaungatanga

Community Connection

Whakatipua

Cultivation



Income and Cost of Living

Income vs Deprivation

Poverty can be measured in a wide variety of ways

Two main options are:

- what you have coming in
- what you possess to sustain your quality of life

The Household Economic Survey utilises these to give an indication of how many people are experiencing some kind of financial hardship

- income before and after housing costs
- the Dep-17



Income and Cost of Living

Income vs Deprivation

The Dep-17 measures material wellbeing by asking 17 questions about what people have or what their current financial situation could allow them to do.

Questions include:

- Do you have suitable clothing for special occasions?
- Can you regularly give people presents on special occasions?
- Do finances force you to go without fruit and vegetables?
- Do finances force you to put off visits to the doctor and the dentist?
- Do you have to put up with feeling cold?
- In the last year have finances forced you to miss bill payments?



Income and Cost of Living

Current concerns

Discussions around complicating superannuation eligibility

Fixed costs continue to rise without increases in fixed incomes

Maintaining health at home critical to ageing in place, but finances make that more and more difficult especially in relation to food and heating

Perception that there is no such thing as Older Persons poverty unless that person didn't work hard enough or made poor choices

Nobody 'deserves' to live in poverty



Income and Cost of Living

NZCCSS response

Constructing the Older Persons Poverty Monitor
Bringing a priority of financially insecure older people to conversation

NZCCSS member responses

Provide support services for low-income households such as
kai,
budgeting,
health clinics, transport, and wellbeing support





The Older Persons Poverty Monitor

"Older Persons Poverty is the state of having insufficient resources, security, and support in one's community to live, age, and die with dignity."

Domain	Measure
Income	households below 50% median income after housing costs
	uptake of special needs grants
Essentials	experiencing a score of 6+ on the Dep-17
	uptake of recoverable assistance payments
Housing	spending more than 40% of their income on housing
	living in a home they do not own
Connection	reporting low social connection
	identified as having high social connection vulnerability
Health	experiencing unmet health needs due to cost
	responded 'yes' to at least one health related Dep-17 item

Housing and Urban Design

Kaitiakitanga

Care for the Collective

Whakapapa

Commitment

Whanaungatanga

Community Connection

Whakatipua

Cultivation



References and Resources

References for each section
of this presentation

Links to relevant NZCCSS
submissions



Links to relevant NZCCSS
reports & resources



Sign up to the newsletter

Rachel Mackay
rachel@nzccss.org.nz



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services