

## AGE FRIENDLY ASHBURTON STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

1. 34 districts and cities around NZ involved.
2. 13 in South Island (Chch, Gore, Hurunui, Kaikoura, Mackenzie, Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman, Timaru, Waimakariri, Waitaki, Westland, Selwyn). We are the 14<sup>th</sup>.
3. Ashburton District:
  - a. 18% of the population 65 plus (15% NZ) – projected to be 21% in Ashburton District in 2033 (20% in NZ)
  - b. 69% living on under \$30k per annum
  - c. 24% living alone
4. In NZ by 2036, 1 in 4 will be 65 plus.
5. People are living longer.
6. Older people make a significant contribution to their families/communities (eg as volunteers, grandparents and carers, etc ) and have a wealth of knowledge and skills to share.
7. Focussing on the older members of our community via an “age friendly” approach helps ensure that older people are engaged, active, contributing, and valued members of our community. A key feature of “age friendly” is to involve older people in making decisions about what is important to them.
8. Development of an Age Friendly Strategy enables a collective approach, by bringing together key agencies, the Council, and the community to look at how age friendly our community is and where we could make improvements. Changes made as a result of an Age Friendly Strategy usually benefit everyone in the community.
9. The Age Friendly Strategy is backed by the Age Friendly Framework developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It will cover off 8 domains:
  - a. Housing
  - b. Diversity and Culture
  - c. Civic Participation and Employment
  - d. Community Support and Health Services
  - e. Communications and Information
  - f. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
  - g. Transportation
  - h. Social Participation

10. Ashburton District has a lot to be proud of in terms of already being “age friendly” – eg the new Library, Whare Whakatere; the Connector community transport service; the Citizens Advice Bureau; Council older persons housing; volunteering and educational opportunities (eg U3A), and a number of agencies focusing on the needs of older people.
  
11. Being part of the Age Friendly Aotearoa Network (34 members) allows us access to best practice from around the country and will give access to age friendly research undertaken in NZ and across the world. We can also develop over time to be a member of the WHO Global Age Friendly Cities and Communities Network. There are 7 communities and cities from NZ who are part of this already.
  
12. The Office for Seniors’ support and funding is available through its Age Friendly Fund grant scheme. We can apply for funding of up to \$15,000 to help support a community needs assessment, or to develop an age friendly strategy/plan or to pilot new age friendly projects. The next funding round will be open in August 2024 for projects to be run in 2025.
  
13. Next steps:
  - a. Seek the support of the Council for the development of an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan
  
  - b. Establish an Advisory/Steering Group to oversee the development of the Strategy, to be chaired by the Deputy Mayor (in her role as Chair of the Safe Communities Steering Group) or co-chaired with another interested councillor?
  
  - c. Undertake the work via the Safe Communities Programme
  
  - d. Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan to be completed by 30 June, 2025