



AGE FRIENDLY POLICY

July 2016

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Age Friendly Policy

1. Purpose and scope

1.1 The aim of Waipa District Council's Age Friendly Policy is to guide and progress actions to ensure that Council:

- Values and encourages the contribution of the elderly to the wider community; and
- Acknowledges and prepares for Waipa's ageing population in the delivery of services and facilities; and
- Positions Waipa as a desirable place for the elderly and promotes 'active ageing'.

1.2 This policy applies to all staff and Councillors of Waipa District Council.

2. Excluded from the scope of this Policy

2.1 This policy does not apply to:

- The construction of buildings which are subject to the Building Act 2004 and the Building Code.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Ageing population	In demographic terms, the ageing population is commonly defined as people aged 65+ years. However, age alone is not a measure of a person's specific abilities and needs. Ageing affects individuals, families, whanau and communities in many different ways and is not exclusive to people of a particular age.
Active ageing	The process of optimising opportunities for health, participation and security, in order to enhance quality of life as people age. (Active Ageing: a policy framework, WHO 2002). The elderly are active participants in the community and empowered in their lives.

4. Guiding principles




4.1 General

4.1.1 This policy acknowledges and values the opportunities for community contribution and participation that the elderly can offer and enjoy, often when their lifestyle, work and family responsibilities change. It supports positive ageing where many elderly are living and remaining active for longer.

4.1.2 The policy also recognises that some elderly are more vulnerable and frail in their advancing years and may need additional physical, financial, community and social

support. The elderly's wellbeing and needs can move between these spectrums at different times.

4.1.3 This policy supports the community outcomes in Council's Long Term Plan, in particular:

 Economically progressive	 Connected with our community	 Socially responsible
We are financially sustainable.	We engage with all parts of the community.	Waipa offer an excellent quality of life.

4.1.4 The following broad principles will be used to help inform and guide council's decision making processes and the provision of services, in particular:

- (a) Enable wider community benefit from the elderly's knowledge and experience.
- (b) Actively engage the elderly in economic, social, and political decisions.
- (c) Considering the impacts of an ageing population in strategic decision-making, planning and consultation now and in the future.
- (d) Working collegially with affected parties to help inform decision-making and setting targets.
- (e) Making decisions based on sound information and future needs.
- (f) Sharing responsibility with central government and the community to promote the interests of the elderly.
- (g) Focusing on elderly services, programmes and activities where it has greatest leverage and responsibility.
- (h) Offering support to those who most need it.

4.2 Application of Principals

4.2.1. Council's role is to facilitate age friendly actions outlined in the Age Friendly Implementation Plan through:

- Its key strategic documents (i.e. the Long Term Plan and District Plan);
- Supporting the elderly through the sharing or provision of public facilities or buildings and temporary event venues when the opportunity arises; and
- Using existing communication channels to include information targeted at elderly.

5. Policies

5.1 Built Environment

Where appropriate, Council property accessible by the public should be developed and maintained with consideration for enabling the access, safety and wellbeing of the elderly, in compliance with current building codes, standards and development manuals.¹

5.2 Council services

Council will ensure it considers the following objectives when developing, maintaining and delivering services that impact the elderly.

5.2.1. *Objective 1: Wellbeing*

- (a) The cultural diversity of the elderly living in the Waipa District is acknowledged and celebrated.
- (b) Elderly living in the Waipa District have access to community meeting places that cater for their needs.
- (c) Council is an advocate for elderly living in the Waipa District to continue 'learning for life'.

5.2.2. *Objective 2: Communication and information*

- (a) Elderly living in the Waipa District have access to the information and support needed to ensure they feel respected and valued.
- (b) There is easy access by the elderly to Council and community information that will enhance their personal and community wellbeing and involvement.
- (c) Council provides options in formats and dissemination of information that suit the changing needs and preferences of people as they age.

5.2.3. *Objective 3: Participation in decision making*

- (a) The knowledge, skills and experience of the elderly living in the Waipa District are considered and implemented where beneficial.
- (b) Council involves the elderly in decision making where they are significantly affected.

5.2.4. *Objective 4: Understanding and Promoting Positive Ageing*

- (a) Ensuring the rights, contributions, needs and expectations of the elderly are understood and respected by Council staff, elected members, and are reflected in Council planning and service delivery.

¹ Issues relating to Housing specifically are covered in the Pensioner Housing Policy

6. Application and review

- 6.1 This policy applies to all employees of Waipa District Council, representatives and elected members and will be reviewed every two years or within six (6) months of any substantial change to, or enactment of, legislation and/or Council policy.
- 6.2 The policy will take effect from the date it is adopted by Council.

Signed _____ Date

David Hall
GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Signed _____ Date

Garry Dyet
CHIEF EXECUTIVE