



Auckland Council Seniors Advisory Panel Report

2016 - 2019 Term

Ko au, Ko au, Ka Awatea. Light dawns, it is a new day.

Seniors
Advisory Panel



Foreword

Our priorities this term were firstly to persuade the Governing Body to reconsider joining the World Health Organisations' Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities. It was frustrating to have fallen at the last hurdle three years ago. The climate appeared more favourable and Central Government had already joined, which should assist others to follow. So work recommenced building on the previous efforts of the inaugural panel and community groups such as Grey Power and Age Concern.



2016-2019 term Seniors Advisory Panel Members (taken at final meeting in 2019)

Top row from left: Carol Hayward (Principal Advisor Panels), John Nash (Lead Officer), Dr Judy Blakey, Janet Clews (Chairman), Mere Tunks, David Wong-Hop (Deputy Chairman), Roger Fowler, Allison Dobbie (former Lead Officer) Front row: Joan Lardner-Rivlin

Our role

The Seniors Advisory Panel offers advice based on their experiences living as seniors in Auckland.

The panel provides strategic advice to Auckland Council and helps improve outcomes for seniors across the region.

Our role is to:

- identify the issues that are important to older people in Auckland
- provide feedback and advice on the council's regional strategies, policies and plans, and any matter of particular interest or concern to older people.

Seniors Advisory Panel members for the 2016 - 2019 term are:

- Janet Clews, CNZM, QSO, JP (Chairman)
- David Wong Hop, MNZM, JP (Deputy Chairman)
- Dr Judy Blakey, MNZM
- Roger Fowler, QSM
- Joan Lardner-Rivlin, MNZM, QSM
- Sonny Niha
- Mihi Te Huia
- Mere Tunks, QSM

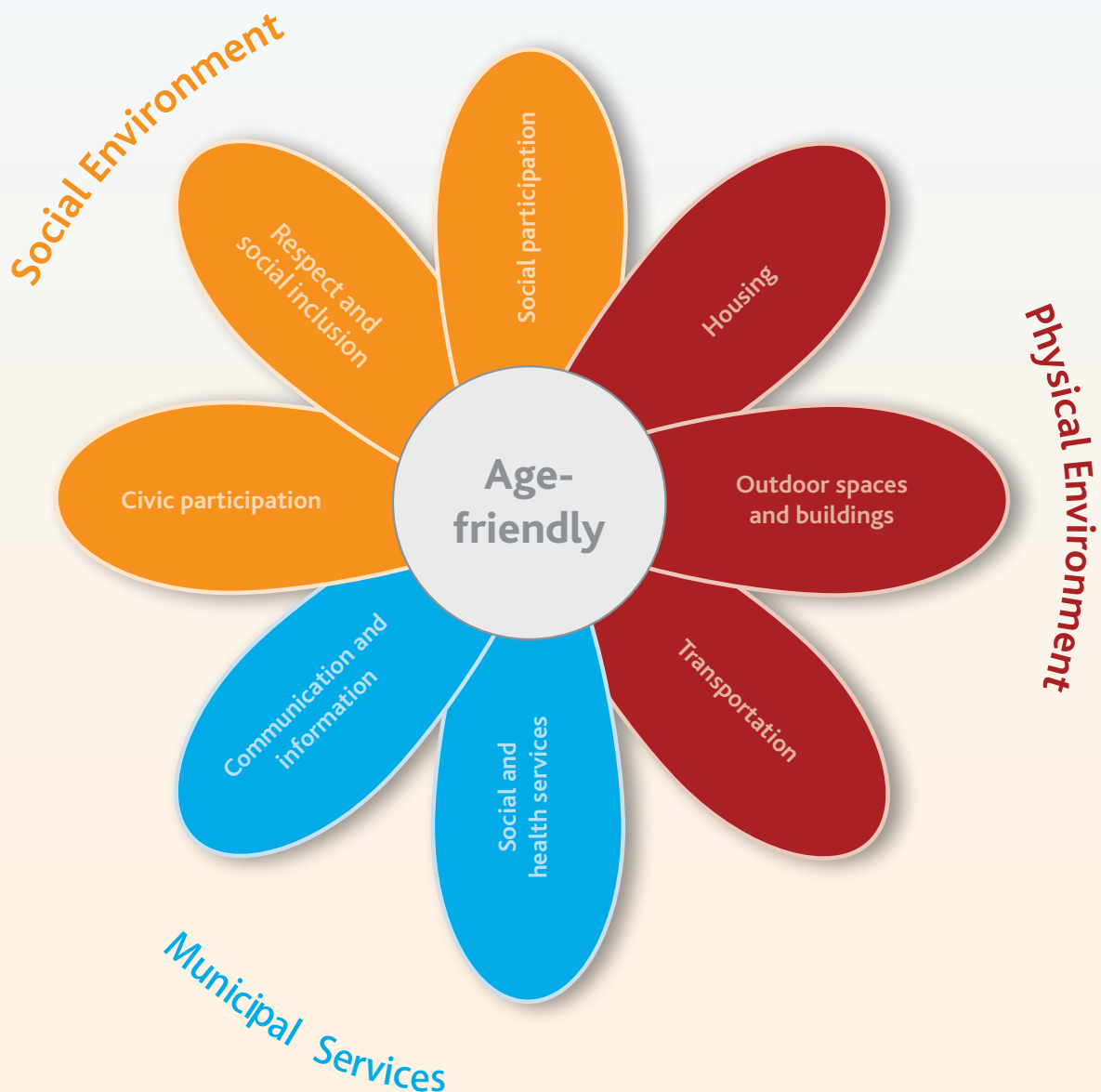
Age-friendly City

The panel has advocated strongly for Auckland to join the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

who.int/ageing/projects/age_friendly_cities_network

This will connect well with the central government's Ministry of Social Development (MSD) Positive Ageing Strategy (MSD Super Seniors link) and should provide an opportunity to co-design safer environments with universal benefits for everyone.

WHO Age-friendly Policy Framework's eight domains





Janet Clews, David Wong-Hop, Sonny Niha and Roger Fowler at the advisory panels inauguration

A Focus on the Future

To test its thinking, in 2018 the panel hosted “Focus on the Future,” a community forum to discuss the planning of an age friendly city.

Speakers included:

- Mayor Phil Goff
- Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Seniors
- Diane Turner, Office for Seniors
- Sir Bob Harvey

It was attended by over 90 people from across the region, representing over 50 organisations.

Whilst Housing and Transport were predominant concerns, social isolation and investment in services,

facilities, and solutions which enable fairness and equity, social participation and inclusion were also dominant. The message from the forum was clear. The focus should be as much on sustaining the wellbeing of our city’s people as on infrastructure. The panel felt validated and took that message to the council.

In July 2018, Auckland Council endorsed the panel’s proposal to to join the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (WHO link).

This project aims to create an Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau that’s a great place to grow older; where everyone feels they belong and can participate.

*Hon. Tracey Martin
(Minister for Seniors), Mayor Phil Goff and
Janet Clews at the March 2018 forum*





Janet Clews speaking at the Integrated forum on Age Friendly Auckland

To progress the Age-Friendly work, the Seniors Advisory Panel have:

- Attended the 2018 Mosaic of Ageing Conference
- Participated in staff workshops to learn from other agencies including Hamilton City Council, the Office for Seniors and the AUT Centre for Active Ageing Research
- Co-hosted the Community Development & Safety Committee with guest speakers Sir Bob Harvey and University of Auckland Professor Elizabeth Broadbent
- Participated in an Auckland Conversations event which focussed on Making Auckland an Age-friendly City and highlighted the need to accommodate and plan for future demographic changes in our region
- Attended stakeholder and community events across Auckland to gain community and agency involvement in identifying joint priorities for the Age Friendly programme of work
- Advocated for more photographs that reflect the diversity of Auckland's older citizens.

Panel members David Wong-Hop and Mere Tunks participated in a photo shoot to increase the number of images of older citizens in the council's photo stock

General advice and feedback

The panel's Work Programme was shaped by the members' shared vision for our city, which were identified in a workshop held at the start of this term. Our priorities for this term were identified as

- Better public transport services and more accessible options for seniors
- Quality mixed housing and urban design
- More culturally diverse programmes
- More engaging recreational and community spaces and activities
- Protecting our environment for future generations



The advisory panel has provided advice and feedback throughout its term on over 30 pieces of work that both Auckland Council and outside organisations have sought.

This has included:



Panel members Janet Clews and Judy Blakey participated in a photo shoot to increase the number of images of older citizens in the council's photo stock.

Better public transport services and more accessible options for seniors

- worked with the Disability Advisory Panel to bring to Auckland Transport's attention the difficulties some residents would experience using the proposed Karangahape Road/Mercury Lane entrance due to the steep incline;
- collaborated with the Access Alliance and supported their work with the Minister for Disabilities to draft new accessibility legislation;
- collaborated with the Disability Advisory Panel to ask Auckland Transport to ensure the lift access from the Civic Carpark to the Town Hall is fully functional during all hours that the Civic Carpark is open;
- offered advice to Auckland Transport about keeping older people safe when using bus connections and transitions;

- proposed that Auckland Transport trial access to free public transport, based on evidence from European cities such as Tallinn (Estonia) and Dunkirk (France);

Quality mixed housing and urban design

- provided insights into the prevalence of homelessness for seniors and asked to be involved in the development of the cross-sectoral homelessness strategy;
- offered advice on pensioner housing to the Haumaru joint venture between Auckland Council and the Selwyn Foundation (Haumaru Housing);
- provided feedback on the City Centre Masterplan refresh document including: replacing the reference to 'child-friendly' with 'age-friendly'; prioritising person-centred universal design and safety to accommodate the accessibility needs of people living with disabilities and limited mobility;

More engaging recreational and community spaces and activities

- advised the community venue hire team how to offer operations that meet the needs of seniors;

More culturally diverse programmes

- advocated for greater visibility of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Council Chambers,
- were represented on the cross-panel working party to explore digital election possibilities and ways to increase voter turnout, while noting that seniors are more likely to vote;
- ensured that vulnerable older people's needs were included alongside those of children and pets in the council's draft Pathways to Preparedness Planning Framework for Recovery;

Protecting our environment for future generations

- expressed support for references in Auckland's Climate Action Framework about youth and inter-generational equity, affirmed the utility of digital platforms for rangatahi to voice their views and suggested that their contributions could be enhanced with mentoring by seniors with relevant expertise in the subject area;
- expressed support of a targeted rate for clean water and harbours, as well as options to address Kauri dieback and other environmental protection.



Mihi Te Huia, Judy Blakey and Mere Tunks examining the newly installed Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Conclusion

The Seniors Advisory Panel members appreciate the advice received from their senior officers, the support of the Liaison Councillors Dr Cathy Casey, Linda Cooper and Daniel Newman and thank Mayor Goff and the Governing Body for the opportunity to work, at various levels, with dedicated staff to challenge and enhance the decision making process. We look forward to the future with a growing confidence that the rising numbers of seniors will be catered for in a sensible, cost-effective and more enlightened way, which is well understood and embedded in council's processes.

The full end of term report from the 2016-19 Seniors Advisory Panel was presented to the September Environment and Community Committee meeting and can be accessed at: infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Seniors Advisory Panel

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/advisorypanels

Seniors
Advisory Panel

