

Age-Friendly and Accessible Kawerau Strategy 2017 – 2019

Background Kawerau District Council first developed a positive ageing strategy under the NZ Positive Ageing Strategy (2001). As Kawerau's population of people aged 65 and older has grown, the strategy has been reviewed and its scope extended. In recent years the emphasis of age-related strategies has shifted from placing individual responsibility on older people for their own ageing toward greater responsibility of policy and place makers to create environments which are 'age friendly' for the older people who use them. Including and planning for the needs of people with disabilities and the links between ageing and disability have also been increasingly recognised over that time. This strategy reflects how Kawerau District Council and the Kawerau Seniors Forum have made that transition and the actions they intend to take to improve the liveability of Kawerau for this significant group of people.

Vision The vision for this Strategy is that: "Kawerau is a place where older people want to live, because their needs and interests are taken into account and their ongoing participation in the community is enabled and valued."

Principles This Strategy is underpinned by four key principles:

Engagement Older people make a valuable contribution to the community. Opportunities to remain involved in Community life, to help other people, to interact positively with younger generations and to participate in developing relevant policies and plans allow older people to retain social connectedness.

Independence It is important that older people can maintain their independence for as long as they feel able. Independence is supported when older people have easy access to places they use, freedom of movement around the District and appropriate services and facilities available to meet their needs.

Self Determination Quality of life for older people is enhanced when they can continue to identify their own needs and to meet those needs for themselves.

Self Fulfilment Older people can continue to enjoy life, to learn new things and to experience personal development. This is supported when a range of social, recreation and education activities is available.

Goals The goals of this Strategy are to:

- Encourage older people to be active and participate in community life
- Provide appropriate services and facilities for older people; and
- Ensure that the needs and interests of older people are considered in the planning and delivery of Council activities.

Review This Strategy will be reviewed after two years, but is intended to be a 'living document.' This means that the actions will be referenced by Council and the Seniors Forum to guide activity, monitored for progress by the Seniors Forum at each of its meetings and reviewed by Council every 6 months.

PART TWO Council Actions

Activity	Council will:
Democracy	Continue to recognise the Disabilities Resource Centre Trust and the Seniors Forum as consultation partners.
	Invite the Three Peaks Kaumatua Group to be a consultation partner and develop effective means of engagement.
	Engage with the three consultation partners before making decisions which could impact on older people and/or people with disabilities.
Events and Community Activities	Explore events and activities which are targeted toward older people, which could include an older person's expo and exercise classes in the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre (in conjunction with Sport BOP).
	Make Kawerau Christmas in the Park and Woodfest accessible by providing wheelchair-accessible port-a-loos.
Information Centre	Provide community information as well as visitor information.
Asset Management	Develop a programme to assess Council-owned public buildings and facilities for compliance with NZ Standard 4121, prioritising those which are used the most such as the Concert Chambers, the Bert Hamilton Hall and the two age-friendly and accessible reserves.
	Train or contract an accredited barrier free assessor to conduct the assessments.
	Following the assessments, develop a programme to bring all Council-owned public buildings and facilities to a standard which meets the requirement of NZS4121, as a proxy for the requirement to provide access and facilities for persons with disabilities (Building Act 2004, s118).
Civil Defence and Emergency Management	Support appropriate groups to identify people in the community who may require special assistance in an emergency. Work with other organisations such as the DHB and Neighbourhood Support to provide emergency preparedness education and resources for older people.
Roads	Design and construct all replacement kerbing in the Town Centre and main access routes to enable disability access.
	Explore effective ways to monitor disability parking places so that they are kept free for their intended users.
	Install and maintain signs on roads and public places so they are clear and large enough for all road users.
Public Transport	Advocate to the BOP Regional Council for a bus service between Kawerau and Whakatane which provides for a shorter period away than a full working day.
	Advocate to possible providers and take steps to facilitate the provision of public transport within Kawerau which would suit the needs of older people, people with disabilities and others who may not be able to drive themselves.

Activity	Council will:
Footpaths	In consultation with the Seniors Forum, identify and publicise main access routes for use by older and disabled people to get to and from the Town Centre.
	Regularly check footpaths for damage that may impair accessibility (especially raised lips).
	Consider reducing the measure of a dangerous footpath as defined in Council's performance framework which triggers the need for repair from 20mm to 12 mm (1/2 an inch) for the Town Centre and main access routes.
	Repair notified footpath damage within five working days (Town Centre) or one month (other areas).
	Keep footpaths in the Town Centre and main access routes are kept clear of leaves, cones and seed pods, which are a tripping/slipping hazard.
	Construct new footpaths, walkways and pedestrian malls in the Town Centre and main access routes with slip resistant surfaces as provided in NZS4121.
Public Library	Make a copy of the 'My Home, My Choices' downsizing guide in the library collection and train staff how to use it.
Swimming Pools	Incorporate the accessibility design principles from the code of practice NZ Standard for Design for Mobility – Buildings and Associated Facilities (NZS 4121:2001) into the design or alteration of all facilities at the pools.
Public Halls and Facilities	Monitor and maintain hearing loops in the Town Hall and Concert Chamber to ensure they remain fully operational.
	Consider installing hearing loops in other public halls and meeting venues in proportion to growth in the population of older people and increased usage.
	As public toilets are built, installed or upgraded in public halls, facilities and parks and reserves, consider if there is a need to make at least one cubicle disability accessible.
Parks and Reserves	In the Reserves Management Plan, classify Prideaux Park and Stoneham Walk as 'age-friendly and accessible.'
	Prioritise Prideaux Park and Stoneham Walk in the assessment for compliance with NZS4121.
	Develop a programme to bring Prideaux Park and Stoneham Walk to the level at which they meet the requirements of NZS4121.

PART THREE Seniors Forum Actions

Issue	The Seniors Forum will:
Health	Survey or workshop with older people to identify additional events and activities they think are needed in Kawerau, such as an older person's expo and exercise classes in the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre (in conjunction with Sport BOP), and make recommendations to Council about how these could be made available.
	Explore options to establish a local community advice and advocacy service, particularly related to health issues.
	Identify and publicise the location of defibrillators in Kawerau to older people and others who may need to know.
Security	Encourage older people to participate in Kawerau Neighbourhood Support.
	Work with Kawerau Neighbourhood Support to develop a register of vulnerable people (including older and disabled people) who may need assistance in a civil defence emergency.
	Explore ways to bring young and older people together and discuss these with the Kawerau Youth Council.
Housing	Promote and encourage participation in the Neighbourhoods of Healthy Homes programme.
	Work with others to maintain a watching brief on the level of demand for residential aged care in Kawerau and advocate for increased provision if it does not keep pace with the ageing population.
	Promote awareness and uptake of the rates rebates scheme.
Transport/ Mobility	Work with the Council to advocate for bus services between Kawerau and Whakatane that provide for a shorter return trip than a full working day.
	Advocate and work with others to facilitate the provision of public transport within Kawerau which would suit the needs of older people, people with disabilities and others who may not be able to drive themselves.
	Check and notify Council of footpath damage that may impair accessibility (especially raised lips).
	Advise Council of footpaths in the Town Centre and main access routes that are not clear of leaves, cones and seed pods, as these are a tripping/slipping hazard.
	Advocate to Council that all new footpaths, walkways and pedestrian malls in the Town Centre and main access routes have slip resistant surfaces as provided in NZS4121 .
Services	Advocate for the inclusion of a community information service in the Kawerau Information Centre.
	Continue to update the local directory of Kawerau groups and services for older people on an annual basis.

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