

NZiRA NewZ

From the Director

Inside this issue:

From the Director	1
NZAG Conference 2004	1
Director's Diary	2
Research progress	2
Book launch	3
Research Symposium	3
Statistical snippets	4
Reminders	4

In my last editorial I was complaining about the lack of priority which research on ageing receives from funding bodies in New Zealand. As if in response, the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology published "Draft Investment Signals" on 24 June for new funding in the social research output class. The three topics nominated are children and young people, work and the quality of employment and "Enhancing wellbeing in an aging (sic) society".

At last! NZiRA responded to requests for feedback on the draft signals with enthusiasm and congratulations. The formal Request for Proposals has now been issued and NZiRA is planning to apply to the fund.

In August I am taking off to the UK to attend the British Society of Gerontology Conference, where I will be giving a paper arising from our work on older people and transport. The trip will give me the opportunity to renew contacts and make new ones, which could be useful in promoting international collaboration. I will take the opportunity to meet Professor Tom Kirkwood, who will be our TOWER fellow in 2004. Just below is a notice about the NZAG Conference at which Prof. Kirkwood will be a keynote speaker. Before that, we are looking forward to the visit of our 2003 TOWER fellow, Professor Norah Keating, from Canada, who will be here in November. Plans for this visit are now being made, so we welcome suggestions and invitations from network members for meetings, presentations and other activities. Norah has expressed her willingness to help further the objectives of NZiRA based on her extensive research experience and linkages with policy-making bodies. We hope to include central and local government consultations in Norah's programme, as well as meetings with voluntary and private sector groups.

Judith Davey



NZiRA Director Judith Davey

EXPANDING HORIZONS **The Art and Science of Ageing**

N.Z. Association of Gerontology Conference, in association with the N.Z. Geriatric Society
Keynote speaker—Tom Kirkwood, the TOWER-NZiRA fellow for 2004

- 14-16 April, 2004, Christchurch Convention Centre
- Closing dates for abstracts—early November 2003

To be on the mailing list for further information, please contact -

The Conference Office, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, N.Z.
Gerontology@cont.canterbury.ac.nz Phone: 03 364 2534 Fax 03 364 2057

The Director's Diary June-July 2003

You may have seen some publicity about these events on radio and in print media.

- **June 13** — attended Office of the Retirement Commissioner's Symposium *The Net Wealth of New Zealanders and Australians and the Adequacy of Private Savings for Retirement*. This included the release of results from the Household Savings Survey..
- **June 18** — Launch of *Two Decades of Change in New Zealand*. See June Newsletter. The book is available through the Institute of Policy Studies, Phone: 471 5303. Fax: 473 1261. Email: ipos@vuw.ac.nz
- **June 25** — Presentation to the Futures Trust , *Preparing for the Agequake*
- **June 30** — Meeting on Older Workers, Christchurch , jointly hosted by NZiRA , the Christchurch Development Corporation and the Third Age Trust. 26 people from 16 organisations attended. This was a follow-up to the 2002 meeting and developed further ideas for research and activities.
- **July 9** — Australasian Human Development Conference, Waiheke Island. Judith gave a paper entitled *The Busy Ethic: Study in Retirement and its effects on identity and self-esteem*
- **July 14**— Lexis Nexis Elderlaw Masterclass, Judith gave a paper *Looking to the Future in an Ageing New Zealand*.
- **July 21**— Launch of *Living and Learning: Experiences of University after age 40* edited by Judith Davey, Jenny Neale and Kay Morris Matthews . See page 3.

Nick Pole, Ministry of Social Development, launching *Two Decades of Change*, with Judith Davey



Progress with Research

CONTRACTS COMPLETED

The Impact of Population Ageing in New Zealand on the demand for health services and disability support services and the implications for the health and disability support workforce

Contract with the Ministry of Health, done in association with the Health Services research Centre.

Older People and Transport Scoping Study

Older People and Transport Study – International Literature Review

Contracts with the Land Transport Safety Authority, the Ministry of Transport and the Office for Senior Citizens.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Work and Education in Mid Life

Funded by the University Research Fund. We are planning a report to be published in October, entitled *Maximising the Potential of Older Workers*.

Setting up a pool of older people willing to be subjects in research

Funded by the University Research Fund

Background paper on the implications of ageing,

Periodic Review Group, Ministry of Social Development

Elder Abuse and Neglect

Evaluation of Age Concern New Zealand's training materials.

Launch of *Living and Learning: Experiences of University after Age 40*

Edited by Judith Davey, Jenny Neale and Kay Morris Matthews

Published by Victoria University Press

Available through bookshops.

Price \$39.99

The book includes nine in-depth studies with groups of older students who were part of the *Education in Mid and Later Life* study. It documents the rich variety of their personal experiences and backgrounds which led them to study in mid-life. The nine studies are -

- Early School Leavers and the Path to University
- Victorious Men - Men Studying Full-time
- Older Maori as Students – “I’m finally moving from being a spectator to being a participant in my own culture”
- Is it worth it? - Full-time teachers who study part-time
- Nurses at University—Negotiating academic, work and personal pathways
- “Ageproofing” your career – Age Gender and the “new Career”
- Redundancy as an Opportunity – Job Loss and Education in Mid Life
- University Study in Retirement – Continuity, Substitution and Identity
- Why Do They Leave? Mature students and withdrawal from study

Emerging Researchers—Symposium for Postgraduate Students working on topics relevant to Ageing and the Well-being of Older People in New Zealand

Tuesday and Wednesday 21 and 22 October, 2003
At the Functions Centre (Student Union), Victoria University of Wellington

Please note: Attendance at this symposium is limited to 50 people in order to ensure full participation and interaction. Preference for registration will be given to postgraduate students working in the area of ageing in New Zealand from a social science perspective.

We had an excellent response to our call for papers and had to make a selection from those offered, which was a difficult task. A varied and very interesting programme has now been finalised. There will be sessions on Housing for Older People, Older People with High Care Needs, Views of Ageing, Activity and Roles for Older People and Vulnerability in Old Age.

If you come into the target group for the symposium and would like to attend, please email us for a registration form. There is no fee for the symposium. Registrations will be confirmed as soon as possible after the closing date of 12 September, 2003.

Please contact—Brie Akins, School of Social and Cultural Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

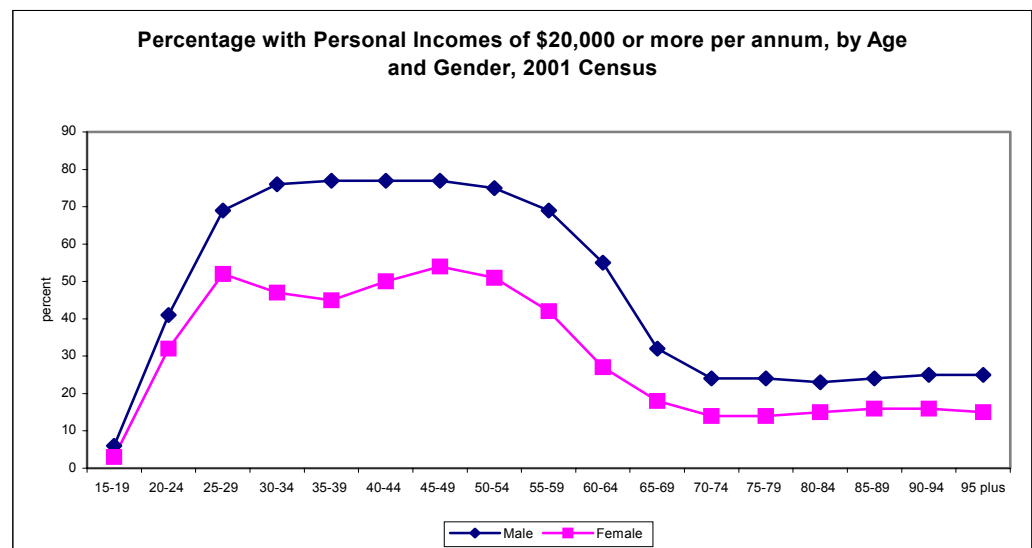
Phone: 04 463 5317

Email: Brielyn.Akins@vuw.ac.nz

- for registrations, further information and any other queries.

Statistical Snippets

Personal incomes can be tracked using the percentages of people with annual incomes of \$20,000 or more as an indicator. Throughout the working age groups males are more likely to have incomes in this category than females. The proportion rises with age for men to a plateau between 30 and 50 followed by a sharp decline. From age 70 the percentage with incomes of \$20,000 or more remains fairly steady up to the highest age group. The female pattern is somewhat similar, but the figures are lower than those for men at all ages. The curve is M-shaped, with peaks in the late 20s and late 40s, reflecting withdrawal from paid work and subsequent return associated with child-bearing. As well as general equity concerns arising from income differentials, there are policy implications relating to the impact of unpaid caring work expectations on women. The graph also shows that income levels begin to decline well before the age of eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation, linked to early withdrawal from the labour force. This will impact on the ability to save for retirement.



Reminders and Coming Events

- Registration for the Research Symposium is open until 12 September.
- The Ed Helmes public lecture—*Happily ever after? Depression in Older Adults*—will be held in the Nurses Chapel, Wellington Hospital, at 5.45 pm on 4 September (see flyer with newsletter).
- 2003 NZiRA/TOWER Seminar notes are now available on the NZiRA website.
- Papers for the 2004 NZAG Conference are due in by early November
- We are planning to launch a report—*Maximising the Potential of Older Workers*— At the Age Advantage Forum in Christchurch on Friday 10 October.
- Announcements about NZiRA postgraduate scholarships are on the website, with more to come.