

NZiRA NewZ

From the Director

Ageing in Place

Inside this issue:

From the Director 1

New funding for fellowship 1

NZiRA Post graduate Symposium 2

Launch of new bibliography 2

Scholarships for research on ageing 3

NZiRA Research 3

Director's diary 4

Statistical Snippets 4

In New Zealand a high proportion of people remain in their own homes until the end of their lives, remaining in the community, rather than moving into residential care. This is termed 'ageing in place' and is a favoured concept as governments and international bodies look to the future. In 1994, the health and social policy ministers of OECD countries reached an agreement on the overall objective of policies towards the care of frail older people, that is 'elderly people, including those in need of care and support should, wherever possible, be enabled to continue living in their own homes, and where this is not possible, they should be enabled to live in a sheltered and supportive environment which is as close to their community as possible, in both the social and geographical sense' (*Caring for Frail Elderly People: New Directions in Care*. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1994).

For older owner-occupiers, remaining at home may depend on their ability to have their houses modified, adapted or maintained in order to keep them in good condition and able to fulfil their needs. Most housing has not been designed with older age and impairment in mind, and the arrangements of the home environment often inhibit older people's ability to manage their daily lives. Thus, an important aspect of ageing in place is the ability of older people to make modifications and repairs to their homes so they are able to remain living there comfortably and safely. However, maintaining a property to a reasonable standard can be difficult for low-income homeowners. Less than adequate housing conditions might ultimately threaten wellbeing and health.

This aspect of ageing in place was investigated by recent NZiRA exploratory research for the Ministry of Social Development. We carried out 30 interviews with homeowners aged 60 plus, half of them 75 plus, to explore the attitudes, opinions and preferences of the older people themselves and how they see their current and future housing circumstances.

We found that the majority of the respondents are resourceful people, who think about the future and plan for work to be done on their houses. They appear to represent a common New Zealand ethos of independence and capacity, linked to homeownership as an aspiration and the habits of a lifetime. The respondents mostly share a strong desire to remain living independently in the community. Many have moved to low-maintenance housing suited to ageing in place. Others have aspirations for such a move. Those who wish to remain in their long-term family homes may be considering adaptations to make this possible.

. — *Judith Davey*



**NZiRA Director
Judith Davey**

Aotearoa Ageing 2005:

A Bibliography of New Zealand research on ageing, 2001-2005

Now available from NZiRA and at www.nzira.ac.nz

NZiRA Postgraduate Symposium - *Emerging Researchers*

The symposium was held at Victoria University on 21 and 22 June and was a great success. We had a full attendance of 50 participants, with several turned away, showing the importance of registering early. It was great to see people from government agencies, voluntary organisations and the aged care sector taking an interest, as well as researchers.

There were 18 papers presented by postgraduates, some having completed their theses and some in the early stages. Presenters are based in schools and departments of psychology, sociology, geography, management studies, nursing, health science, nutrition and Maori Studies. The titles of their papers illustrate the breadth of interest in topics related to ageing and are listed on the NZiRA website (www.nzira.ac.nz). We have invited the presenters to submit papers to be placed on the web-site and hope to have these by the middle of July. We have received some appreciative feedback from people who attended, such as -

"I wasn't sure what to expect when I went along. It really was a supportive environment - and a unique opportunity to hear from people in different disciplines."



Judith Davey, David Rea, Lorelle Baxter (MSD) and Maria McNeill (Office for Senior Citizens) launching the bibliography

"I thought the researchers did extremely well and their topics are very relevant to planners and funders of health services."

We must again express our appreciation from the Ministry of Social Development and the Office for Senior Citizens, the New Zealand Association of Gerontology and Statistics New Zealand for their sponsorship, which made the symposium possible. Also to Virginia Wilton for her organisation work. The NZiRA Postgraduate Symposia are becoming a recognised and expected part of the institute's programme, and we hope that this will long continue.

Launch of a new bibliography of research on ageing in New Zealand

At the end of the first day of the Postgraduate Symposium the participants celebrated the launch of *Aotearoa Ageing 2005*, an annotated bibliography of research on ageing in New Zealand 2001-2005, edited by Judith Davey and Virginia Wilton. It was launched by David Rea, Manager, Older People's Policy at the Ministry of Social Development. David said that the bibliography included roughly five items for each month since the previous bibliography, published in 2002 (and covering the 1997-2001 period, edited by Susan Gee and Judith Davey). He hoped that, in the coming years, we could double this output, and we certainly support this aim.



Diane Jorgensen, Gill Coe, Rose Carr and Judith Davey at the launch

Like the symposium, the bibliography illustrates the broad scope of research on ageing, with sections ranging from demographics to sexuality, through housing, health, education, employment, retirement income and services for older people. There is a larger section on policy than in the previous bibliography.

We hope that *Aotearoa Ageing 2005* will be a useful resource for researchers, practitioners, policy and decision-makers in all sectors as we look to the future in an ageing society and that it will contribute to raising public awareness. It is available in hard copy, free of charge, from NZiRA and also in electronic form at www.nzira.ac.nz. We thank the Ministry of Social Development for contracting the work which produced the bibliography and also for seeing through the design, lay-out and printing of the publication.

Scholarships for Research on Ageing

Reminder—Victoria University of Wellington - Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Ph.D. Scholarships 2005—Population Ageing in New Zealand – Implications for Social Policy

The deadline for applications is 18 July 2005. Further administrative details are available from:

www.vuw.ac.nz/scholarships; Scholarships-office@vuw.ac.nz

The scholarship is valued at \$20,000 and including a fees waiver. Applicants are expected to have a first class honours degree (or equivalent) and skills and research experience appropriate for the topic. Contact details:

Associate Professor Judith A. Davey. Judith.Davey@vuw.ac.nz

Telephone +64 4 463 6746

The Retirement Commissioner's Research Scholarships

The deadline is 14 October, 2005, further details can be found at www.retirement.org.nz or from David Feslier david.feslier@retirement.org.nz.

One Masters scholarship (\$5,000 per annum) and one PhD scholarship (\$15,000 per annum) are offered.

Their purpose is -

"to contribute to policy formulation and/or the development of public education programme on personal financial education and improve understanding of retirement income issues."

Please help ensure that these opportunities are taken up

NZiRA Research

The first half of the year is always busy for NZiRA, as many government research contracts are due for completion by the end of the government's financial year on 30 June. In the first half of 2005, NZiRA has completed seven contracts—

The Prospects and Potential for Home Equity Release in New Zealand: Update to 2005. for the Retirement Commission

The Regulation and Control of Home Equity Conversion/Equity Release Schemes:

An International Literature Review, for the Office for Senior Citizens

Bibliography of New Zealand Research on Ageing, 2001-2005, for the Ministry of Social Development

Progress towards the Goals of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy, for the Office for Senior Citizens

Research on Ageing in New Zealand – Progress, Gaps and the Potential Contribution of the EWAS Project (Enhancing Wellbeing in an Ageing Society)

"Ageing-in-Place" The views of older homeowners about housing maintenance, renovation and adaptation, for the Ministry of Social Development

Implications of population ageing for the labour market, for the Ministry of Social Development

We have also begun work on a paper for the New Zealand Families Commission on *Grandfathers, their changing family roles and contributions*.

NZiRA is involved in a successful bid to the Health Research Council for work on Health and Retirement.

Director's Diary

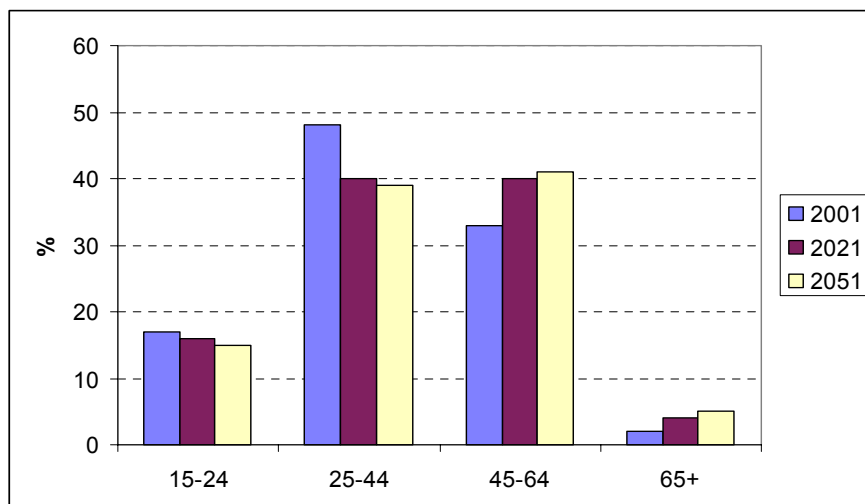
16 May	Talk to Eastern Hutt Rotary Club
19 May	Budget “lock-up” at the Ministry of Social Development
25 May	NZiRA Public Lecture at Victoria University Law School, Professor Jenny Gierveld on <i>Loneliness or social integration? The social well-being of older people</i>
27 May	Presentation to the Environment Canterbury Older Road Users Forum, based on NZiRA transport research
31 May	Elder Abuse and Neglect Workshop, Ministry of Social Development
3-13 June	Interviewing in Wellington and the Kapiti Coast for the <i>Ageing in Place</i> housing research
21-22 June	NZiRA Postgraduate Symposium
7 July	Launch of Office for Senior Citizens pamphlet <i>How will you get around when you stop driving</i> (link to NZiRA transport research <i>Coping without a car</i>)
13 July	Presentation to the School of Psychology, Massey University, Palmerston North, on the implications of ageing for the health sector. Presentation to the Palmerston North NZ Association of Gerontology group on housing options for an ageing New Zealand
21 July	Commentator at an ASFONZ (Association of Superannuation Funds) seminar in Wellington—Political Parties to state their views and strategies on retirement income provision.

Statistical Snippets

Estimates made by Statistics New Zealand for 2006 show almost 40% of the labour force aged 45 or older. This trend is predicted to continue as smaller cohorts follow the baby boom bulge through the population. By 2021, 44% of the labour force is expected to be aged 45 plus and in 2051 46%.

The labour force projections (assuming a medium rate of fertility, mortality and migration) suggest that, between 2001 and 2021, the number of people aged 65 and over who are in paid work will grow by 142% for men and by 166% for women. Between 2001 and 2051 the numbers will treble. The diagram below shows the projected age structure of the labour force, clearly illustrating increases in the 45 plus age groups.

Age Structure of the Labour Force, 2001 and projections to 2051



Source; Statistics New Zealand, labour force projections, 2001 base.