

# NZiRA NewZ

## From the Director

### A new phase for NZiRA

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The go-ahead has now been given for NZiRA to move from the School of Social and Cultural Studies to the School of Government and this will take place in February 2006. We will still be within Victoria University of Wellington and we will continue to function in the way we always have. We will be able to inform the network soon about our new physical location in downtown Wellington, alongside the Commerce Faculty, Law School, Parliament and the Railway Station (for those who do not know, Victoria University occupies space in the Railway Station office building - perhaps NZiRA will end up over Platform 1!).

We consider that the move will be beneficial in several ways.

- \* In the School of Government we will be alongside other research centres

- \* the Institute of Policy Studies ,

- \* the Health Services Research Centre, and

- \* The Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families.

- \* The interests of these centres overlap with those of NZiRA and we have had several joint research, publication and public outreach activities with them already. Being co-located will help to promote further joint initiatives, especially in terms of research projects.

- \* We will be able to share some administrative systems with the other research groups and this will greatly benefit NZiRA, which has been under-supported in this area. There will be the opportunity also to share research staff, giving researchers better employment and career prospects, even in the context of 'soft' money.

- \* The School of Government, especially the Institute for Policy Studies, has excellent links with New Zealand Government agencies and is used by them as a sounding board. Ageing is bound to be an increasingly salient issue on the policy agenda. The school also has good linkages with government agencies in Australia and beyond, so that our international contacts can be strengthened. One example of an important academic linkage is the Australia and New Zealand School of Government at ANU, in Canberra.

With the last newsletter for 2005, may I take this opportunity to wish all network members a happy Christmas, prosperous New Year and for the New Zealanders—Happy Summer Holidays.



**NZiRA Director  
Judith Davey**

*Judith Davey*

## New Resources from Age Concern New Zealand

Age Concern have recently produced a 2005 update of their “Ageing is Living” workbook, originally produced in 1999.

This is a community health education resource designed primarily for those who work with older people, but individuals can also work through the information at their own pace. The workbook aims to promote positive ageing by:

- \* Exploring the issues of ageing in New Zealand Society
- \* Identifying the contributions of older people
- \* Challenging ageing attitudes, myths and stereotypes
- \* Describing elements of positive ageing
- \* Encouraging an increase in physical, mental and social activity
- \* Promoting preparation for older age
- \* Identifying strategies for the prevention of depression in older people

Age Concern has also updated their fact sheet “**The Changing Face of Grandparenting**”. This talks about the importance of intergenerational bonds, acknowledges the important contribution that older people make as grandparents within families, and includes tips for grandparents and parents.

The workbook is available at \$30 and copies of the fact sheet are available free. They can be ordered from Age Concern New Zealand, Box 10-688, Wellington. Email [reources@ageconcern.org.nz](mailto:reources@ageconcern.org.nz), or phone 04 801 9338.

## Statistical Snippets

### Comparing labour force participation by older people in New Zealand and the UK

In recent years in New Zealand, there has been an upturn in labour force participation rates for older men and women, especially in the 60 to 64 age group, but also at 65 plus (Table 1). The same is true for the UK. The age group quoted in British data (Table 2) relates to the state pension age [SPA], which is 60 for women and 65 for men. At 65plus/SPA for men, participation levels are considerably higher in New Zealand.

**Table 1. New Zealand Labour Force Participation Rates (%), by Age and Sex (Household Labour Force Survey)**

		1999	2004
60-64	Male	57	66
	Female	33	45
65 plus	Male	9	15
	Female	4	6

**Table 2. United Kingdom - % of Age and Gender Group in Employment (ONS Labour Force Survey)**

		1999	2005
50- SPA	Male	68.6	72.4
	Female	63.1	68.4
SPA plus	Male	7.6	9.0
	Female	8.1	10.5

## Research News

During 2005 NZiRA has completed a wide range of contracts –

***The Prospects and Potential for Home Equity Release in New Zealand: Update to 2005***

for the Retirement Commission, available at [www.retirement.org.nz](http://www.retirement.org.nz)

***The Regulation and Control of Home Equity Conversion/Equity Release Schemes: An International Literature Review***, for the Office for Senior Citizens (unpublished).

***Bibliography of New Zealand Research on Ageing, 2001-2005***

for the Ministry of Social Development available at [www.nzira.ac.nz](http://www.nzira.ac.nz) or in hard copy from NZiRA

***Report on Progress towards the Goals of the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy***

for the Office for Senior Citizens (unpublished).

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

***“Ageing-in-Place” The views of older homeowners about housing maintenance, renovation and adaptation***, for the Ministry of Social Development (unpublished, but a paper based on this has been submitted to the Social Policy Journal of New Zealand).

***Implications of population ageing for the labour market***

for the Ministry of Social Development . This is expected to appear in a collection of papers to be published by the Institute of Policy Studies in 2006.

***Grandfathers, their changing family roles and contributions,***

For the New Zealand Families Commission (publication expected)

We are very pleased to have had a positive response to our survey of Home Equity Release Clients— research which we are doing for the Retirement Commission and Office for Senior Citizens. More about this in later newsletters.



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY  
WELLINGTON BRANCH

### Public Lecture on Elder Abuse



Betty Jeanne Eydtt  
Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Strategies:  
Lessons for Aotearoa/NZ from Scotland, England, Canada and Australia.

“BJ” gave this lecture on 23 November. As part of her Winston Churchill award report, she will be producing a summary for general distribution and this will include links to useful resources from the countries she visited.

## Director's Diary

I departed for the UK on 7 October and was back in the office on 21 November. Apart from taking leave for family business (strongly related to ageing) my objectives were, 1) to make contact with British ageing research groups to enable me to set the New Zealand experience in a wider context and update my understanding of the issues; and 2) to use the experience, information and contacts made to provide input into the ongoing work of NZiRA, increasing opportunities for the institute to further its objectives in contract research, dissemination of research findings and improving policy. Practice and public awareness of ageing and its implications. Here is a list of the places I visited and some of the topics discussed (as they relate to ageing and older people), with an indication of how they might link to the work of NZiRA –

- \* **Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing (SISA), Faculty of Medicine, University of Sheffield** – transport, homelessness, assistive technology (we indicated in a previous newsletter that NZiRA has sponsorship, from Southern Cross, for a visiting fellowship in 2006 in which an overseas expert on assistive technology will be invited to promote discussion and research on this topic).
- \* **The Pre-Retirement Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (PRA), Guildford** – Mary Davies, recently retired Director of the PRA was the NZiRA/TOWER fellow in 2005. As well as discussing the current work of the PRA, Mary and I proposed a research project which would compare decision-making about retirement in the UK and NZ.
- \* **Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG) University of Surrey, Guildford**– I met with Sara Arber, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of CRAG (who visited NZiRA in 2005) and Dr. Kate Davidson. They share NZiRA's interest in gender issues and ageing.
- \* **Centre for Research on the Older Workforce (CROW), University of Surrey, Guildford**– CROW shares with NZiRA a strong interest in the implications of workforce ageing and we are jointly developing a proposal for research which could involve work in several countries. This would examine the effect of policy on labour market participation decisions in mid-life, specifically how pensionable age is defined and the way in which anti-age discrimination legislation is conceived and implemented in these countries.
- \* **Centre for Social Gerontology, University of Keele**–At Keele I presented a seminar entitled “Older People, Transport and Positive Ageing”, based on research done through NZiRA for the Office for Senior Citizens, Ministry of Transport and Land Transport Safety Authority. Other topics of common interest included working carers, advocacy for older people, older people and social and economic deprivation.
- \* **Department of Applied Social Sciences, University of Wales, Swansea**–I met with Professor Judith Phillips, Professor of Social Work and Gerontology. We discussed the “working carers” research and the Strategy for Older People in Wales, which has much in common with the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy. It has four aims, which can be summarised as -
  - \* Tackling age discrimination, promoting positive images of older people and giving them a stronger voice in society.
  - \* Promoting older people's capacity to work and learn for as long as they want to and make an active contribution once they retire.
  - \* Promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of older people
  - \* Provision of high quality services and support which enable older people to live as independently as possible in a suitable and safe environment.