

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

“The Implications of Population Ageing: Opportunities and Risks”

Edited by Jonathan Boston and Judith Davey

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Summary of the contents

Taking a New Zealand perspective, the contributors to the book explore the implications of population ageing, especially those which impinge on policy development and evaluation. Kim Dunstan and Nicholas Thomson, draw on the latest projections from Statistics New Zealand to analyse how New Zealand's age structure is likely to change up to 2050. Next, Paul Callister explores the experiences of eight cohorts of people born in New Zealand between 1937-41 and 1972-76. Drawing upon the recently released projections of New Zealand's long-term fiscal position by the Treasury, Peter Wilson and Paul Rodway discuss the effects of population ageing on the government's fiscal position over the next 50 years. Information and analyses relevant to current and future state retirement provision are furnished by Sue Paul, Geoff Rashbrooke and David Rae in Chapter 5.

Six of the next eight chapters focus on how population ageing is expected to impact on different sectors of the economy and society. John Stephenson considers how an ageing population might affect capital markets and those for goods and services. Judith Davey explores the possible impacts on the labour market and Mark Cox and Simon Hope explore how population ageing is likely to affect future demand for health and disability services. Judith Davey reviews the current housing situation of older New Zealanders and emerging issues for the future, affecting both homeowners and renters. Chapter 10, by Verna Schofield, Judith Davey, Sally Keeling and Matthew Parsons, explores the main features and implications of ageing in place, and the policy initiatives taken in recent years to make ageing in place a more viable and acceptable option. Murray Petrie next examines how demographic changes and current social trends are likely to affect the structure and size of families. Maire Dwyer, in Chapter 12, considers the implications of ageing for communities and volunteering. Next Jonathan Boston and Judith Davey consider possible political and intergenerational impacts, including implications for voting behaviour, political parties and competing policy demands. The final chapter draws together some of the key themes and issues addressed by the various contributors to this volume. This includes a brief discussion of the major risks and opportunities associated with an ageing population, and an outline of the issues requiring further research and analysis. The crucial message is that while population ageing undoubtedly poses some serious challenges – for individuals, families, communities and the state – it also generates many opportunities and possibilities. It will be critically important to the future economic and social success of New Zealand to ensure that these opportunities are properly recognised and grasped.

The book is available from the Institute of Policy Studies, Box 600, Wellington
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