

Initial indicators for Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034

This document:

- outlines the initial indicators to track progress on achieving the outcomes of *Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034* (the strategy)
- includes a list of descriptions and sources for the indicators, identifying gaps and indicators still to be developed.

We have also produced high-level summaries of what the available indicators are telling us, for each of the key areas of the strategy.

We welcome your feedback – you can email us at ageing_population@msd.govt.nz. You may find it helpful to refer to the strategy itself when considering the initial indicators¹.

We propose an outcomes and indicator framework based on the strategy

The strategy identifies five key areas for action. We have developed indicators, and prepared high-level summaries, for each of these key areas:



Achieving financial security and economic participation
Te whai taituarā ahumoni me te whai wāhi ki te ōhanga



Promoting healthy ageing and improving access to services
Te hāpai i te toiora kaumātautanga te whai wāhi hoki ki ngā ratonga hauora



Creating diverse housing choices and options
Te whakarite kōwhiringa kāinga rerekē



Enhancing opportunities for social connection
Kia maha ngā ara tūhonohono



Making environments accessible
Te whakarite taiao e māmā ai te whai wāhi atu

The initial indicators focus on tracking the outcomes (“what we want to achieve”) identified under each of the key areas for action.

We will also be developing monitoring indicators for the action plan - this will include looking at the logic for the outcomes we want to achieve.

¹ <http://superseniors.msd.govt.nz/about-superseniors/ageing-population/index.html>

The initial indicators are designed to track the outcomes

The initial indicators are aiming to track the outcomes of the strategy. They do not provide a “State of the Nation” report for older people.

Appendix 1 contains the initial indicators for each outcome, including its source and a description.

The indicators will become more valuable over time, to help detect trends and track progress on improving outcomes for older people as we implement the strategy.

The indicators align with other indicator collections where appropriate

Where we could find a relevant and suitable indicator we have used indicators from Statistics NZ’s (Stats NZ’s) Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand (IANZ)² and/or Treasury’s Living Standards (LS) dashboard.

Both Stats NZ and Treasury indicate more development work is needed on their indicators, including further work to better reflect Te Ao Māori perspectives. They have undertaken to work with each other to align their frameworks and indicators. Many IANZ indicators are yet to be developed.

We have also looked at the core indicators recommended by the World Health Organization for the Age-friendly Cities programme³, previous Positive Ageing Strategy indicators, the Social Report 2016, the Whānau Ora outcomes framework and indicators, and other, subject matter-specific indicator collections.

There are currently several sets of subject matter-specific indicators under development or to be developed. These include indicators for health system outcomes, the Healthy Ageing Strategy, the Carers’ Strategy Action Plan, Disability Strategy, Accelerating Accessibility work programme, Digital Inclusion Outcomes Framework, Transport Dashboard⁴ and housing high-level outcomes. As these are developed, we will align the Better Later Lives indicators where appropriate.

We have identified where indicators need to be developed

We could not find existing data to track all the outcomes of the strategy.

We intend to work with other government agencies to develop indicators for these outcomes.

These are initial indicators and further work is planned

This first release of indicators relies primarily on existing, high level data by age group. As in the strategy, the indicators generally focus on those aged 65+ and also consider those aged 50-64. For some outcomes, the 50-64 age group is the primary focus.

² https://wellbeingindicators.stats.govt.nz/?_ga=2.184365606.1870300022.1577050598-1551945335.1576788151

³ <https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/measuring-cities-age-friendliness/en/>

⁴ <https://www.transport.govt.nz/mot-resources/transport-dashboard/>

Further development is planned, including:

- updating the indicators to incorporate new or revised data
- disaggregating the age group data, where possible, by ethnicity, gender, disability status, region and socioeconomic status/deprivation. In some cases, it may be necessary to combine years to get a good enough sample to produce robust disaggregated data
- working with other agencies to develop indicators where these are not currently available
- reviewing the indicators as other indicator collections are developed, including new IANZ indicators
- collecting data to fill gaps. This may include a survey of older people and those in the 50-64 age group.

We expect to update the indicators every two years

The strategy indicates there will be a two-yearly report on initial actions in 2021 and two-yearly reporting on the full action plan and outcomes from 2023.

Updating the indicators to incorporate updated data will be part of this process.

Updated source data will be available at different times and frequencies. For example:

- the core General Social Survey (GSS) is run every two years. The latest GSS was collected between April 2018 and March 2019 (referred to as 2018 in the writeups)
- the core Household Economic Survey (HES), which is used in MSD's annual Household Incomes Reports, is run every year ended June
- the NZ Health Survey (NZHS) is also run every year ended June
- the core Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) is a quarterly survey run every three months. We have used annualised data for the year to June.

Most of these surveys have additional modules that are included less frequently. For example, household net worth questions are included with the HES every three years.

Many of the data sources exclude people in residential care facilities

Many of the sources used gather information on those in private dwellings only, so exclude people living in non-private dwellings such as rest homes, dementia units, hospitals and prisons. Independent self-care units in retirement complexes are considered private dwellings so are in scope for these surveys.

People in residential care facilities will have different characteristics to people in private dwellings – they tend to be older, frailer, less mobile and less likely to be working. Where similar data is available for both (for example loneliness), we can see quite different results.

From 2011/12, the NZ Health Survey includes people living in private dwellings, aged-care facilities and student accommodation (99% of the eligible population). For practical reasons, the survey does not include: people living in institutions

such as long-term hospital care, hospital- and dementia-level care in aged-care facilities and prisons, the homeless, short-term visitors and tourists.

InterRAI data includes people in Long-Term Care Facilities as well as people receiving Home Care assessments in private dwellings.

Appendix 1: Initial indicators for Better Later Life - He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034



Key area: Achieving financial security and economic participation

What we want to achieve (Better Later Life outcomes) ⁵	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source and frequency
All people have sufficient income, assets and other support to enjoy an adequate standard of living as they age.	Low incomes (after housing costs) <i>Desired direction for the percentage on low incomes is down.</i>	Percentage in households under 50% median income after deducting housing costs	MSD's 2019 Household Incomes Report (annual, year ended June, based on data from Household Economic Survey) ⁶
	Material hardship <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage in a household that is missing out on six or more of 17 basic items (DEP-17 measure)	MSD's 2019 Household Incomes Reports: Companion report using non-income measures (annual, years ended June) ⁷ based on data from the Household Economic Survey
	Median net worth (assets minus liabilities) <i>Desired direction is up prior to turning 65.</i>	This indicator focuses on the wealth of New Zealanders before they turn 65. It takes into account assets (such as property and superannuation schemes) and debts (such as mortgages).	Stats NZ, <i>Household net worth statistics: Year ended June 2018</i> (three-yearly from Household Economic Survey)
	KiwiSaver contributors <i>Desired direction is up prior to turning 65.</i>	This indicator focuses on the percentage of active/provisional KiwiSaver members aged 50-64.	Numbers of active/provisional members from https://www.kiwisaver.govt.nz/statistics/annual/joining and customised data for 50-64 from IRD. Stats NZ, Estimated Resident Population by Age. (Annual, year ended June.)

⁵ These outcomes are copied directly from the strategy.

⁶ <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes/household-incomes-1982-to-2018.html>



Key area: Achieving financial security and economic participation

What we want to achieve (Better Later Life outcomes) ⁵	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source and frequency
New Zealand is financially prepared for an ageing population.	Central government preparedness for an ageing population	Not currently available	n/a
	Local government preparedness for ageing population	Not currently available	n/a
Older workers are treated fairly, recognised for contributing expertise and skills, and have access to training and upskilling.	Perception that older workers are valued and treated fairly	Not currently available	n/a
	Job satisfaction <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of employed people satisfied or very satisfied in their main job	Stats NZ, General Social Survey (GSS), years ended March 2014, 2016, 2018. Customised data for 50-64.
	Business policies and strategies <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of businesses that put in place policies and strategies to cater for an ageing workforce	Commission for Financial Capability (CFFC), Ageing Workforce: Business Survey Results
	Study status <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of those aged 50+ in formal or informal study	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), annual data year ended June. Customised data for ages 15-24, 25-49, 50+ and total
	Employee engagement in study and training <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of employees undertaking study and training (including on-the job) relating to their main job in last 12 months	Stats NZ, HLFS Survey of Working Life supplement, December 2018 quarter (HLFS supplement run every few years)



Key area: Achieving financial security and economic participation

What we want to achieve (Better Later Life outcomes) ⁵	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source and frequency
As people age, they can work if they wish or need to.	Official employment rate <i>Desired direction for those who wish or need to work is up.</i>	Percentage of those aged 50+ who are employed for one or more hours per week ⁷	Stats NZ, HLFS, annual data year ended June. Customised data for 50-64, 65+ and 50+ from 2010 to 2019.
	Unemployment rate <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of those aged 50+ in the labour force who are not working, available for work and actively seeking work	Stats NZ, HLFS, annual data year ended June. Customised data for 50-64, 65+ and 50+ from 2010 to 2019.
	Underutilisation rate <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of those aged 50+ in the extended labour force who are unemployed, underemployed or in the potential labour force ⁸	Customised HLFS annual data by broad age group from 2010 to 2019
	Long-term unemployment rate <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of unemployed people aged 50+ who have been unemployed for more than a year	Customised HLFS annual data, years ended June 2017 to 2019 (data for 65+ not available)
Those who cannot work up to the age of NZ Super entitlement due to their health or	Coverage of support for those who cannot work	Not currently available	
	Material wellbeing of people aged 50-64 who can't work due to health and disability	Not currently available	

⁷ This is the preferred official definition of employed in New Zealand and overseas. It includes people who are self-employed and employees.

⁸ Underemployed means work part-time and want to and can work more hours. The potential labour force includes those who want a job and are available but not currently looking, and those who are currently unavailable but are looking as they are able to start work within the next month. The extended labour force measures the labour force (those employed and unemployed) plus the potential labour force.



Key area: Achieving financial security and economic participation

What we want to achieve (Better Later Life outcomes) ⁵	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source and frequency
a disability are provided with support.			



Key area: Promoting healthy ageing and improving access to services

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
People enter later life as fit and healthy as possible.	Current smokers <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who smoke at least monthly and have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their whole life	Ministry of Health, NZ Health Survey (NZHS), Annual Data Explorer 2018/19, Year ended June 2012-2019. Customised data for 50-64 and 65+.
	Nutrition (fruit and vegetable) <i>Desired direction is up</i>	Percentage of people who meet vegetable and fruit intake guidelines (currently 3+ servings of vegetables and 2+ servings of fruit per day)	NZHS, year ended June 2012-2019
	Hazardous drinking <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who are hazardous drinkers. 'Hazardous drinking' refers to an established alcohol drinking pattern that carries a risk of harming the drinker's physical or mental health or having harmful social effects on the drinker or others.	NZHS, year ended June 2016-2019



Key area: Promoting healthy ageing and improving access to services

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
	Physical activity <i>Desired direction is up</i>	Percentage of people who did at least 2.5 hours of activity in the past week, spread out over the week	NZHS, year ended June 2012-2019
	Serious injury prevalence <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Prevalence of serious injuries in New Zealand per 100,000 people. The term 'serious injuries' includes fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries (people who are admitted to hospital with a 6.9% or greater probability of death).	Stats NZ, serious injury counts/estimated resident population, MSD calculations
	Health expectancy and total life expectancy at age 65 <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Health expectancy at age 65 is the average number of years a person aged 65 can expect to live without requiring assistance with everyday activities. Life expectancy is the average number of years a person aged 65 can expect to live.	The Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 1990-2017
People have equitable access to the health and social services and the support they need to live and age well.	Unmet need for primary health care <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who experienced one or more types of unmet need for primary health care in the past 12 months	NZHS, year ended June 2012-2019
	Health equity	This indicator will measure the spread of health outcomes across the New Zealand population (the gap between high and low outcomes).	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Access to social services	Not currently available	
	Need for acute hospital care <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Days of acute hospital care per older population	Ministry of Health, National Service Framework library, Actual Acute Bed Days per 1,000 people



Key area: Promoting healthy ageing and improving access to services

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
	Access to culturally-appropriate health and social services	Not currently available	
A whānau-centred approach is taken to the design and delivery of health and social services.	Access to whānau-centred services for Māori and Pacific peoples.	Not currently available	
	Māori and Pacific peoples' uptake of whānau-centred service delivery to meet health and social support needs.	Not currently available	



Key area: Creating diverse housing choices and options

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
People can age in a place they call home, safely and, where possible, independently.	Homelessness <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	This indicator will focus on the number of people in New Zealand who do not have safe and secure accommodation. It will show how habitable the accommodation is.	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Interim indicator – severe housing deprivation	Number of people per 1,000 living in severely inadequate housing	Amore K. (2016). Severe housing deprivation in Aotearoa/New Zealand: 2001-2013. He Kainga Oranga/Housing & Health Research Programme,



Key area: Creating diverse housing choices and options

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
	<i>Desired direction is down.</i>		University of Otago, Wellington. Contains data for 2001, 2006 and 2013.
	Housing register numbers <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Number of people not currently in public housing who have been assessed as eligible and are ready to be matched to a suitable property	MSD, Housing register ⁹
	Housing affordability <i>Desired direction for the indicator is down. We want affordability to improve.</i>	Percentage of people who live in a household spending 30 percent or more of its disposable income on housing costs (including rates, mortgage, rent, dwelling insurance)	MSD's 2019 Household Incomes Report. Annual data year ended June 1988-2018. Based on data from the Household Economic Survey.
	Housing quality	This indicator will show the physical condition of accommodation in New Zealand.	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Interim indicator - Warm and dry housing <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people reporting that the property they live in is warm and dry	Stats NZ, customised data from Household Economic Survey
	Suitability of house or flat <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people reporting that their house or flat is suitable or very suitable	Stats NZ, General Social Survey (GSS), 2018
	Suitability of house or flat location <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people reporting that the location of their house or flat is suitable or very suitable	Stats NZ, GSS, 2018

⁹ <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html>



Key area: Creating diverse housing choices and options

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
	Security of tenure	Not currently available	
	Mortgage-free home ownership <i>Desired direction is up</i>	Percentage of people who own their own home with (and also without) a mortgage	MSD's 2019 Household Incomes Report. Based on data from the Household Economic Survey.



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Supporting people to participate in their community**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
As we age, we remain socially connected and actively participate in our communities.	Extent and quality of contact with family/whānau and friends <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	This indicator will show the extent to which New Zealanders have contact with friends and family/whānau and the quality of that contact.	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Interim indicator - Contact with friends <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people who had face-to-face contact with friends who do not live with them at least once a week	Treasury Living Standards indicator from General Social Survey (GSS)
	Volunteering rate (IANZ indicator) <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people who reported having done voluntary work for at least one organisation or directly for a person from another household in previous four weeks	GSS, 2016 only
	Cultural and recreational engagement <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people who engaged in cultural or recreational activities in the previous four weeks	GSS, 2016 only
Reduced loneliness amongst older people.	Loneliness (private dwellings) <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people in private dwellings who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time	GSS, 2014, 2016 and 2018
	Loneliness (residential care)	Percentage of people in aged residential care who say or indicate that they feel lonely	interRAI data visualisation tool - assessments for those in aged residential care (not in GSS)



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Valuing and respecting and decision-making**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
All older people are respected and valued.	Older people feel respected and valued	Not currently available	
	Experience of discrimination (IANZ indicator) <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who reported having been subject to discrimination including racism, sexism, ageism	GSS, 2014, 2016, 2018.
Everyone has opportunities to contribute to society regardless of age.	Intergenerational knowledge transfer	This indicator will show the extent to which cultural knowledge is transferred between generations of New Zealanders.	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Sense of purpose/life worthwhile (IANZ indicator) <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people who rated their sense of purpose highly	GSS, 2014, 2016, 2018.
People are supported to make choices and have the right to make decisions about their lives as they age.	Locus of control <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	This indicator will be about the extent to which people feel able to direct their own lives.	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Enduring Power of Attorney (interRAI) <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people receiving interRAI assessments who have an Enduring Power of Attorney	interRAI, years ended June
	Enduring Power of Attorney (broader population)	Not currently available	
	Advanced Care Plan (interRAI)	Percentage of people receiving interRAI assessments who have an Advanced Care Plan	interRai, years ended June



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Safety, including freedom from elder abuse and neglect**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
As people age, they feel and are safe.	Perceived safety (alone out at night) (IANZ indicator) <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people who feel safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night	GSS, 2014, 2016, 2018.
	Perceived safety (alone at home at night) <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people who feel safe or very safe at home by themselves at night	GSS, 2014, 2016, 2018.
	Victim of crime (IANZ victimisation indicator) <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who had a crime committed against them in the last 12 months	Ministry of Justice, NZ Crime and Victims Survey/ Cycle 1 (March - September 2018)
The prevalence of elder abuse and neglect is reduced, and those who experience abuse are well supported.	Elder abuse rate <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Not currently available	
	Interim indicator (until elder abuse rate is available) - Family violence (IANZ indicator) <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who were victims of family violence (which includes elder abuse) in the last 12 months.	Ministry of Justice, NZ Crime and Victims Survey. Data for 65+ not yet available.
	Elder abuse victims well supported	Not currently available	



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Digital inclusion**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
As people age, they safely use technology to improve their lives.	Digital inclusion: percentage of people who use the internet in their day-to-day lives <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Not currently available	
	Interim indicator - No internet in household <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people in households where nobody has owned a computer or internet-enabled device in the last 12 months	Ministry of Justice, NZ Crime and Safety Survey, 2018 (NZCVS)
	Cybercrime <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage of people who experienced cybercrime	Ministry of Justice, NZCVS (not yet available by age group)
	Perceived safety of online transactions <i>Desired direction is up.</i>	Percentage of people feeling safe or very safe when using the internet for online transactions	GSS, 2014, 2016, 2018
People who do not use technology can still access the services they need.	Access to services for those who do not use technology	Not currently available	



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Responding to change**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
People can successfully transition through and adapt to life changes.	Not currently available		



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Volunteering**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
Those who wish to volunteer can do so	Not currently available. See IANZ Volunteering Rate indicator on page 12.		



**Key area: Enhancing opportunities for participation and social connection:
Recognising and responding to diversity**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
Recognise older people are as diverse as any other group, with individual aspirations and needs.	Not currently available		



**Key area: Making environments accessible:
Age-friendly environments and communities**

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
New Zealand communities, facilities, places and spaces are age-friendly and accessible.	Access to natural spaces	This indicator will show how satisfied New Zealanders are with their ability to access natural spaces in Aotearoa New Zealand.	IANZ indicator to be developed
	Access to public buildings	Not currently available	
	Access to essential services	Not currently available (except for unmet need for primary health services on page 9)	
	Access to information	Not currently available	
	Access to social and community networks	Not currently available	



Key area: Making environments accessible:

Transport

Better Later Life Outcomes	Initial indicators and desired direction	Description	Source
As we age, we can easily and safely get to where we want to go.	Neighbourhood walkability	Not currently available	
	Accessibility of public transportation vehicles <i>Desired direction is up</i>	Percentage of buses that are wheelchair accessible and have super low floors	NZTA administrative data (national data not currently available)
	Perceived accessibility of public transport	Not currently available	
	Beneficial journeys not taken <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage who had journey/s in the last week that would have been beneficial, but they couldn't undertake for some reason	NZTA, Customer Journey Monitor survey (from 2019, full year data not yet available)
	Unmet need for GP due to lack of transport <i>Desired direction is down.</i>	Percentage having had a medical problem but not visiting a GP due to lack of transport, in the past 12 months	NZ Health Survey, Annual Data Explorer 2018/19 (year ended June 2012-2019). Customised data for 50-64 and 65+.
	Transport volumes <i>Desired direction for number of journeys, public transport, walking and cycling is up.</i>	Travel by mode e.g. average time spent walking or cycling, proportion of people accessing public transport	New Zealand Household Travel Survey (new time series from 2018/19, not yet available)