# 

# Positive Ageing Strategy Update

October 2020

It has been a while since we last updated you on the work of the Positive Ageing Strategy.

![Front cover of Te Hokai Nuku Wairarapa Positive Ageing Strategy.
It shows a group of older people standing  posing for the photo during a game of croquet.
Text includes - For the District Council of South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton 2019]()Lisa Matthews was appointed to the position of Regional Positive Ageing Strategy Co-ordinator in late July. Lisa has a background in community engagement both in the not-for-profit sector, local and national government sector. She has spent August and September talking to staff across the three Councils to understand what staff have been doing in this space. What she has found is that Council staff have been quietly going about their business and looking for opportunities to improve the quality of life for our older people in Wairarapa.

## Positive Ageing Strategy

For those of you who don’t know about the Strategy or need a reminder; the aim of the Strategy is to improve and integrate council services for older people to help them lead valued, connected and fulfilling lives.

The strategy features six strategic goals, which were identified through extensive local research and engagement.

These goals, which will be areas of council focus over the medium to long-term are: community support and health services, communication and engagement, transport, cultural diversity, housing, and places, spaces and activities.

Lisa is working closely with Council staff of the three Councils on these goals.

You can read the full Strategy document on your council website.

Here are some examples of good things that are happening:

* Footpath prioritisation process – Carterton District Council roading team prioritise footpath renewals based on the proximity to locations that are relevant to older people. Masterton District Council meets regularly with CCS Disability Action to review issues with footpaths.
* Howard Booth upgrade – Carterton District Council has made the walkway three metres wide to ensure there is enough room for both a mobility scooter and a pram to pass.
* Website upgrade – Masterton District Council has reached out to Digital Seniors, CCS Disability Action and Blind Low Vision NZ to involve older persons in their user testing programme. Carterton District Council is continuously reviewing the accessibility of its website which includes upskilling staff who maintain the website and has made changes to font size and colour to meet accessibility requirements. SWDC is ensuring its new website, which is currently in development, meets web accessibility standards.
* Installation of low impact outdoor gym equipment – South Wairarapa District Council is installing low impact outdoor gym equipment in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough.
* Adoption of Positive Ageing Strategy Implementation Plan - South Wairarapa District Council adopted their plan last month.
* Increasing the accessibility of information – Carterton District Council has increased signage and posters at Carterton’s public parks and reserves to make council news and updates more available to older residents who may not be connected online.

If you have any questions, or would like to be kept updated, please contact Lisa Matthews, Regional Positive Ageing Strategy Co-ordinator [lisa@cdc.govt.nz](mailto:lisa@cdc.govt.nz) or 027 444 1887

If you’d like to find out more about Positive Ageing Strategies in New Zealand and internationally, go to [www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/age-friendlycommunities/index.html](http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/age-friendlycommunities/index.html)

All work on this project is:

* Aligned with Office for Seniors best practice
* Based on the World Health Organisation Age-Friendly cities guidelines
* Designed for cross-Council involvement and participation

Photo shows three older women working with seedlings at Carterton District Council.