

Presentation to Auckland Council Community Development Committee by Auckland District Council of Social Services (ADCOSS) October 2015

Age Friendly City

ADCOSS recently held a seminar on Age Friendly Cities (AFC) and at the end made a resolution to ask Auckland Council to apply to the WHO to become an AFC

35 cities around the world and from all continents are now AFC. They include mega-cities like Mexico City, New Delhi and Tokyo, as well as large cities like London, NYC and Istanbul, and smaller cities.

Auckland is going through major shifts in its demography:

- Permanent ageing
- Population growth
- Ethnic change

The idea of Active Ageing optimises support for health, participation and security by: recognising the capacities and resources among older people:

- To assist their families
- Engage with their communities
- Support the economy

The core AFC features are included in a WHO check list:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services

Being an AFC is a starting point for many community activities and research.

I can envisage both AC and its CCOs, and Local Boards having an active role, e.g. Housing

Housing Options for Older People

Public issues include:

Government neglect of housing in Auckland until it became a public issue.

High migration

Property speculation

Specific neglect of the provision of affordable housing

At the same time in Auckland:

Public housing is static or declining

People aged 65 and over is rapidly expanding with an additional 100,000 every decade

One person and couple-only households is the fastest growing.

There is uncertainty about the possible sale of public housing

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. That Auckland Council apply to the World Health Organisation to become an AFC
2. There is a need to research the needs of housing options for older people.
3. There is also a need for Council to work closely with the social housing sector to advance these issues
4. We suggest the CCOs and Local Boards look closely at promoting AF polices in their operations and areas.
5. We also support council's active involvement in pensioner housing, including renovation and involvement of social housing groups in the delivery of pensioner housing