

Hold a workshop on the draft Health of Older People Strategy: Questions and answers

Why do we need to refresh the Health of Older People Strategy?

There are several reasons why it is time to refresh the Health of Older People Strategy.

We need a health strategy for older people that accounts for the changes that have taken place since 2002, and is fit for the future. Our world has changed, demographically, economically, technologically, socially.

Most of the actions in the 2002 Strategy have been completed, or need new directions to move into their next phase.

The Health of Older People Strategy also needs to reflect the direction for the overall health system set by the New Zealand Health Strategy, which was refreshed in 2016.

Where did the consultation draft of the refreshed Strategy come from and who contributed to it?

The discussion draft of the refreshed Strategy was produced by the Ministry of Health after extensive engagement with experts and stakeholders throughout the health and social systems, and with older people, their families, whānau and communities. Engagement mainly took the form of workshops, meetings and forums held all around the country.

The workshops helped to identify the key priorities for the Strategy, and the Strategy's vision statement, goals and objectives. Participants also discussed what the key themes of the New Zealand Health Strategy meant for how we approach the health of older people. Over 500 suggestions were made for actions through these workshops.

What's different about the refreshed Health of Older People Strategy?

The main new features of the refreshed HOP Strategy are:

- a focus on five domains:
 - greater focus on healthy ageing and resilience
 - high quality acute and restorative care
 - empowering people to live well with long-term conditions
 - integration of services for people with high and complex needs
 - ensuring respectful end of life care
- a new action plan, with specific proposals for the next 10 years to achieve greater health and independence for older people.

What can people contribute to the refreshed Strategy at this stage?

Because of the level of sector involvement in getting the Strategy to this stage, the Ministry is mainly interested in people's comments on three main aspects of the draft document.

1. Are the goals in each domain the right ones?
2. Are the actions in the action plan going to help us achieve those goals?
3. Which actions are ready to implement now, which should be given higher priority, and which might be the hardest to implement and why?

However, we are interested in all comments, whether they refer to parts of the draft document or the whole thing, or come from a new perspective.

What happens next?

The period of consultation on the draft Strategy ends on 7 September 2016. The Ministry will analyse all submissions received, and provide recommendations to the Associate Minister of Health on changes to the draft document.

A summary of all submissions will be posted on the Ministry of Health website, as will individual submissions.

A near final version of the Strategy will be considered by Cabinet in November 2016. The refreshed Strategy will be released shortly afterwards and its implementation will begin.