

Age Friendly Hurunui

Hurunui District Council

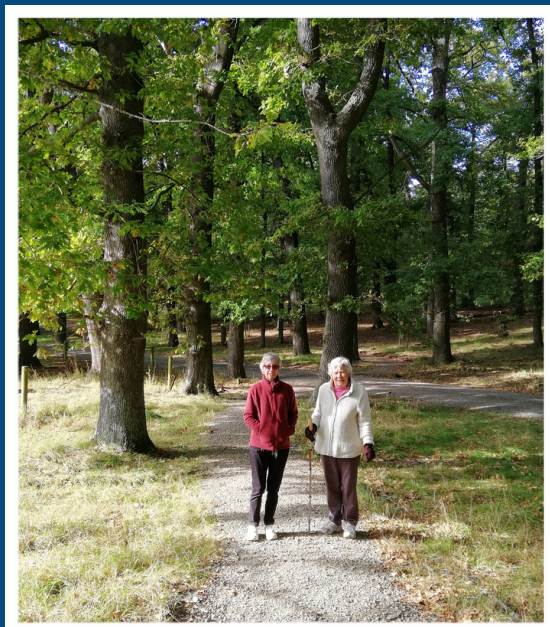
Case Story #9

Background

The Age-Friendly initiative, previously managed by the Together Hurunui Facilitator, known as Older Persons, shifted to the Council's Community Partnerships Team in mid-2020. By 2023, the team was fully equipped to handle this responsibility efficiently.

In 2018, the Together Hurunui Facilitator successfully secured funding for a research project focused on age-friendly initiatives. The aim was to present the Council and social service organisations in the Hurunui district with the findings. The outcome was the 'Hurunui Age-Friendly Communities Project Report', offering insights into the concerns, issues, and perspectives of the elderly population, along with 11 recommendations. In 2023, with the necessary staff resources, the Council revisited this area, now under the Community Partnerships Team. The challenge was how to proceed given that the report was four years old, the world had faced a pandemic, and the Council had not previously focused intentionally on this area.

Our Memberships:



Solutions

- Initiating connections within the age-friendly sector by starting small. This involved participation in the Elder Care North Canterbury Forum and submitting an application to join the Age-Friendly Aotearoa New Zealand Network, resulting in valuable connections with various agencies and individuals active in this field.
- Conducting an intergenerational focus group with local youth. Completed in May 2023.
- Researching the age-friendly initiatives of other councils to gain insights into their strategies.
- Exploring the WHO's 8 age-friendly domains and their applicability to Hurunui in more depth.

Challenges

1. Going back to square one because the 2019 report was considered outdated.
2. With limited connections in the age-friendly sector, it's necessary to establish new relationships from the ground up.
3. While there are no funds allocated for this area, there is staff availability and internal resources that can be utilised.



Lessons

- Attending various hui's or forums to listen and learn about the experiences and challenges of individuals in this age group.
- It's common for this age group to be misunderstood or overlooked, leading to numerous misconceptions about those over 65.

Outcomes

- Becoming a member of Age friendly Aotearoa New Zealand (March 2023).
- Connecting to the Elder Care North Canterbury Forum (based in Rangiora) (March 2023).
- Receiving appropriate newsletters from the likes of the Office for Seniors and Presbyterian Support.
- Connecting to Hurunui residents and associated community groups.
- Report to the September 2023 Strategy & Community Committee recommending that an age friendly plan is developed for the district.



WHO Age Friendly Domains

The Future...

- Undertaking consultation for a Hurunui Age Friendly Plan.
- To set up an age friendly 'steering group' or 'advocacy group'.
- That council improves their connection to the older persons in the district and they are more considered in council's future planning.