

Is your precinct age-friendly?

Howick, Hibiscus Coast and Ōrākei are areas with a greater proportion of older Aucklanders, although every suburb and precinct have their share.

Auckland Council – including its agencies - is developing a region-wide, cross-sector, [age-friendly action plan](#) for Tāmaki Makaurau and its senior citizens. Through the design and provision of public infrastructure and services, we're keen to ensure ease of movement, access to facilities, and a sense of safety across all aspects of life in Auckland.

Business associations too are being challenged to consider the needs of the elderly in the design of, and upgrades to, town centres and precincts.

As part of the council's commitment to understanding the needs of older people, we have invited community representatives to be part of our [Seniors Advisory Panel](#) (2016-2019 members pictured below). This group offers advice based on their experiences living as senior citizens, to help us improve outcomes for this community.



The panel is encouraging business associations to consider improvements to their town centres so that they are more accessible for seniors and disabled people.



In Ōtara, new seating areas to suit shoppers of all ages and celebrating the local *faa-Samoa* way of living were installed at a cost of \$25,000 back in 2019.

So why is this important?

- In 2018, there were 189,177 Aucklanders aged 65.
- Older Aucklanders made up 12% of the city's population. More than half (58.1%) were aged 65-74, with 30% aged 75-84 and 11.8% aged 85+.
- The number of older Aucklanders continues to rise, up 13% or 21,813 people since 2013.
- The rate of growth among older adults is occurring slightly more quickly than general population growth, reflective of Auckland's ageing population.
- The distribution of where older adults live varied across Auckland.
- The highest numbers lived around the edge of the isthmus – especially in the east, along the coast of the North Shore, the Whangaparāoa peninsula, and Warkworth.
- More generally, the North Shore and east Auckland tend to have high numbers of older Aucklanders living there, followed by west Auckland.
- The local board areas with more older adults are Howick (19,092 people), Hibiscus and Bays (18,306) and Ōrākei (13,338).
- The local boards with the highest proportion of their population aged 65 years+ are Aotea/Great Barrier (23.6%), Waiheke (20.2%), Hibiscus and Bays (17.5%), Rodney (17.5%) and Devonport-Takapuna (15.9%).

[READ MORE](#)

Creating buildings, spaces and places that can be used and enjoyed by all.

Universal design is design for inclusivity and independence. A universal design approach recognises human diversity and designs for life scenarios, such as pregnancy, childhood, injury, disability and old age.



Introduction to Universal Design

An overview of Universal Design and its 8 goals

- Check it out [here](#)

Help is at hand

Check out these [design tools](#) including some key tips.

Outdoor Spaces:

These spaces should be functional, safe, and create a sense of identity

Landscaping:

Keep greenery well-maintained and allow for clear sightlines

Seating:

Use a variety of seating to accommodate all users

Shelter:

Provide shade and shelter from high winds, heavy rain and direct sun

Other Amenities:

Provide amenities according to context, including bins, water fountains, public bathrooms and other facilities

Communal Open Space:

Create quality private communal space for residents.

In an age-friendly Tāmaki Makaurau...

The following pages reflect what a future Auckland could look like, as described by older Aucklanders.

Older Aucklanders said they want to:

- feel part of - not pushed out of - their community
- have an active role and purpose in their family and community
- feel respected and valued
- foster existing relationships
- meet new people who are like - or different from - them
- be a visible part of society, and
- have their individuality acknowledged.