

Officer responsible Community Relations Unit Manager	Author Julie Macdonald
Corporate Plan Output: Community Liaison, Assistance and Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to inform progress being made towards implementing the Older Persons' Policy. It is also to inform the Committee that 1999 is the International Year of Older Persons "Te Tau Whakatairanga Kaumatua Puta I Te Ao". The report was considered by the Community Services Committee on 8 February, when it was recommended that it be referred to Community Board's for them to consider initiating projects to mark the International Year of Older Persons.

The Council adopted the Older Persons' Policy in 1998. Policy staff and I have now arranged to meet with Unit Managers and other relevant staff to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ascertain activities already undertaken by Council Units which are relevant to the Policy; and
2. To begin working on a Council wide strategy to implement the Policy.

It is anticipated that a report on the proposed strategy will be presented to the Committee by July 1999.

This year is also the International Year of Older Persons "Te Tau Whakatairanga Kaumatua Puta I Te Ao". The Senior Citizens Unit of the Social Policy Agency (Department of Social Welfare) is responsible for co-ordinating the national strategy for the International Year of Older Persons. Some community project funding has been distributed and further funding has been set aside by the Lottery Grants Board to fund projects to mark the Year. Applications for funding closed on 15 February 1999.

The Senior Citizens Unit will shortly distribute an information pack about the International Year of Older Persons. Staff will ensure this is distributed to interested Councillors.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that the Board give consideration to providing seats at bus stops, shopping areas and in the vicinity of libraries which has been a request by seniors' groups.