



New Zealand Superannuation

Does your party support retaining the eligibility age for New Zealand Superannuation at 65?

Yes.

Does your party support retaining universal entitlement to New Zealand Superannuation, regardless of income or assets?

Yes, although our Citizens' Income policy aims to eventually integrate NZ Superannuation with our universal Citizens' Income. This is set at a lower rate, but would need to be supplemented for those aged 65+ who are unable to support themselves by supplementing the Citizens' Income with their Kiwisaver or other savings. The implementation plan for our Tax Reset policy does not contemplate making this change within the next ten years.

Does your party support maintaining the current rate and indexation of New Zealand Superannuation? If not, what changes would you make?

Largely. Our tax reset policy supplements the Citizens' Income for those aged 65+ and makes tax adjustments to ensure our tax changes do not reduce net income for any additional income older people might receive up to \$55,000 per year.

Accommodation Supplement

(The accommodation supplement is subject to an asset test. For single individuals, the cash asset limit is \$8,100. For couples, the limit is \$16,200.)

Will your party increase the asset threshold for eligibility for the Accommodation Supplement? If yes, what threshold do you propose and when would it be introduced?

Our tax reset proposes replacing the accommodation supplement with a universal, abateable housing supplement payment. This would not be subject to any cash asset threshold.

Does your party support reviewing the Accommodation Supplement asset thresholds on a regular basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose?

Yes.

Dementia Care



What specific measures would your party introduce to improve dementia care and support for people living with dementia and their families?

Most people living with dementia are cared for at home, by family, for years before residential care becomes necessary. Our Citizens' Income would move towards a tax system that offers greater flexibility and support for those with caring responsibilities.

Our Ageing with Dignity policy is built around making care sustainable: a general practice older people can get into, clinical support that comes to the home rather than requiring a hospital trip, reliable follow-up after discharge, and practical help adapting a home as function declines. It also means treating the carer as part of the care, with respite that is genuinely available rather than rationed, and a shared health record so a diagnosis, medications and care plan follow the person between services.

Does your party support fully funding and implementing the national Dementia Action Plan? If so, over what timeframe?

We support the intent. The Dementia Mate Wareware Action Plan was published in 2020, was never funded to deliver, and its timeframe has now expired. We would refresh it early in our ten-year cross-party Health Plan, and implement it sequenced against workforce and diagnostic capacity.

How would your party improve access to respite care, community support, and specialist dementia services?

Respite depends on the Carer Support Subsidy, where the rate, the rationing of allocation, the loss of unused days and the claiming process all need attention. Community support requires more senior clinical capacity based in the community rather than in hospitals, nursing that visits the home, and funded clinical follow-up after discharge. For specialist services the bottleneck is diagnosis, so we would support diagnostic capacity alongside earlier detection and set a national dementia pathway within the ten-year Health Plan.

Housing for Older New Zealanders

What policies does your party have to increase the supply of affordable housing for older New Zealanders?

The land value tax that forms part of our tax reset policy is a significant incentive towards development of higher density housing in urban areas with high land values. This includes townhouses and apartments as well as retirement villages. We also propose to simplify zoning rules to make it easier to build higher density developments, and incentivise the construction of new housing stock that meets high energy performance standards by returning GST to Councils.



Does your party support increasing the number of public and community housing units specifically designed for seniors?

Yes, as part of a wider programme of expanding the supply of social housing by both Kāinga Ora and Community Housing providers.

How will your party help older renters who are struggling with rising housing costs?

An expansion of housing supply as described above will help improve rental affordability. As described above, our tax reset policy also introduces a universal abateable housing support payment to support renters.

Aged Care Workforce

Does your party support restoring or strengthening pay equity protections for aged care and disability support workers?

Yes.

What policies will your party implement to recruit and retain the aged care workforce?

Aged care loses staff to hospitals and to Australia because the same work is paid differently depending on the employer and the setting. We would support work towards a national framework for nursing remuneration, so that pay reflects a clinician's qualifications, skills and responsibility rather than which setting they happen to work in. Beyond pay, the sector offers almost no senior clinical career path, so experienced staff who want to progress have to leave to do it: we would build those roles, widen the range of services aged residential care is funded to deliver, and set transparent safe-staffing benchmarks. On supply, we would fund more training places and graduate placements into community care, remove the district-by-district barriers to postgraduate study, and make registration quicker for internationally qualified professionals.

Health

How will your party improve access to general practice, specialist services and elective surgery for older New Zealanders?

Opportunity supports a stable long-term approach to funding for the public health system that enables effective planning and implementation. Within this approach we support a progressive increase in the proportion of public health funding allocated to primary and preventive care. This has historically been proportionally underfunded relative to OECD counterparts.



What will your party do to reduce waiting times for diagnosis and treatment of conditions that commonly affect seniors?

As above, we support stable long-term funding and predictable increases to overall baselines. In addition, we support progressive expansion of screening programmes for a wide range of treatable diseases.

Cost of living

What specific measures will your party introduce to reduce the cost-of-living pressures facing older New Zealanders?

In addition to our tax reset described above, we support:

- enabling Councils to use a wider “toolbox” of funding (such as bed levies and congestion charging) and ending unfunded mandates by central government, in order to take the pressure off rates increases
- giving the Commerce Commission powers to address market concentration across the board - including by forcing breakups where necessary. This will help to address high costs from monopoly or oligopoly providers in sectors such as banking, supermarkets and insurance, all of which have been driving recent cost of living increases.
- significantly expanding the supply of both in-home and grid-scale renewable energy generation, which will permanently reduce power costs.

Does your party support changes to rates rebates, energy assistance, or other targeted support to reduce living costs, and/or does it support the Ratings Assistance Scheme to defer rates costs, for qualifying seniors?

We support the full ratepayer assistance scheme proposed by Local Government New Zealand (see our [Intergenerational Infrastructure](#) policy), which would enable rates deferral for older people. Our proposed land value tax also includes full interest-free deferral for older homeowners.

Aging Well

What are your party's top three priorities for improving the wellbeing and quality of life of older New Zealanders over the next parliamentary term?

- Rebuilding primary and community care, so that older people can see a clinician when something changes rather than waiting until it becomes an emergency.
- Making ageing in place real — it has been stated government policy since the 2001 Positive Ageing Strategy without the funded architecture behind it.
- Funding the health system on a ten-year cross-party plan that tracks demographic change and real cost pressure, so services stop being built and dismantled every three years.



If elected, what actions will your party take in its first year to improve outcomes for seniors?

Begin the shift of health funding towards primary and preventive care, and establish the mechanism that keeps it tracking real cost pressure rather than being renegotiated each Budget. Establish a ten-year cross-party Health Plan, with the Dementia Action Plan refreshed and costed within it. Start building senior clinical capacity in community and aged care, and fix carer support settings so that respite is a funded entitlement rather than a rationed allocation.

Closing question

What single policy or initiative do you believe would make the greatest positive difference to the lives of older New Zealanders, and why?

A ten-year cross-party Health Plan. Almost every problem older New Zealanders have with the health system — the wait for a hip, the rest home with no clinician on site at two in the morning, the discharge with no follow-up — traces back to a system that plans in three-year increments while people age over decades. The workforce takes a decade to train and hospitals take a decade to build. Ageing in place has been an official policy since 2001 and still has no funded architecture behind it, because each government has had just enough time to announce a direction and not enough to deliver one.