



# GREY POWER MARLBOROUGH

Advocating for people 50 +

## From the President's Desk

I received the Aged Care Commissioner's report on Aged Care Health and thought I would share some abridged excerpts from that report with you.

*Gayle Chambers, President.*

"There is no single definition of 'older people', although 65 years and above is the age threshold often used for measuring health, disability, and other data on older people. However, academic research and government policies on the wellbeing of older people (eg, the Better Later Life Strategy by the Office for Seniors increasingly cover people aged 50 years and older. Many factors influence experiences of ageing, including life expectancy rates, health and disability inequities, people doing (paid and unpaid) work later in life, declining home ownership, socio-economic status, cultural conceptions of ageing, and gender and sexuality.

"Critically, there is a lack of dedicated strategy and planning for the health needs of an ageing population. Older people are high users of the health and disability system and, while we have many strategies relevant to ageing well, we are not seeing a clearly coordinated strategy and action plan to manage the health and disability needs of what will be around 20% of the population within the next decade. Innovative models of care need to be considered to meet the changing needs of people as they age.

"The subsidy for hearing aids has not been increased for many years, and cost may be a barrier for some older people, including those from communities with rising rates of dementia. The New Zealand hearing aid subsidy should be increased to cover the cost of hearing aids, assessment and fitting, and the hearing aid funding scheme should be extended to cover the cost of fitting and assessing hearing aids.

"I have been concerned by the number of complaints I receive from older people and their family about the capacity and

capability of home care and community services to meet their needs. These complaints highlight the detrimental physical and psychological impacts on older people and their family.

"While managing complaints about the quality of health and disability services accessed by older people is integral to my work, the role of the Aged Care Commissioner is broader than complaints. A significant part of my role is to amplify the voices of older people and their family about their experiences of care and to advocate for better services and drive quality improvement.

"Any focus on workforce in the aged-care funding and service models review and in future Te Whatu Ora | Health NZ workforce plans should have a focus on actions that contribute to a sustainable aged-care workforce, including a focus on the training and retention of aged-care nurses, healthcare assistants (HCAs), geriatricians and psycho-geriatricians/psychiatrists, and cultural advisors specialising in the health of older people.

"Home and Community Support Services (HCSS) has a significant role to play in keeping people well in their communities for longer and in reducing demand on Age Related Care (ARC) and emergency and specialist services. It is important that the government and Te Whatu Ora | Health NZ value home care and community support services as an integral part of the health and disability system and adequately support HCSS to provide high quality accessible care."



## Harrison's

National Federation vice-president, David Marshall, is delighted to announce that Harrison's are providing all Grey Power members access to discounts on their carpets, floorings, curtains, blinds and solar panels.

Harrison's are offering all Grey Power members 20% off carpet and hard flooring, 30% off curtains and blinds, and 20% off solar panels. You can get Flybuys with every purchase. If special offers are available, you will always receive the lowest price as a Grey Power customer.

Working with Harrison's means you work with local business owners in your area and they bring the showroom to your home - in one convenient visit to you.

Contact Harrison's on 0800 103 001 - say that you are a Grey Power member to receive your discount. Their website is <https://www.harrisons.nz/> More specifics on the offers are available on our website.

Visit our Federation website to keep up to date as we gradually add additional information and resources; <https://www.greypower.co.nz/>

## Aged Care Commissioner reports:

Just recently, the Aged Care Commissioner, Carolyn Cooper, released her first report titled 'Amplifying the voices of older people across Aotearoa New Zealand.'

This report encapsulates many Grey Power policy issues which we advocate for and it provides areas of great interest. Grey Power had fought hard for an aged care commissioner who was finally appointed on March 14, 2022.

<https://www.hdc.org.nz/our-work/aged-care-commissioner/amplifying-the-voices-of-older-people-in-aotearoa-new-zealand/>

Jan Pentecost, Grey Power Federation President, congratulated the Commissioner on her report and recommends reading it as it calls for action to improve access to health and disability care for older people.

## AGM Abbeyfield Marlborough

Friday 17 May at 11am.  
This will be held in the Community Room at 19 Alfred Street.

Younger people are sought to come onto the committee. Those interested are most welcome.

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## Scams

The following is a scam received by email showing how dishonest use is made of the internet to steal our money. This example is not how the United Nations would do business. It should be unbelievable. (Beware: spam alert!)

“uncomp@un.com@yy  
Attn: Scam Victims

This is to inform all scam victims that the United Nation (UN) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) is compensating scam victims with the sum of \$450,000USD each. If you have been scammed in the past or currently, kindly contact our agent Mr. Timothy Clark.

Name: Mr. Timothy Clark  
Email: timothyclark101@mail.com  
Regards  
Stéphane Dujarric  
Spokeman  
United Nation”

Note what points to it being dishonest. The email address does not look like it comes from the United Nations.

There are spelling and grammar errors eg ‘United Nation’, not ‘United Nations’, ‘Spokeman’ not ‘Spokesman’, ‘Fund’ not ‘Funds’.

Not all scams are so easily detected. It is argued that such poorly written scams are designed to be easily detected by the alert among us, so that the perpetrators will not have their time wasted during the scamming process.

Many scams are far more ‘presentable’ and credible, and the increase in the quality of scamming by the use of Artificial Intelligence makes detection harder.

We must be on our guard against the new fraudulent techniques and misinformation of what were once



known as con-men, also known as spammers, ‘influencers’, scammers, snake-oil salesmen and fraudsters.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind: Resist any demands to act immediately - take the time to verify the issue rather than panicking and just doing what is asked of you.

Be sceptical of any great deals or opportunities - if it’s too good to be true, it probably is (cheap lotto tickets, prize wins, etc).

Install virus protection software on your devices.

Enjoy online dating, but insist on meeting in real life early - cut off contact if they make excuses.

Never click on links that you don’t

know where they come from, or that you don’t know where they go.

Never send money to anyone you don’t know in person, or give away personal details to anyone you don’t know.

Remember that the IRD, banks, service providers, and other companies will never ask for your passwords or personal details over the phone, text, or email. If in doubt, ask a trusted friend or family member for a second opinion.

Try sites such as these. <https://www.aura.com/learn/senior-citizen-scams> or <https://www.nzseniors.co.nz/life-insurance/discover/fraud-scam-protection>

## AGM

This was held in March, attended by 25 members. The following were re-elected to their committee roles.

President Gayle Chambers, Vice President Annie Percy, Secretary Graeme Faulkner, Treasurer Murray South. Committee: Alan Washington, Tania Cowie, Robyn Blackburn, Stan Beavon. The post of Publicity Officer is vacant as Brian McNamara announced his retirement from Grey Power after many years of service.

The guest speaker was Helen Greenall who spoke about her time in Saudi Arabia working within the hospital system there for 23 years.

## Office Snippets

- Subscription renewal notices have been emailed or posted out. Please get in touch with the office if you have not received one.
- Thank you to all who have paid their renewal subscriptions already. There are thousands of members trying to renew their subscriptions, both in person and online at the moment. Please be kind and patient and we will get to everyone.
- Office opening hours are 9am - 1pm, Monday to Friday. We have had a few members turning up in the afternoons to pay their subs, unaware of the afternoon closing.
- Payments can be made by online banking, or eftpos and cash are available at the office. Sorry, no credit cards or payment by telephone.
- Thank you to all who came to the two seminars and the AGM. It was lovely to see you.

Brian McNamara  
Publicity Officer.

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