



Photo credit: Kelly Shakespeare

Selwyn adopts strategies to support Youth and Ageing population

The Selwyn District Council on Thursday adopted the Piki Amokura Youth Strategy and Te Paepae Ageing Well Strategy to make Waikirikiri Selwyn a safe, enjoyable place to live for its young and ageing population.

Creating a welcoming community for young and old is paramount to make Waikirikiri Selwyn a great place to call home, says Mayor Sam Broughton.

The strategies were created after extensive engagement with younger and older residents, as well as feedback from over sixty organisations, who deliver services or funding for young people and older generations.

Council staff engaged with more than 1000 residents over 60 years of age and more than 2500 people under 24 years and received around 1800 submissions.

“We feel that we captured their voices and ideas and will continue to work closely with community groups and agencies to advocate for what they require to enjoy life in Selwyn,” Mayor Broughton says.



Photo credit: Kathryn Taylor

““Selwyn is the fastest growing population in the country with a third of our population under 24, but we are also projected to be the fastest ageing district in the next 30 years, so it is vital to have a vision and a plan to enable all their needs,” Mayor Broughton says.

Te Paepae Ageing Well strategy will provide the direction for the Council and other stakeholders to make Waikirikiri Selwyn a great place to live for residents over 65, a group that is projected to triple from latest Census figure of 10,131 to council projection of 36,758 by 2053.

Mayor Broughton is also excited by Piki Amokura, the strategy to empower young people aged 12–24 years to navigate challenges, embrace opportunities and fulfill their potential.

“Our young people are integral to create our vision for a future Waikirikiri Selwyn,” says Broughton, who reflects that young people face many challenges in the modern world from living cost to climate change and require all our support to succeed.



Photo credit: Kathryn Taylor

The strategy identifies access to quality education, housing and transport as vital ingredients for young people to flourish, as well as dedicated services, locations and events to address their specific needs, the mayor says.

He emphasises that the Council is not able to create the vision by itself, which will require closer cooperation between a range of agencies to ensure appropriate services, responses and funding is available.

“It will be our role to be the advocate, facilitator, coordinator and in some cases the service provider, so the agencies collectively can enable young people and our older members of the community to live their best lives in Selwyn.”

Te Paepae will be launched at the SWELL Senior's Lifestyle Expo on 15 October at the Lincoln Event Centre where residents can learn more about how council will deliver on the strategy and what outcomes to expect.

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