

Part 1. An Overview of Napier Connects – What our Community Needed and Why

While the majority of older people in communities throughout New Zealand actively participate in a wide range of activities, around 10% of older people are socially isolated and a further 12% are at risk of becoming so.

Social isolation can negatively impact on a person's health and wellbeing, while participation in community activity can impact positively and is a great way for older people to contribute their knowledge, skills, experience, wisdom and stories with others.

The Napier community was approached by then-Minister for Senior Citizens, Hon Jo Goodhew in June 2012 with a view to initiating a community response to the issue of social isolation among Seniors. Napier was an ideal starting point because of our supportive elected leaders, active and well-connected NGO sector and because there

were community groups and organisations here already looking at how they could respond to the issue of social isolation. Napier is also representative of many provincial centres, in that it has an ageing population which is impacting on our population structure.

We've found that older people at risk of social isolation relate and respond best to people they already interact with (e.g. care providers, doctors, family members etc.) so Napier Connects works to create programmes and activities that are simple, free from red tape and provide the amount of connection people are comfortable with. We encourage other groups and individuals to do the same, and look forward to the network of activity and connection in our community growing over time.

For more information and background on the Napier Connects Project and how it came about, we welcome you to explore further here:

Helpful Resources:

Documents:

- [Literature Search](#)
- [HB Elderly Service Provider Survey.](#)

Websites:

- [www.napier.govt.nz/ ID Profile or Statistics NZ](http://www.napier.govt.nz/ID Profile or Statistics NZ)
- www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/seniorcitizens

