

To whom it may concern,

Carers NZ is the national peak body representing New Zealand's 420,000+ family, whanau and aiga carers.

We are interested in retirement policy, as a growing number of family carers are giving up paid employment to provide support to elderly, ill, and disabled family members and friends.

Increasingly, although almost 90% of carers are of workforce age (15 to 65), many leave paid work before retirement age.

With more New Zealanders living at home for longer with higher health/disability needs than past generations, the workforce and economic impacts of caring need to be better understood. They are a factor in retirement planning, wellbeing in old age, and ability to participate in paid work.

We wanted to raise this flag in the current consultation.

Best wishes with this work; please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Laurie Hilsgen
CEO, Carers New Zealand
Secretariat, NZ Carers Alliance of 45 national not for profits