



# **Project to enhance population ageing research in New Zealand**

## **a work in progress update**



## In the beginning ...

Identify:

- the existing resources for research
- options to make better use of research resources
- the longer-term population ageing research priorities



# Independent working group

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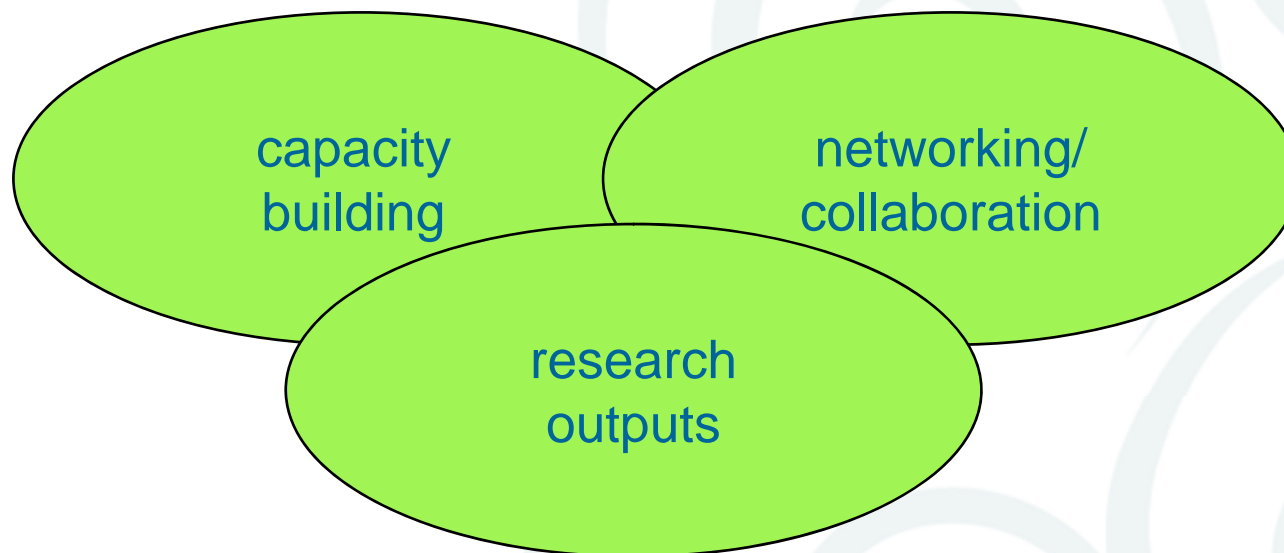
**Office for Senior Citizens**

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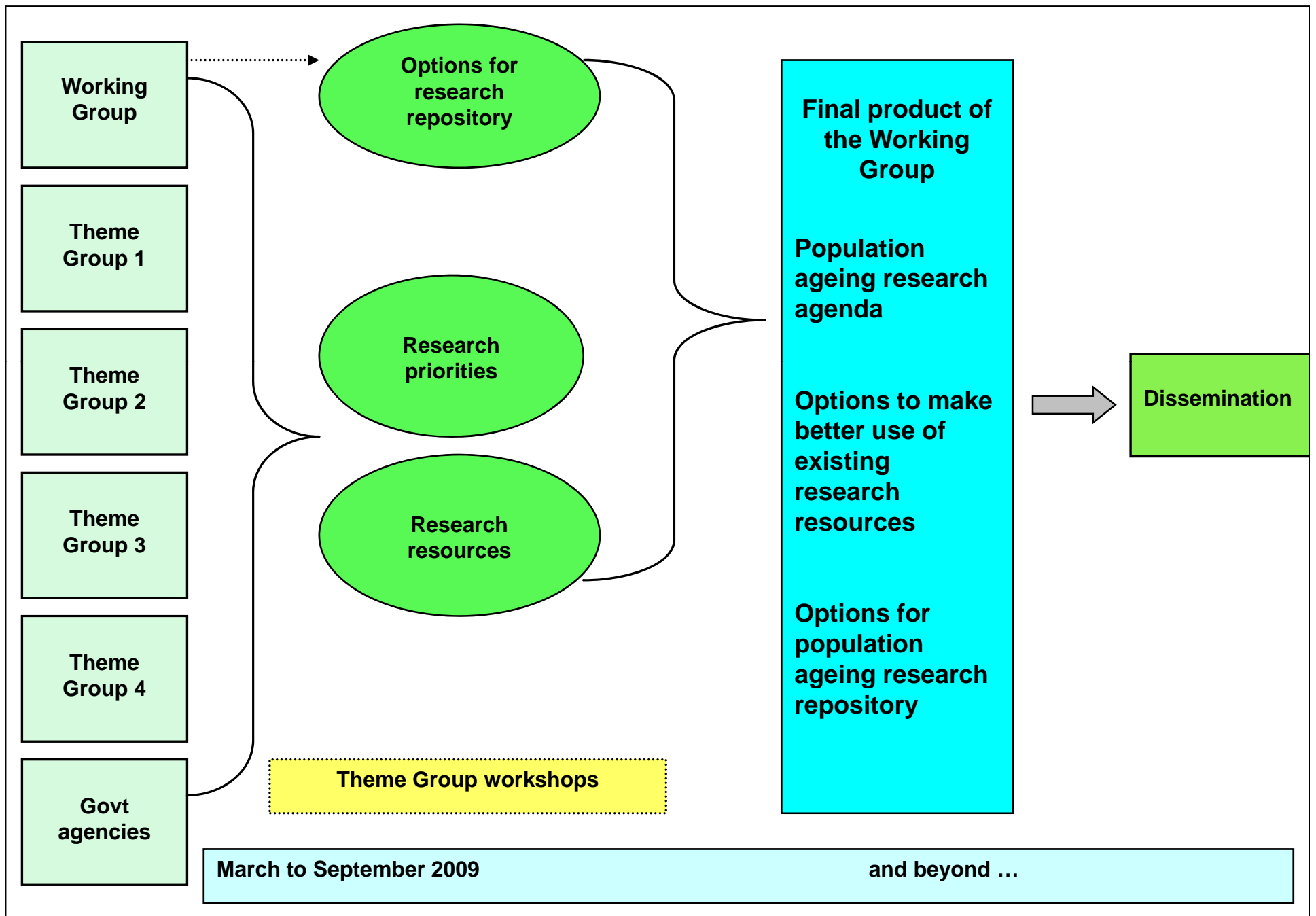
# solutions are more than identifying the research priorities!





## Objectives

- **identify population ageing research priorities**
- **identify existing research resources, and options to make better use of these - with a focus on networking/collaboration and capacity building**
- **options for an electronic repository of NZ population ageing research**





## But how ...

- **Theme 1 – economic security**
- **Theme 2 – ageing in the community**
- **Theme 3 – ageing well**
- **Theme 4 – population ageing research data needs**



## Work of the theme groups

- **cast of thousands ...**
- **day long session**
- **discuss, amend and evaluate research priorities**
- **identify options to make better use of existing resources**

<b>Theme Group 1: economic security</b> <b>Research topics for group i</b> <b>First round – identifying the priorities</b>				<b>2<sup>nd</sup> round assessment</b>			
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Research topic or area</b>	<b>What do we need to know and why?</b>	<b>Who needs to know this?</b>	<b>What are the implications of not having this information?</b>				
<b>The role of flexible work practices to retain older workers</b>	<i>Business will need increasingly rely on the skills of older workers</i>	<i>Govt agencies Employers Unions Older people</i>	<i>Skills shortage Wasted human capital</i>				



# evaluation criteria

## A IS THERE RESEARCH AVAILABLE

- 3 – NZ has specific knowledge needs and very little is being done anywhere that we know of
- 2 – International research has been completed, or underway, but may not address all of NZs specific needs
- 1 – International or NZ research completed, underway or planned

## B GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO KNOW

- 3 – significant issue for NZ and government urgently needs to know this to assist with decision making
- 2 – significant issue for NZ and government needs to know in medium term to assist with decision making
- 1 – either not significant OR not urgent

## C USEFUL FOR SECTOR

- 3 – very useful for many organisations/agencies working in the sector
- 2 – very useful for some organisations/agencies working in the sector
- 1 – either not as useful OR only very useful for a few

## D PRACTICALITY IN TODAY'S CONTEXT

- 3 – able to be undertaken within existing research resources (including expertise)
- 2 – able to be undertaken with minimal addition to existing research resources
- 1 – would require significant additional research resources

## 1 Workplace adaptations for an ageing population (economic security)

### Why

Older people will increasingly be engaged in paid employment, needed to meet labour and skills shortages.

Workplace adaptations will be required to support older workers.

The implications of not investigating these are decreased participation (less choice), lower job satisfaction and productivity, and increasing skill and labour shortages.

### Specific topics include:

1.1 What are the factors affecting the uptake of best practice in relation to an ageing workforce eg flexible working, technological adaptations, staged retirement.

1.2 What is the impact of prolonged workforce participation on society and the individual?

1.3 What influences the ability to make work choices at older ages – the barriers and enablers.

### Addresses

NZ Positive Ageing Strategy, goal 9

United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing – priority 1

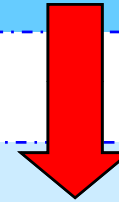
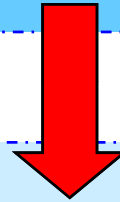
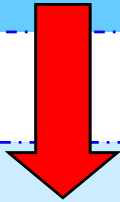
# NZ POPULATION AGEING RESEARCH AGENDA

## MAJOR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

**Economic security**

**Ageing in the  
community**

**Ageing well**



## CRITICAL RESEARCH AREAS

**-implications of ageing  
population for macro and  
regional economies**

**- material security in older  
age**

**- workplace adaptations**

**- workforce training and  
skills**

**- models of care and support**

**- workforce implications**

**- built environment**

**- elder abuse and neglect**

**- attitudes towards ageing**

**- family and social networks**

**- assistive technologies**

**- preventions and  
interventions for ageing  
well**

**- dementia and mental  
health**



# Underlying principles

- challenge homogeneity of older people
- empower older people – include their voices in research
- identify what is specific about NZ – adapting international research
- use existing information, datasets
- be mindful of quality of life – the goal is to improve/maintain wellbeing



## next steps ...

- finish write up
- draft to working group
- draft to theme group members
- final product
- dissemination by working group