



Serving the needs of older people

Diana Crossan
Retirement Commissioner
P O Box 12 148
WELLINGTON

18 August 2010

Dear Diana

First allow me to congratulate you on a very stimulating conference last month on Retirement Income Policy & Intergenerational Equity. The presenters certainly provided the audience with food for thought, and they no doubt also furnished the Commission with valuable material for the current review of Retirement Income Policy.

Age Concern New Zealand is particularly interested in the question of the adequacy of New Zealand Superannuation. We believe it should be set at a level that allows basic living costs to be met. As part of our April submission on the review, we sent the Commission a study by John Logan revealing the current level of New Zealand Superannuation to be insufficient to cover the most basic of living costs. This work seems to confirm some of the findings of the Commission's 2009 research on the spending patterns of retired people.

I would be very interested to know what you think of the points made by Mr Logan, whose paper I enclose again, and in particular to know whether the Commission considers the current level of New Zealand Superannuation to be adequate.

I wonder also whether you would consider including the Logan paper in the Commission's online research library?

I look forward to your response to these questions.

Yours sincerely

Liz Baxendine Q.S.O.
President, Age Concern New Zealand

Age Concern New Zealand Incorporated

Education House (West Block), Level 4. 178 Willis Street, Wellington, New Zealand **M** PO Box 10-688 Wellington 6143
T +64 4 801 9338 **F** +64 4 801 9336 **E** national.office@ageconcern.org.nz **W** www.ageconcern.org.nz