

# Abbeyfield National Conference 2026



October 30–31

St Stephens Church, 61 Tāhunanui Drive, Nelson

"Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua".

*Those in front give sight to those behind; those behind give life to those ahead*



# PROGRAMME

## FRIDAY 30

### 10:00AM

Arrival & Welcome Coffee

### 10:15AM

Welcome, health & safety and introductions  
*Abbeyfield NZ chair, Simon Hayes*

### 10:30 – 11:00 AM

Keynote Session – **Nicky McDonald, Director, Office for Seniors**  
Session content – to follow

### 11:00 – 11:20 AM

Group Discussions: loosely organised by topic – open for you to choose

*Operating Houses & Development Committees*

Employment: **When People Behave Badly**. In a workplace primarily of volunteers, managing the variety of personalities and behaviours can present some challenges. This session will discuss the organisation's right to set the standards, what options are available when those standards are not met, and practical tips on managing some of the more common disruptive behaviours. Presented by Kay Chapman, Chapman ER,

*Development Committees*

*Sharing Fundraising experiences (on-line presentation), House development*

### 11:20 – 11:40 AM

Group Discussions: loosely organised by topic – open for you to choose  
*Operating Houses - choose 1*

1. Employment: **When People Behave Badly**, repeat of session 1 above.

Presented by Kay Chapman, Chapman ER

2. R&M, Asset Management & Compliance

*Development Committees - choose 1*

1. New steering groups & early committees

2. House development

### 11:45 – 12:00 PM

Presentation of Life member award

*Abbeyfield NZ chair, Simon Hayes or Peter Smale*

### 12:00 – 01:30 PM

*1st Roll Call – House committees, societies & steering groups.*

### 01:30 – 01:15 PM

Light lunch (provided by Abbeyfield NZ)

### 01:15 – 01:45 PM

*2nd Roll Call – House committees, societies & steering groups.*

# PROGRAMME

## FRIDAY 30



**01:45 – 02:15 PM**

Keynote Session – **Jill Hawkey, Executive Director of the Christchurch Methodist Mission**

*NZ faces a growing housing crisis for older people. By 2050, demand for affordable rental housing for older renters is expected to reach 400,000 homes, three times current supply. In this session, Jill will explore the challenges driving this crisis and highlight practical solutions through the Doors to Dignity campaign. Drawing on her leadership of housing initiatives including Wesley Village and Whare Tiaki, Jill will share insights into creating safe, affordable, and dignified housing options for older New Zealanders.*



**02:15 – 03:30 PM**

3rd Roll Call – House committees, societies & steering groups.



**03:30 – 03:45 PM**

Tea and coffee break



**03:45 – 04:30 PM**

Site visit to Mata Close house – (2 groups, 3.45 & 4:00 pm.)

For those who don't take part in site visits there will be an opportunity to discuss issues one-on-one with board members, at the conference venue.



**04:30 PM**

Conference finish for day 1



**06:30 PM**

Dinner at Smugglers restaurant, 8 Muritai St, Tahunanui.  
2 course set menu.

# PROGRAMME SATURDAY 31



**09:00AM**

Arrival & Welcome Coffee



**09:15AM**

4th Roll Call – House committees, societies & steering groups.



**10:30 – 10:45 AM**

Tea & coffee break



**10:45 – 11:45 AM**

Big picture – Abbeyfield NZ, Abbeyfield Properties  
Graeme Roberts and Simon Hayes – roles and responsibilities – Abbeyfield NZ,  
APL, National Office  
(Alan Sommerville shares Dunedin experience)



**11:45 – 12:05 PM**

Group discussions loosely organized by topic – open for you to choose  
Operating Houses – choose 1

1. Health & Safety
2. When it's time to move into care
3. Xero
4. Grants and Funding do's and don'ts

Development committees  
Sustainable funding and growing your profile On-line webinar with Megan  
Thorn, Exult. (40 minutes)



**12:05 – 12:25 PM**

Group discussions loosely organized by topic – open for you to choose  
Operating Houses – choose 1

1. Health & Safety
2. Difficult Behaviors and Conflict
3. SharePoint
4. R&M, Asset Management & Compliance

Development committees  
Sustainable funding and growing your profile: On-line webinar with Megan  
Thorn, Exult. (Continues from 11:45 session)



**12:30 – 01:30 PM**

Light lunch (provided by Abbeyfield NZ)



**01:30 – 02:00 PM**

5th roll call – House committees, societies & steering groups.



**02:00 PM**

Any other business



**3:00 PM**

Conference close / tea and coffee break