

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
Simon Hayes, Chair, Abbeyfield NZ



10:30 – 11:00 AM

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



11:00 – 11:20 AM Session 1

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

1. 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, Director, Chapman ER

2. Sharepoint: With Brooke Hancey, Systems Development, National Office & Ruth Seabright, EO, National Office

Development Committees: Choose 1

1. Sharing Fundraising experiences: *Carole Gillions, Chair, Abbeyfield Alexandra*

2. House Development: *Graeme Roberts, Chair APL*



11:20 – 11:40 AM Session 2

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, Director, Chapman ER

2. R&M, Asset Management & Compliance, Steve Gray & Tom Clisby, APL

Development Committees – choose 1

1. New Steering Groups & Early Committees, David Burt, APL & Ruth Seabright, EO, National Office

2. House Development: *Graeme Roberts, Chair, APL*



11:45 – 12:00 PM

Presentation of Life member award
Simon Hayes, Chair, Abbeyfield NZ, or Peter Smale

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 30



12:00 – 12:30 PM

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



12:30 – 01:15 PM

Light lunch (provided by Abbeyfield NZ)



01:15 – 01:45 PM

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



01:45 – 02:15 PM

Keynote Session – **Jill Hawkey, Executive Director, 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 & Motueka Houses – (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, National Office
Graeme Roberts (APL) Simon Hayes (ABNZ) and Ruth Seabright (National Office) – roles and responsibilities.



11:45 – 12:05 PM Session 1

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

1. **Health & Safety:** Brooke Hancey, Systems Development, National Office & Ruth Seabright, EO, National Office
2. **When It's Time To Move Into Care:** Simon Hayes, Chair, Abbeyfield NZ, & Committee, Abbeyfield Wakatipu, Valda Reveley, Chair, Abbeyfield Waimakariri.
3. **Xero:** Sue Abraham, Financial Accountant Abbeyfield NZ
4. **Grants and Funding do's and don'ts:** Mary Sparrow, Committee, Abbeyfield Waimakariri & Fiona le Gros, Chair, Abbeyfield Waikato

Development committees – session 1 & 2, 40 mins

Sustainable funding and growing your profile Online webinar with Megan Thorn, Director, Exult. (40 minutes) Session rolls over into session 2.



12:05 – 12:25 PM Session 2

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

1. **Health & Safety:** Ruth Seabright, EO National Office
2. **Managing Conflict and Disruptive Behaviour in the House:** Carole Parker, Chair, Abbeyfield WBoP, ABNZ, APL
3. **SharePoint:** Brooke Hancey Systems Development, National Office
4. **R&M, Asset Management & Compliance:** Steve Gray, Director APL & Tom Clisby, Director, APL

Development committees

Sustainable funding and growing your profile: Online webinar with Megan Thorn, Director, Exult. (Session continues from session 1).

PROGRAMME SATURDAY 31



12:30 – 01:30 PM

Light lunch (provided by Abbeyfield NZ)



01:30 – 02:15 PM

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



02:15 PM

Any other business



3:00 PM

Conference close / tea and coffee break



With thanks to our local supporters

A heartfelt thank you to Chia Sisters and Connings for their generous support of our National Conference. Their kindness and generosity helped make our gathering extra special, and we're grateful to have the support of local businesses who believe in their community.

CONNINGS
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