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**
Ageing in New Zealand: what lies ahead?

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 (Main Hall)

2.***Sharepoint:*** With Brooke Hancey, Systems Development, National Office & Ruth Seabright, EO, National Office (Dining Room)

Development Committees: Choose 1

1.***Sharing Fundraising experiences:*** Carole Gillions, Chair, Abbeyfield Alexandra (Dining Room)

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 (Main Hall)

2. ***R&M, Asset Managment & Compliance,*** Steve Gray & Tom Clisby, APL (Dining Room)

Development Committees - choose 1

1. ***House Development*** *:Graeme Roberts, Chair, APL (Lower Room)*

11:45 – 12:00 PM

Presentation of Life member award - Peggy Balck
Simon Hayes, Chair, Abbeyfield NZ

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 Properties, Chair, Graeme Roberts.
Abbeyfield World Council - Abbeyfield Properties, Director, Terry Foster.

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 (Dining Room)

2. **When It's Time To Move Into Care**: Simon Hayes, Chair, Abbeyfield NZ, & Committee, Abbeyfield Wakatipu, Valda Reveley, Chair, Abbeyfield Waimakariri (Main Hall)

3. **Xero: Answers to questions you may have on using Xero reports**. Sue Abraham, Financial Accountant Abbeyfield NZ (Main Hall)

4. **Grants and Funding do's and don'ts**: Mary Sparrow, Committee, Abbeyfield Waimakariri & Fiona le Gros, Chair, Abbeyfield Waikato (Dining Room)

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. Limited Numbers 25 pax. (Lower Room)

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 (Dining Room)

2. **Managing Conflict and Disruptive Behaviour in the House:** Carole Parker, Chair, Abbeyfield WBoP, ABNZ, APL (Main Hall)

3. **SharePoint:** Brooke Hancey Systems Development, National Office (Main Hall)

4. **R&M, Asset Management & Compliance:** Steve Gray, Director APL & Tom Clisby, Director, APL (Dining Room)

Development committees
Sustainable funding and growing your profile: Online webinar with Megan Thorn, Director, Exult. (Session continues from session 1). Limited Numbers 25 pax. (lower Room)

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 Food Market

Chia Sisters