

## AT A GLANCE

<b>Established</b>	1993
<b>Retirement Commissioner</b>	Diana Crossan
<b>Executive Director</b>	David Kneebone
<b>Key Legislation</b>	NZ Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001 Retirement Villages Act 2003
<b>Status</b>	Autonomous Crown Entity
<b>Key Function</b>	Financial Literacy Retirement Income Research and Monitoring
<b>Other Functions</b>	Retirement Villages (monitoring)
<b>Staff</b>	Nine
<b>Reporting</b>	The Minister of Commerce The Minister for Building and Construction (responsible Minister for the Retirement Villages Act 2003)
<b>Crown Revenue 2011/12</b>	\$5,782,000

## OUR VISION

Financially sorted Kiwis

## OUR MISSION

Improve the financial wellbeing of all New Zealanders so that they are in the best possible financial state for their personal circumstances throughout life and in retirement.

## OUR GOALS FOR NEW ZEALAND

The goals we seek to achieve both through our own work, and through working with many other organisations, groups and individuals:

- *New Zealanders are better educated and motivated to make informed financial decisions throughout their lives*
- *New Zealand's retirement income policy is stable and effective*
- *New Zealanders have more trust in the financial services sector*
- *The legislative framework for retirement villages is effective in protecting residents, meets societal expectations and the sector is compliant with the Retirement Villages Act 2003*

## WHAT WE DO

The Commission takes a lifetime approach to educating and informing New Zealanders about managing personal finances. Our work, through education, information and encouragement, is vital to New Zealand's retirement income framework and in creating personal financial wellbeing for all Kiwis.

Monitoring issues contributing to the Government's retirement income policy is a significant part of our role, but our primary focus is on empowering Kiwis to make better decisions about their money throughout their lives, so that when they reach retirement they are in the best possible financial position.

## HOW WE DO IT

There are three goals that we seek to achieve both through our own work, and through working with many other organisations, groups and individuals towards our shared goals.

- *Being financially sorted becomes a normal part of Kiwis' everyday lives.*
- *Actively supporting the development of a trustworthy financial services sector.*
- *Contributing to stable and effective government retirement income policy.*

Our main activities include:

- Motivating Kiwis from 5 to 105 to manage their personal finances throughout life by providing free, independent and impartial information. An integral part of this activity is our Sorted programme. Since its launch ten years ago, over 34% of New Zealanders have used the Sorted website, booklets and seminars.
- Driving the National Strategy for Financial Literacy which is supported by many individuals and organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors, and co-ordinating a network of financial literacy providers and sponsors.
- Collecting research on, and analysis of, retirement planning behaviour and attitudes that aid development of national policies impacting on retirement income.
- Carrying out a three-yearly review of retirement income policy.
- A minor monitoring role under the Retirement Villages Act.

## KEY PRIORITIES

As well as focussing on the Commission's three key goals there have been a number of key contributing factors, from within New Zealand and around the world, which have set the Commission's immediate priorities e.g. the continuing effects of the economic crisis, the effects of the devastating Christchurch earthquakes and an ageing population.

### **1. Being financially sorted becomes a normal part of Kiwis' everyday lives**

- 1.1. Further development of the National Strategy for Financial Literacy five-year action plan.
- 1.2. Further development of the Commission's Māori Strategy for Financial Literacy five-year action plan.

- 1.3. Benchmark financial behaviour survey.
- 1.4. Major research on the economic impact of financial education.
- 1.5. Encourage and support the development of quality financial education resources in schools and professional development for teachers.
- 1.6. Support the financial literacy component of the 2012 and 2015 International Student Assessment (PISA).
- 1.7. Development of a sustainable and co-ordinated strategy to ensure that older Kiwis and their families have greater access to free, independent and impartial information and resources to help them manage their money.
- 1.8. Redevelopment of the Sorted website which will be more user-friendly, more cost-effective to maintain, and will offer people a more engaging and motivating experience.
- 1.9. Encouraging Kiwis to take action will be the focus of all future Sorted communications. The foundation of our marketing activity will be the three guiding concepts (think/plan, shrink/manage debt, and grow/save).
- 1.10. A revised workplace financial education strategy motivating more employers to introduce financial education to the workplace.

## **2. Actively supporting the development of a trustworthy financial services sector**

- 2.1. Investor education programme in conjunction with the Financial Markets Authority and key finance stakeholders.
- 2.2. Financial education programme for the Mixed Ownership Model of Crown Assets.
- 2.3. Working with the finance sector and other government agencies to improve product disclosure and provide clear comparable information on KiwiSaver.

## **3. Contributing to stable and effective government retirement income policy**

- 3.1 Major research on factors influencing women's future retirement income.
- 3.2 Input into KiwiSaver Evaluation.
- 3.3 Establishing priorities for the 2013 Review of Retirement Income Policy.