



INTEGRATION
OF IMMIGRANTS
PROGRAMME

2007 – 2012

Place in Ageing: The Housing Experiences of Older Chinese Immigrants in New Zealand

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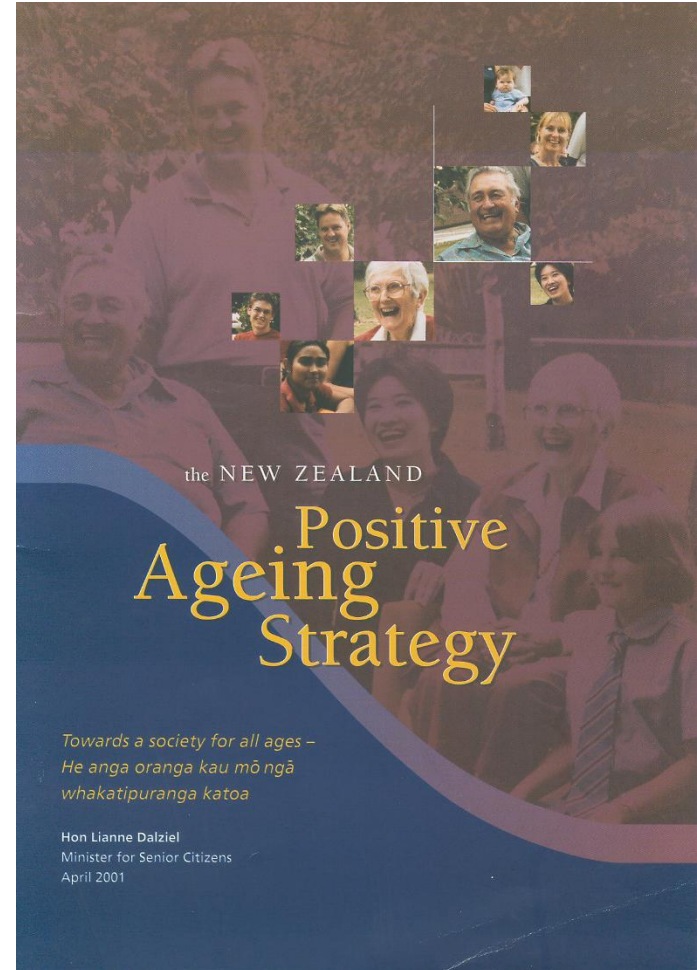
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Outline

- Ageing in Place
 - ❖ Place and ageing
 - ❖ Migration and place
- The Chinese case study
 - ❖ Reasons for coming to NZ
 - ❖ Housing trajectories since arrival
- Discussion
 - ❖ Role of older people in migrant families
 - ❖ Attachment to place/sense of belonging

Ageing in Place

- In NZ, ageing in place refers to “people’s ability to make choices in later life about where to live, and receive the support to do so” (Ministry of Social Policy, 2001, p.10)
- It was identified as a priority goal in the *NZ Positive Ageing Strategy (2001)*



Place and ageing

- The significance of 'Place' in ageing

Elderly people, including those in need of care and support should, wherever possible, be enabled to continue living in their own homes, and where this is not possible, they should be enabled to live in a sheltered and supportive environment which is as close to their community as possible, in both the social and the geographical sense (OECD, 1994, p.3)

Migration and Place

- Why do people move to a new country in later life?

2006 Census	N	%
People aged 65+ born overseas, resident overseas in 2001	8,841	100
Chinese	1,719	19
Indian	990	11
Korean	228	3
Total Asian	3,396	38

Participants

Older Chinese migrants from 20 households

- Age (in 2008): 62-77 years; Mean = 70
- Years in NZ (in 2008): 3-12 years; Mean = 8
- Years of children's residence in NZ when they arrived: 2-5 years
- Pre-migration home ownership: 100%

Reasons for coming to NZ

- Filial Piety investment: 75%

We look after our grandchildren now, and our children will in turn look after us when we are very old

- Filial piety demonstration: 25%

Our children invited us to NZ to enjoy a new lifestyle and retirement

Their housing trajectories

- Number of moves after migration
- Why they moved
- Changes in living arrangements

Were they relatively permanently settled?

No. of moves from arrival to 2010	66	100%
In the first five years	48	73%
After 5 years	18	27%

More than 80% of older New Zealanders did not move in the past 5 years (van de Pas, 2009)

Why they moved

Reasons for moving	Number	Percent
Children's career relocation/ development	25	36
Housing improvement	18	26
Change in family composition	9	13
Intergenerational issues	8	12
Health concerns	5	7
Filial harmony	4	6
Total	69	100

Intergenerational relationship issues

- Different lifestyles

We older people love to eat Chinese noodles for our breakfast. Our children and grandchildren like cornflakes. We like Chinese vegetables. They like chicken, beef steaks and sausages.

- Financial issues

we've got benefits from the Government. The money is given to us by the Government. It's not our daughter's money. However, our daughter manages our money because we are unable to deal with English documents. Our money is mainly used to help her in paying her mortgage. Yes, we are willing to help her. But...umm... Who doesn't want to be financially independent? Who doesn't want to have freedom to spend his or her own money?

Intergenerational relationship issues

- Western parenting vs. Chinese grandparenting

Our daughter and son-in-law have different directions which confuse our grandson. They often provided opposing ideas to our grandson. They told me that they were offering options to our grandson so that he could make his own decisions. But I don't agree with the somewhat Westernised way in which they raise our grandson. But I try not to say anything about their parenting.

Current living arrangements

	Number	Percent
Parent-child co-residence	5	25
<i>In NZ</i>	3	10
<i>Overseas</i>	2	15
Parent & child living apart	15	75
<i>In NZ</i>	6	30
<i>Parent in NZ; Child overseas</i>	7	35
<i>Overseas</i>	2	10
Total	20	100

Discussion

- Older people an important family resource
 - ❖ Look after grandchildren & transmit the Chinese culture onto the next generation
 - ❖ Assist with domestic chores to enable adult children to establish themselves in the new country
 - ❖ Look after children's investment properties and tenants

Discussion

- Challenges after relocation
 - ❖ Issues with co-residency
 - ❖ Different life cycles between older people and their adult children
 - ❖ Place attachment / support networks
 - ❖ Health / superannuation / aged care
 - ❖ Fear of being a burden / filial harmony
- Triple H: Housing, health, harmony



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