

# **The new media and Chinese migrant netizens**

## **Wellbeing of Elderly Chinese Immigrants**

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**Oct. 2012**

- Existing research

- My findings:

Internet use contributes to their wellbeing by providing:

- **An enriched daily life**
- **Strengthened social relationships**
- **A newly-built independence**

# Qualitative data

- **35** Semi-structured, in-depth interviews
- ***Nineteen (>50%)*** use the computer and the internet.
  - **9 males** (average age 73); **10 females** (average age 66).
  - The length of staying in New Zealand: **4 - 24 years**.
  - **16 tertiary education**; 3 high school graduates.

# An Enriched Daily Life

- ❑ A *tool* or *strategy* to improve quality of life
- ❑ Escaping from the *boredom* and *isolation*.

“Having just arrived here *with nothing to do*, I stayed at home, *feeling bored*. So I *started to learn* to use the computer. I *asked my son to teach me* how to use the internet, and how to send emails.”

- ❑ Richer information → *Alternative* means of pleasure.
- ❑ A *personalized* media experience → more freedom and stronger autonomy

“I *don't like watching TV*. I feel it's of little value.... In the past, I didn't know how to use the internet. I could only watch whatever they showed on TV. Now, *from the Internet, I can choose to watch whatever I want*. It's much better for me. I need the quality.”

- The **combination** of using the internet and traditional media contributes to a richer daily life.

*“I can't live in New Zealand without a computer. If I didn't know how to use it, my quality of life would drop significantly.”*



# Strengthened Social Relationships

## Communication with family members

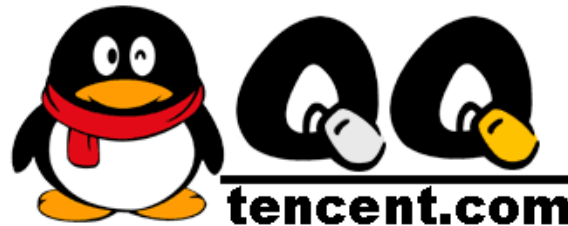
- **Instant Messaging platforms**

## Communication with friends

- **Emails**

# Communication with family members

- ❑ “Face-to-face” chat
- ❑ Share emotional care with adult children & very old parents
- ❑ A sense of intimacy and comfort





# Communication with friends

## □ “Electronic gatherings”



□ A sense of *fulfilment* and *pride*

“I can see a lot of interesting information and [China-related] news from New Zealand, which cannot be found in China [because of the censorship of the internet]. So I send the information to my old friends through emails. **This makes us very happy.** I can read many things that my [Chinese] friends can’t access.”

# A Newly-Built Independence

☐ Facilitates *day-to-day living*

e.g. “seeking rental accommodation”, “acquiring information about public transport”, “using public library services” and “obtaining information about community activities”.

- Lessens *English language difficulties*  
e.g. “looking for the meanings of English words”,  
“online translation services”.

“Here, you *can’t rely on your children* for everything, you must *have your autonomy*. I’m getting old, and there are always things I want to do but unable to deal with, especially the difficulties of the English language. But *I always try my best to find out solutions on the computer before asking for help.*”

# Summary

The internet enables:

- An enriched daily life
- Strengthened social relationships
- A newly-built independence

Contribute to:

wellbeing and good quality of life.

*Thank you!*

## The new media and Chinese migrant netizens



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