

Date: 6 July 2005

Security Level: **UNCLASSIFIED**

Report to: Minister for Senior Citizens

## Background notes for address to Manawatu Grey Power 15 July 2005

### Executive Summary

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- 1 You have agreed to speak to Grey Power Manawatu branch in Palmerston North on 15 July 2005.
- 2 You have asked the Office for Senior Citizens to provide you with background notes for your address. This report supplies you with that information.

### Recommended Actions

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#### We recommend that you:

- 1 **note** the information for your address.

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Natalie Lavery  
Director  
Office for Senior Citizens

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Date

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Hon Ruth Dyson  
Minister for Senior Citizens

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Date

## **Purpose of the Report**

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- 1 You have been invited to speak at the Manawatu Grey Power branch in Palmerston North on 15 July 2005 from 2 pm until 3: 30. The Office for Senior Citizens has provided you with information that will assist you in your address.

## **Background**

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- 2 The venue for your address is the Freemasons Masonic Centre Hall, 168 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North.
- 3 You have agreed to speak for 15 to 20 minutes, followed by questions from the floor.
- 4 Approximately 130 people are expected to attend.

## **Information provided in this report**

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- 5 Grey Power Manawatu branch has asked you to address the following issues affecting older people
  - ☐ level of New Zealand Superannuation and income
  - ☐ health
  - ☐ older driver licensing for people 80 years and older
  - ☐ Rates Rebate Scheme
- 6 You have also been asked to address concerns on safety and law and order. This information has been provided to your office from the office of Hon Phil Goff.

## **Level of New Zealand Superannuation and income**

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- 7 Following the 1999 General Election, the Labour coalition Government raised the wage floor for married couples from 60% to 65% of the average wage. This reversed a decision of the previous government.
- 8 The New Zealand Superannuation Act of 2001 enshrines the following NZS related entitlements in legislation:
  - ☐ New Zealand Superannuation is provided at 65 years of age
  - ☐ It is not income or asset tested (the exception being an income test when a non-qualified spouse is included in the payment)
  - ☐ the net married couple rate of NZS cannot be lower than 65% or higher than 72.5% of the average ordinary time weekly wage (AOTWW)
  - ☐ a single superannuitant sharing accommodation receives NZS at a rate not lower than 60% of the net married couple rate; a single superannuitant living alone receives NZS at a rate not lower than 65% of the married couple rate.