The 2020 New Zealand Health, Work and Retirement study

INFORMATION SHEET (v A3.0)

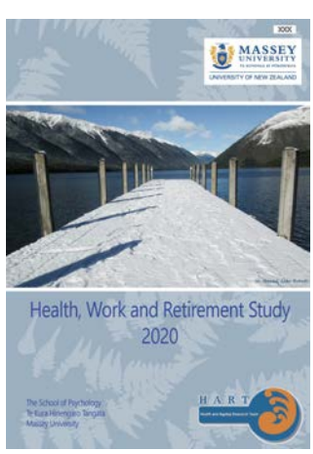
Professor Christine Stephens (left) and Professor Fiona Alpass (right)

What is the New Zealand Health, Work and Retirement study?

The Health, Work and Retirement study is a study of people aged 55 years and over who are living in New Zealand. The study provides information on issues such as health, work and retirement, which are relevant for research and policy now and into the future. Through this research, New Zealanders can share their experiences of ageing and inform national and international discussions.

The Health, Work and Retirement study began in 2006 and is run by Massey University's Health and Ageing Research Team (HART). The study is led by Professor Christine Stephens and Professor Fiona Alpass from the School of Psychology. To date, over 14,000 New Zealand residents aged 55 and over have been surveyed.

Why have I been contacted?



As one of our valued past participants, we are inviting you to participate again, as we would like people who have filled out a survey before to complete this new survey. You will be providing important information regarding changes, or lack of change, in your circumstances over time. Collecting this information over time is what makes the Health, Work and Retirement study so valuable for understanding ageing. As a token of appreciation, everyone who returns the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win one of four $50 supermarket vouchers. The first prize will be drawn in October 2020, and every six months until all prizes are allocated.

New project: wellbeing following accident and injury

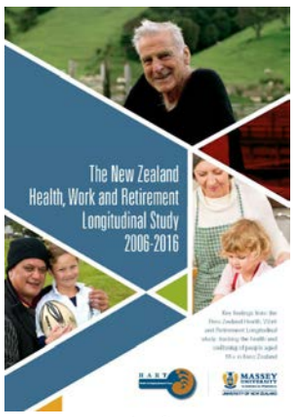
This year the study will begin a new project to link data from the Health, Work and Retirement study to accident, injury and related health data held by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). Both the survey answers and the linked health data will be de-identified. This means that no individual can be identified using these data. Your consent to participate in the ACC data linkage project would allow the research team to answer a number of important health questions that could not be addressed by either a survey or ACC data alone.

For those who provide written consent to participate in this new component of the project, we will provide ACC with your name, address, and date of birth. This information will be used by the

ACC to identify the correct records. The research team will contact ACC periodically to update these records. You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the HART free phone number **(0800 100 134)** or email the team, hart@massey.ac.nz.

Will my data remain secure and confidential?

All information provided is completely confidential and will be used only for the purposes of health research by approved researchers. It will not be possible to identify individuals in any dataset, or any report or publication from the study. We use a unique ID code printed on the top right-hand corner of the survey booklet to identify who has returned the survey. The research team also uses ID codes to link responses to surveys returned from the same participant over time. Survey responses are always stored securely and separately from your name and address details.



A report on the first ten years of the study is available on the HART website

To ensure that ACC data remain confidential, a confidential data-transference and merging process is used. You can rest assured that:

- Once your ACC records are found and extracted by the ACC, your name will be replaced with a unique ID number.
- This de-identified data will be encrypted and sent via registered courier to the Health and Ageing Research Team (HART) at Massey University. The key to unlock the encrypted dataset will be sent separately via secured email directly to the HART.
- The HART will merge this information with other data provided by you, using your unique ID number. This ensures that your name will always be stored separately to your data, and that both your study data and ACC data are unable to be directly linked to your name, except by the HART Research Officer as required for study administration purposes.
- The ACC will never have access to your data stored at Massey University.

What do I need to do?

Participation in the Health, Work and Retirement survey involves filling out the enclosed survey and returning it. This should take about 45 minutes. Please sign the enclosed consent form if you would also like to participate in the new project on wellbeing following accident and injury and are willing for the research team to obtain your records from ACC. You can return the survey and consent form in the freepost envelope supplied. Even if you do not consent to data linkage, you can complete the survey and return it to us. Participating in either part of the study is entirely voluntary.

What are my rights as a participant in this study?

If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- Decline to answer any particular question;
- Ask any questions about the study or withdraw from the project at any time by calling the HART contact number (**0800 100 134**) or emailing the team at hart@massey.ac.nz;
- Know that the information will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for health research;
- Know that reports and publications from this study will not identify any individual taking part.

Research Officer Ms Vicki Beagley

Who can I contact if I have further questions about this study?

You can contact the Health and Ageing Research Team researchers any time on the free-phone number (**0800 100 134**) or you can email a question to hart@massey.ac.nz. This will put you directly in contact with Ms Vicki Beagley who will send your request to the appropriate team member.

We have a website with information for those participating or interested in the study. This site includes a description of the study, together with answers to frequently asked questions. Summary reports of the study findings are available on the website and copies can be mailed to participants on request. You can access this website at: hart.massey.ac.nz/

Statement of Ethical Approval

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Southern A, Application 20/07. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research, please contact Dr Negar Partow, Chair, Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Southern A, telephone 04 801 5799 x 63363, email humanethicsoutha@massey.ac.nz

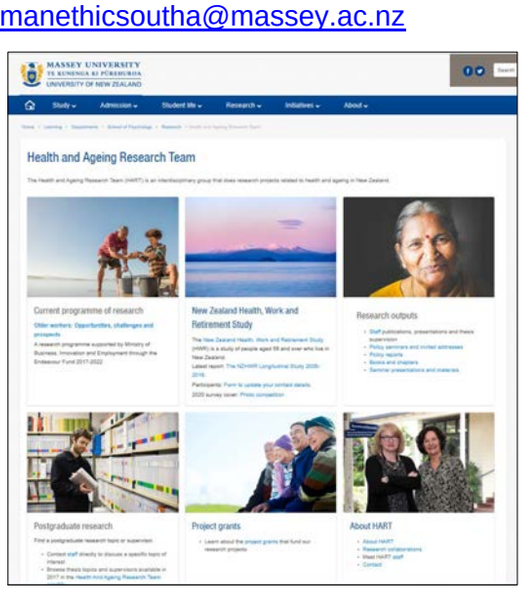
Thank you!

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this invitation and we welcome your participation in the New Zealand Health, Work and Retirement study. Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information or would like to ask any questions about this project.

Free-phone 0800 100 134

Email hart@massey.ac.nz

Website hart.massey.ac.nz/



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