

Health Services Research Centre
School of Government

Being a Grandparent in New Zealand today

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Tuesday, 1 December, 12.30 - 1.30pm
RHLT3, Lecture Theatre 3, Rutherford House
Pipitea Campus, Victoria University, Wellington

Grandparents' involvement in grandchildren's lives runs across a continuum –ranging from grandparents who have no contact at all with their grandchildren (not always by choice) to grandparents who are raising grandchildren full-time. There are significant differences and varieties in grandparent:grandchild relationships, influenced by factors such as gender, age, health, nature and duration of the relationship, cultural expectations, changes in household composition (at both parent and grandparent levels), and family dynamics.

This presentation will share what we have learned from a quantitative telephone survey of over 1,000 grandparents and a series of 9 focus groups, focusing on the following areas:

- What are the main pleasures and pressures for grandparents in New Zealand?
- How do grandparents balance their own needs and interests with caring and family responsibilities?
- What support and information do grandparents need in order to do so?
- Which groups of grandparents are likely to require more support?
- Cultural influences and expectations of grandparents

A research report will be published early in 2010. Drawing on the research results, the Families Commission intends to advocate for grandparents so that they are well-supported in balancing their grandparenting roles with other aspects of their lives.

Feel free to bring your lunch – our seminars are informal
You are welcome to bring your colleagues
RSVPs are not required and there is no charge

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