

Understanding Older People's Home
Repairs Practices: The Home
Maintenance Survey 2004

National Reference Group
Presentation 2008

The Home Maintenance Survey

- Done by CRESA in 2004
- A phone survey of 611 owner-occupiers
- Included 163 people aged 65+
- Living in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch
- This survey looked at what repairs had been done in the 12 months previously and any intended maintenance

Perceived Condition of Dwellings of Older People:

- They were confident about the safety and condition of their house
 - They were more likely than other age groups to describe their house as 'excellent'
- But almost one third said the condition of their house had deteriorated over the period of their ownership

Repairs and Maintenance Activities

- 42% of older people had done some repairs and maintenance
- This was mostly to:
 - Outside walls
 - Windows
 - Roof
- Most used tradesmen
- Older people were less likely than other age groups to do the work themselves

Expenditure on Home Repairs

- 59% of older people had no expenditure in the 12 months prior to the survey
- One fifth had spent up to \$650
- 52% intended to spend \$650 or less in the coming 12 months (including nothing)
- Older peoples' spending intentions were lower than the spending intentions of other age groups

Deferring Repairs

- One third of older people said they had delayed doing repairs in the last 12 months
- The main reason was expense
- There is no statistically significant relationship between income and likelihood of repairs deferral
- Deferring repairs was statistically significantly associated with age

Knowledge and Skills

- Older people were less confident about their ability to assess the condition of their house and repair needs – this could have affected their ability to ensure repairs were done
- Older women were less confident; they relied a lot on family, friends and tradesmen