Terms of Reference for the 2016 Review of Retirement Income Policies

Aspects of retirement income policies the review must address and the topics to be discussed in the Retirement Commissioner’s 2016 report:

1. An update and commentary on the developments and emerging trends in retirement income policy since the 2013 review, both within New Zealand and internationally.

2. The impact of current retirement income policies on current and future generations, with due consideration given to the fiscal sustainability of current New Zealand Superannuation settings.

3. Trends and developments in KiwiSaver and private savings schemes for retirement, including:
   a. The impact of policy settings (such as employer contributions, default contribution rates, early withdrawal and the inability to belong to more than one scheme) on KiwiSaver participation and contributions; and
   b. Any gaps in KiwiSaver participation information and how data reporting could be improved.

4. With respect to all private savings (including KiwiSaver): Decumulation and how retirees manage their assets along with risk and return during their retired lifetime including:
   a. Withdrawal patterns;
   b. The development and use of annuity and equity release products; and
   c. The impact of a low interest rate environment on retiree asset management.

5. New Zealand’s aging workforce and the challenges of the changes to the norms of retirement.

6. An assessment of financially vulnerable groups in retirement and the effectiveness of current retirement income policies for them.