

Intergenerational  
AOTEAROA

# Whānau Comes First

## INTERGENERATIONAL PRECINCTS AND THE LONGEVITY ECONOMY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report captures the insights from a Winston Churchill Fellowship exploring culturally grounded dementia care and intergenerational living models. My research began with the voices of whānau before evolving into a global inquiry into how we can design communities that honour aging, strengthen whānau, and unlock the potential of the longevity economy. What I learned has led to a strategic vision for Aotearoa where aging is not a burden, but a generational opportunity for innovation, equity, and wellbeing.

#### Origins of my inquiry

This journey began sharing heartfelt kōrero with whānau caring for loved ones with Mate Wareware (dementia). Their stories and testimony revealed both the strength of whānau-led care and the systemic gaps that undermine it. As Pou Tū Kūrae, Chief Executive of Tui Ora, I was compelled to ask:

- What does dignified, culturally responsive dementia care look like?
- How can we design communities where support is embedded, not outsourced?
- What if whānau were recognised as co-designers and contributors to care?

Encouraged by whānau and grounded in Te Ao Māori, I embarked on a global exploration of dementia villages, intergenerational housing, and inclusive care models.





## Te Ao Māori and Population Health Lens

My approach was guided by a dual lens:

**Te Ao Māori:** A worldview that sees individuals as part of a living system of whakapapa, whenua, and wairua.

- Whakapapa shaped the inquiry into intergenerational responsibility.
- Whanaungatanga informed relational engagement with global leaders, thinkers and communities.
- Kaitiakitanga guided reflections on environmental and social sustainability.

**Population Health:** A systems-level approach that considers the social, cultural, and economic determinants of wellbeing across generations.

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***Mate Wareware is not only a clinical condition – it is a collective challenge that calls for whānau-centred, culturally embedded solutions.***

## Intergenerational Living: Benefits Across the Life Course

My research found that intergenerational living models reduce isolation, improve health outcomes, and strengthen social cohesion by fostering trust, belonging, and shared purpose across generations and cultures. They also exemplify intergenerational fairness – the equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities across generations.

Intergenerational living models provide:

- Stable housing, mentoring, cultural identity, emotional support for children and young people.
- Affordable housing, leadership opportunities, employment pathways, cultural connection for young adults and rangatāhi Māori
- Shared caregiving, reduced stress, flexible housing, integrated services for whānau and the workforce.
- Dignified aging in place, cultural care, opportunities to contribute, access to health services for older adults and kaumātua

They also unlock the economic and social opportunities created by an aging population.

Rather than viewing older adults as dependents, a **longevity economy** recognises them as active contributors to society – as workers, caregivers, volunteers, consumers, and cultural anchors.



## Global Inspiration, Local Implementation

My experiences visiting intergenerational housing models highlighted that aging populations are a resource, not a liability.

They demonstrated real opportunity for Aotearoa to:

- foster inclusion, sustainability, and intergenerational connection through community spaces.
- address housing issues by integrating culturally responsive dementia housing with social and affordable housing.
- improve accessibility to medical care and other support services such as early learning centres.
- embrace culturally responsive care to improve whānau wellbeing.
- provide opportunities for learning and employment for young people.
- enable whānau to stay connected when caring for someone with Mate Wareware
- reduce pressure on public services such as health, elderly care, and housing.

## Intergenerational Practice: Getting hands on

During my Fellowship, I had the privilege of participating in the AHN Intergenerational training programme at Apples and Honey Nightingale in London – a pioneering model that co-locates a nursery with a residential aged care facility. This immersive experience gave me a much deeper understanding of the tangible benefits of intergenerational living and programming.

The programme highlighted that intergenerational living goes past just simple co-location with intentional design and relational practice. Staff and volunteers facilitated interactions that were culturally sensitive, emotionally enriching, and developmentally appropriate. The environment was structured to support autonomy, dignity, and joy for all participants.







## CONCLUSION

### Designing a Future of Connection and Care

The future of thriving communities lies in how we care for one another across generations. Intergenerational precincts, where housing, care, learning, and connection are woven into the same urban fabric, offer a transformative response to the challenges and opportunities of the longevity economy.

They also not only provide practical solutions for the deep-seated social challenges we face as a country but create spaces where culture is celebrated, care is reciprocal, and aging is embraced as a natural, dignified part of the human journey.

In placing whānau first, we design a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and full of possibility.

### Next Steps

Distribution of the findings and strategic vision contained in this report will be actioned during October;

- Presentation event being held in Taranaki.

- Release of extended report – digital and hard copy
- Launch of Intergenerational Aotearoa website – content to include case studies, personal accounts and observations, global links

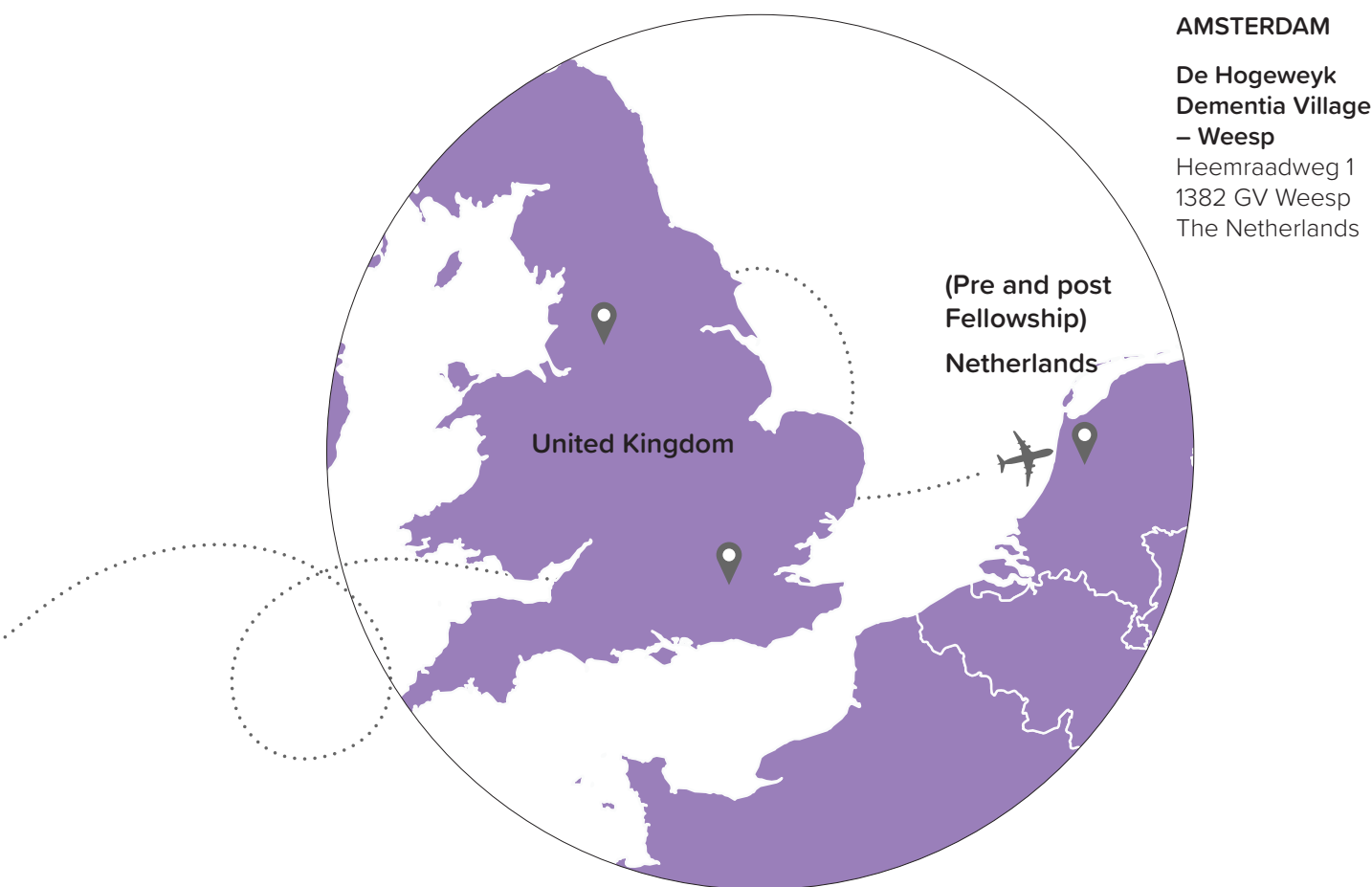
Extending existing global networks to Aotearoa will build support and socialise the Intergenerational Aotearoa vision:

- Global network connections are already established and active, including membership in Gen-All in the UK
- LinkedIn and Social Media platforms are promoting findings and recommendations.
- An engagement strategy with a wide stakeholder group is under way.

Turning a vision into reality:

- Feasibility study applications for development of Intergenerational Precincts, policy and design are in progress
- Exploration of an Intergenerational Fairness Taskforce in the early stages

## APPENDIX 1 – LOCATIONS VISITED



### MANCHESTER, UK

**Limelight – Old Trafford**

1 St. Brides Way, Manchester, M16 9NW, UK

**Belong Morris Feinmann Village – Didsbury**

178 Palatine Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2UW, UK

**The Byrons Extra Care Scheme – Blackley**

Bank House Road, Higher Blackley, Manchester, M9 8LT, UK

**Shore Green – Irwell Valley Homes**

67 Kennett Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M23 2XG, UK

### LONDON, UK

**Melfield Gardens – Lewisham**

17–32 Melfield Gardens, London SE6 3AH, UK

**Nightingale House & Apples and Honey Nightingale – Clapham**

105 Nightingale Lane

**Sparkletogether – Wandsworth**

Various community centres

**The Brunswick Centre – Bloomsbury**

Brunswick Centre, Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury

### BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

**Deicke Richards Architects – Brisbane Office**

58 Baxter Street, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS) Brisbane**

55 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba

