

Media Statement
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More kiwis sorting their personal finances

The number of New Zealanders seeking information about how to manage their personal finances, and be better prepared for retirement, is increasing, Retirement Commissioner Diana Crossan announced today.

The findings are from the Commission's Annual Report, which is tabled in Parliament today.

In the last 12 months there have been 488,000 unique visits, a 100 per cent improvement on the year before, to the Retirement Commission's Sorted website, which helps New Zealanders work out how to get in control of their personal finances, to be better prepared for retirement.

The Retirement Commission's research also shows New Zealanders of all ages are seeking information about their personal finances, from as young as fifteen right through to people already in retirement.

"It is heartening to see more New Zealanders than ever are seeking information on how to manage their money, and become better prepared for their retirement," said Ms Crossan.

The Retirement Commissioner believes the increase in the number of New Zealanders actively seeking information is due to the Commission's innovative approach to reach New Zealanders with the 'get sorted' message.

"Over the last year we have taken a more tailored approach by developing specific programmes for New Zealanders of different ages and situations. We have developed sections for students, parents, children, and those contemplating retirement.

"This has been hugely successful, as people are obtaining information relevant to them in their situation," said Ms Crossan.

"Monthly visits to Sorted, over the last year have doubled to more than 40,000 unique visits per month, and in June, we celebrated one million unique visits to Sorted."

"This year we added two important programmes to Sorted, *Kids & Money* and *60plus*. The colourful design of this year's Annual Report is illustrated by the images from these two programmes. Both have been successful, with over 250,000 games played on the *Kids & Money*, and well over 4,000 calculations completed on the *60plus* section," said Ms Crossan.

"We also strengthened our commitment to research this year by launching our Retirement Income Research Centre housed at www.retirement.org.nz. This focuses on retirement income policy issues and encourages the sharing and commissioning of research to contribute to policy development and monitoring. It also promotes new articles, research, upcoming symposia and guest speakers. Downloads and links to relevant graphs, statistics and models are available online," said Ms Crossan.

The Retirement Commission's Annual Report is tabled in Parliament today. For a copy of the Annual Report, visit www.retirement.org.nz.

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