

Retirement history “essential reading”

14 February 2001

Anyone who wants to better understand the current superannuation debate should read *Retirement Income in New Zealand: the historical context*, according to Retirement Commissioner Colin Blair.

It is an authoritative document for anyone seeking independent background information on retirement income, especially those who advise or comment on retirement policy issues. The new edition updates the first published in May 1999 – incorporating information on the developments and policy changes since that time.

“We have combined a wide range of information from a variety of sources and put it all together in an accessible and easy-to-understand way. As well as explaining the history of retirement income policies in New Zealand the publication also identifies the main policy options for adjusting to a rising proportion of elderly people in the population,” he said.

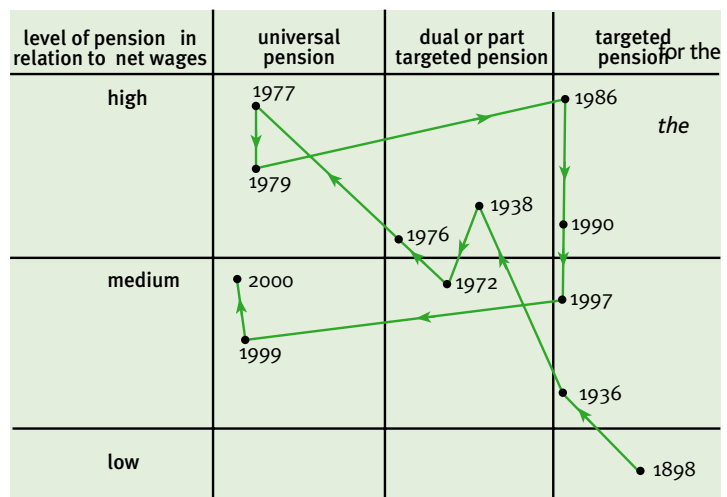
New information provided includes:

- Policy changes since 1999, including the current status of the New Zealand Superannuation Bill;
- Updated statistics including:
- Extracts from the Government Actuary Report 2000
- Sources of income of older New Zealanders
- Population statistics and projections
- Income distribution figures.

Copies of *Retirement Income in New Zealand: the historical context* are available from the Office of the Retirement Commissioner.

Graph showing changes in New Zealand Superannuation Policy period 1898 – 2000. From *Retirement Income in New Zealand: the historical context*.

New Zealand’s Public Pension System, 1898 – 2000



This chart is a stylised representation of the changes in New Zealand's tax-funded public pension in the period 1898 to 2000. In the period 1898 to 1977 the New Zealand pension evolution showed a zig-zag movement from low rate, highly targeted public pensions to high rate universal pensions. Since then, the changes have involved a move back from the 1977 position.

For further information:

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