

A solution-based approach to sanitary and personal protective equipment waste from rest homes in Aotearoa.

THE BIG PICTURE

- Up to 30% of aged care landfill contributions are adult sanitary products.¹ Little research or conversation has been centred on a shift from single-use products in this sector.
- In Aotearoa, the population aged 65 years and over is expected to reach 1 million by 2028.²
- Covid-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) is vital in residential care but poses a risk to environmental pressures created by landfills.
- Waste systems in Aotearoa must decolonise to both honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and protect Papatūānuku.

Residential Home AHP (Absorbent Hygiene Product) product preference.⁴



WHAT NEXT?

- Early exercise intervention programmes for older adults.
- Resourcing residential care facilities so reusable incontinence products can be used at capacity.
- Decreasing stigma around incontinence and creating holistic systems that ensure dignity is withheld.
- Hierarchy tool adapted for other system change (such as PPE waste).

METHODS

Explanatory sequential mixed method process.³

Literature Review

Data collection

- Waste audit data
- Product purchase data
- Laundry service data

Interviews

- Residential care facility sustainability advisors (caring for over 25,000 residents across Aotearoa) (x2)
- Industry representatives (x4)

Sanitary Waste Minimisation Hierarchy.⁵



Framework developed during summer research period.

REFERENCES

1. Data provided from an Aotearoa rest home waste audit.
2. NZ S. One million people aged 65+ by 2028 2022 [Available from: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/one-million-people-aged-65-by-2028/>].
3. Ivankova NV, Creswell JW, Stick SL. Using Mixed-Methods Sequential Explanatory Design: From Theory to Practice. *Field Methods*. 2006;18(1):3-20.
4. AHP (Absorbent Hygiene Product) product preference. Provided by a multi-site aged care facility in Aotearoa.
5. Adapted from Papargyropoulou E, Lozano R, Steinberger JK, Wright N, bin Ujang Z. The food waste hierarchy as a framework for the management of food surplus and food waste. *Journal of cleaner production*. 2014;76:106-15.

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