

**Population futures in an uncertain world**  
The changing faces of Aotearoa New Zealand

## **Critical Issues for Population in Aotearoa**

# **Policy implications of an ageing population**

**Susan St John**

Honorary Associate Professor, University of Auckland.

August 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

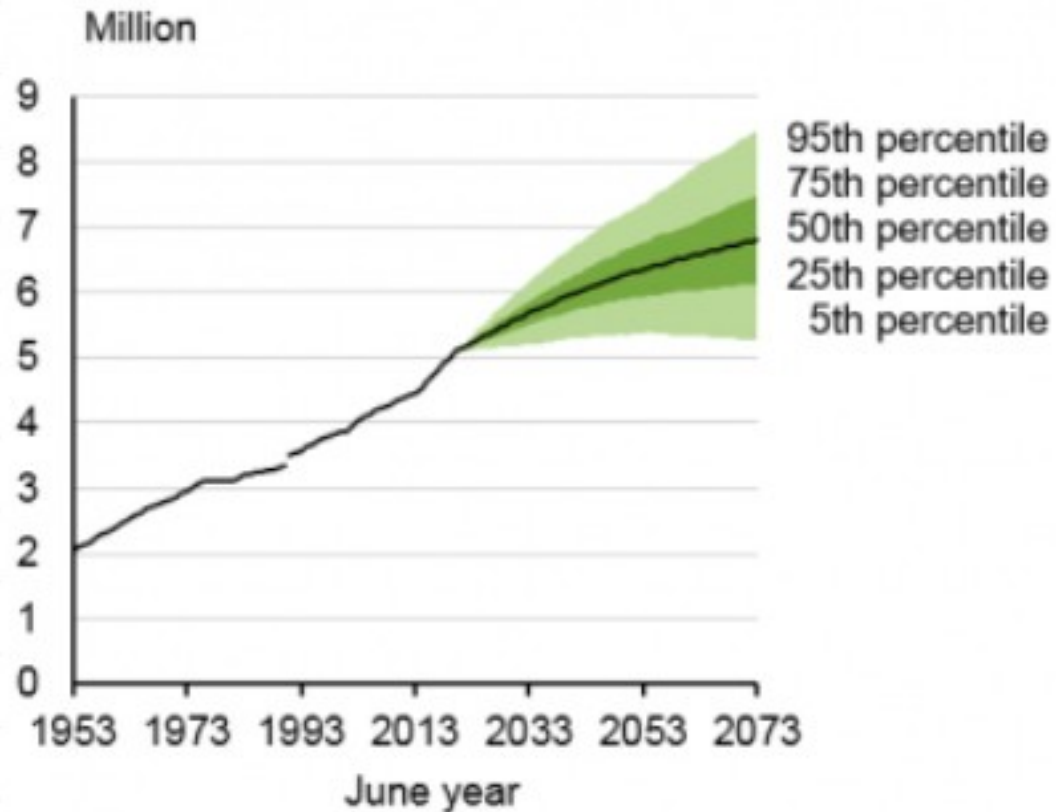
# The ageing population

1. What does NZ's future look like?
2. What are the implications
  - for society
  - For individuals
3. Are we ready for this profound shift?



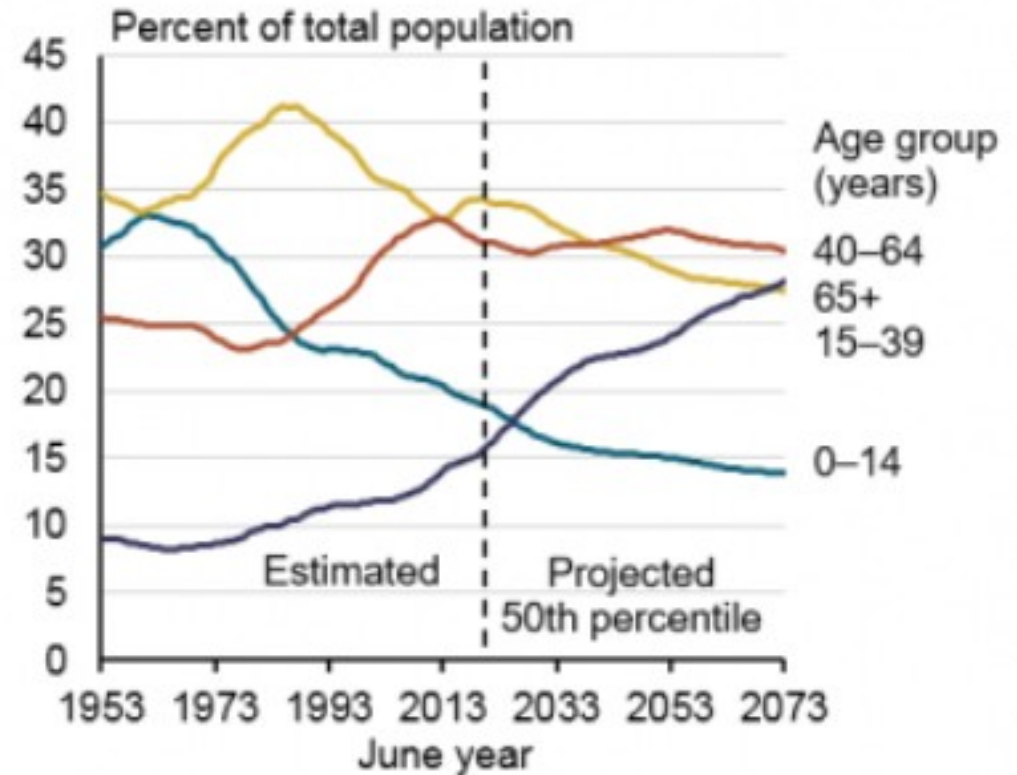
# Age structure changes dramatically

**New Zealand population**  
1953–2073



Note: The break in data between 1990 and 1991 denotes a change from the de facto population concept to the resident population concept.

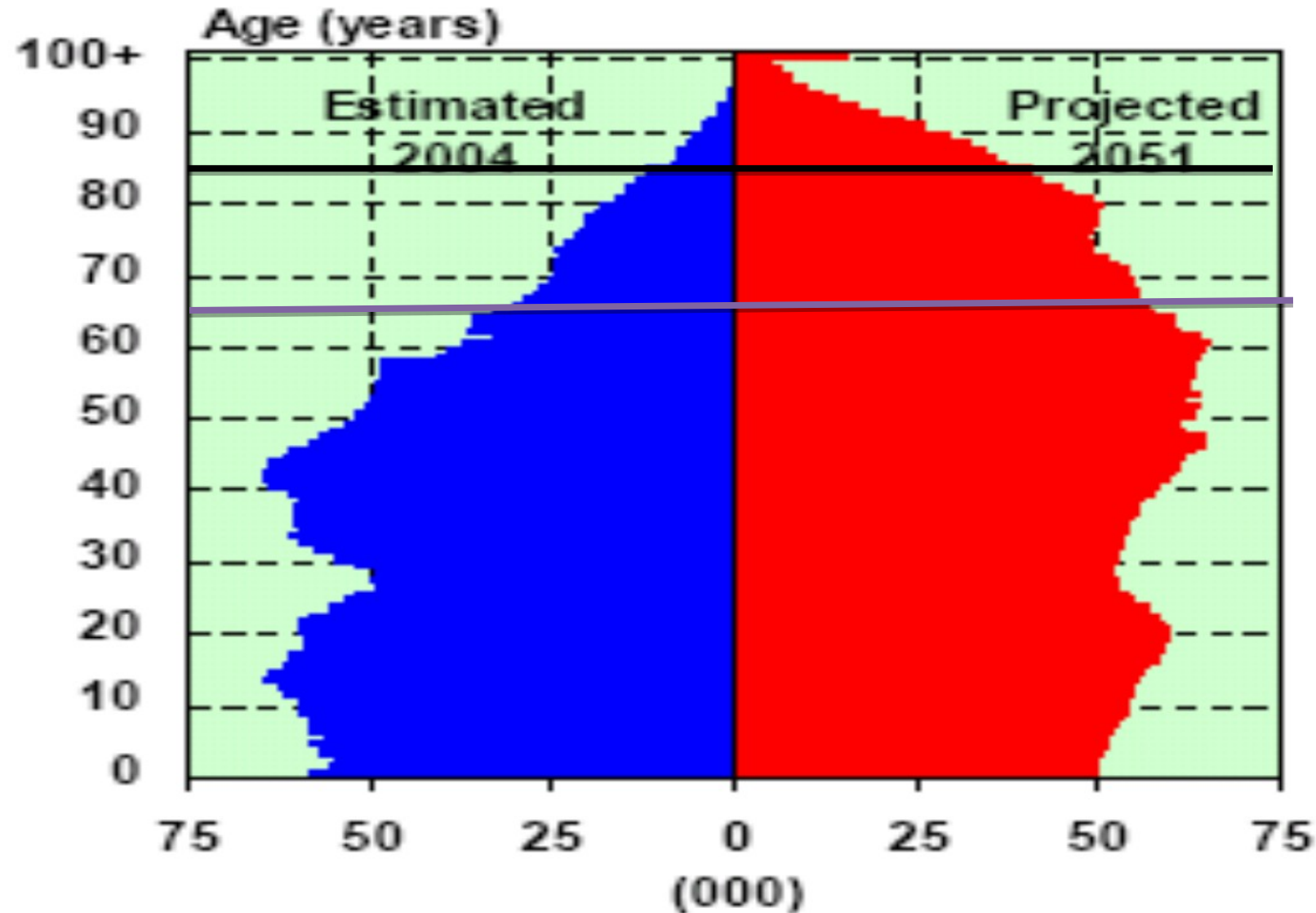
**Age distribution of population**  
1953–2073



Source: Stats NZ

# New Zealand of the future- what will it look like?

E



# The real resource issue

- If the old get a bigger share of what is available there is less for others
  - Cost of New Zealand Super
  - Cost of fixing ears eyes hips knees teeth of the old
  - Cost of older age care
  - Cost of dementia
  - Costs of housing
- Will New Zealand Super fund save us?
  - The fund will deliver a trickle by mid century
  - By the century end will be an enormous pot of money- 30% GDP
  - Does not guarantee anything about parameters of the pension
  - Doesn't alter the real resource issue