

Abstract for paper to be presented at Auckland 2001 Econometrics Conference

Paper title: Measuring and understanding the living standards of older New Zealanders

Abstract

This presentation will describe the way in which the Survey of Older People (SOP), initiated by the Super 2000 Taskforce, was conducted and analysed to:

- a) Develop a scale of material well-being that ranked older people in terms of their living standards. This aspect of the research employed analysis methods of confirmatory factor analysis applied to data on reports of ownership, social participation, economic difficulties, economising behaviours and self evaluation provided by the 3,060 respondents in the SOP.
- b) Examine the predictors and correlates of respondent scores on the Material Well-being Scale. This aspect of the research employed survey research methods and multiple regression to identify key predictors of the living standards of older people. These predictors included: net annual income, value of savings/investments, accommodation costs, exposure to past adverse life events, and socio-demographic background (age, household composition, ethnicity, education and socio-economic status).