



Long term care of older people in New Zealand: inconsistent counts may mislead

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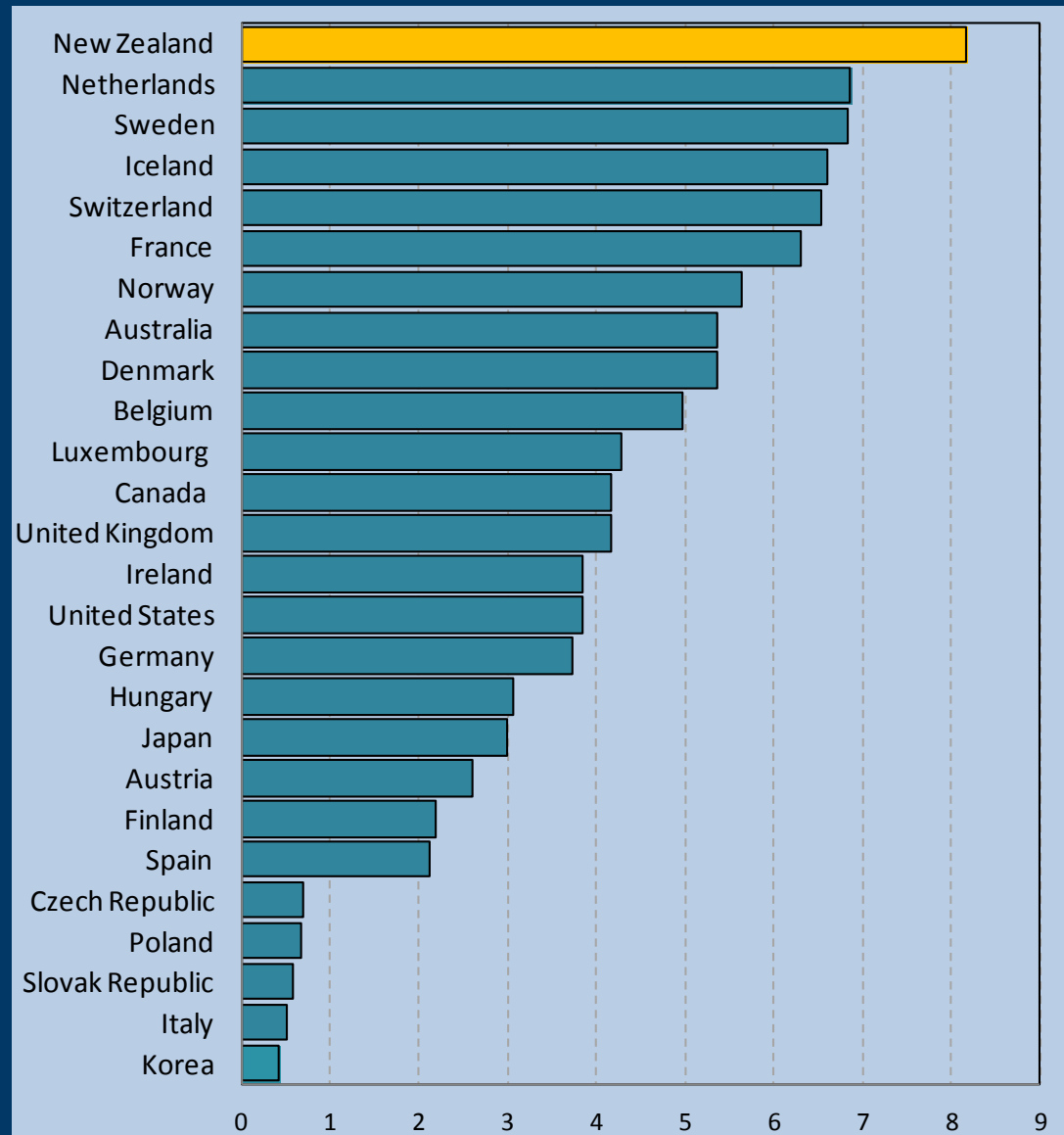
New Zealand

- population 4.4m
- 13% aged 65+ years
- 23% born overseas
- 31% Auckland region
- sporting interests

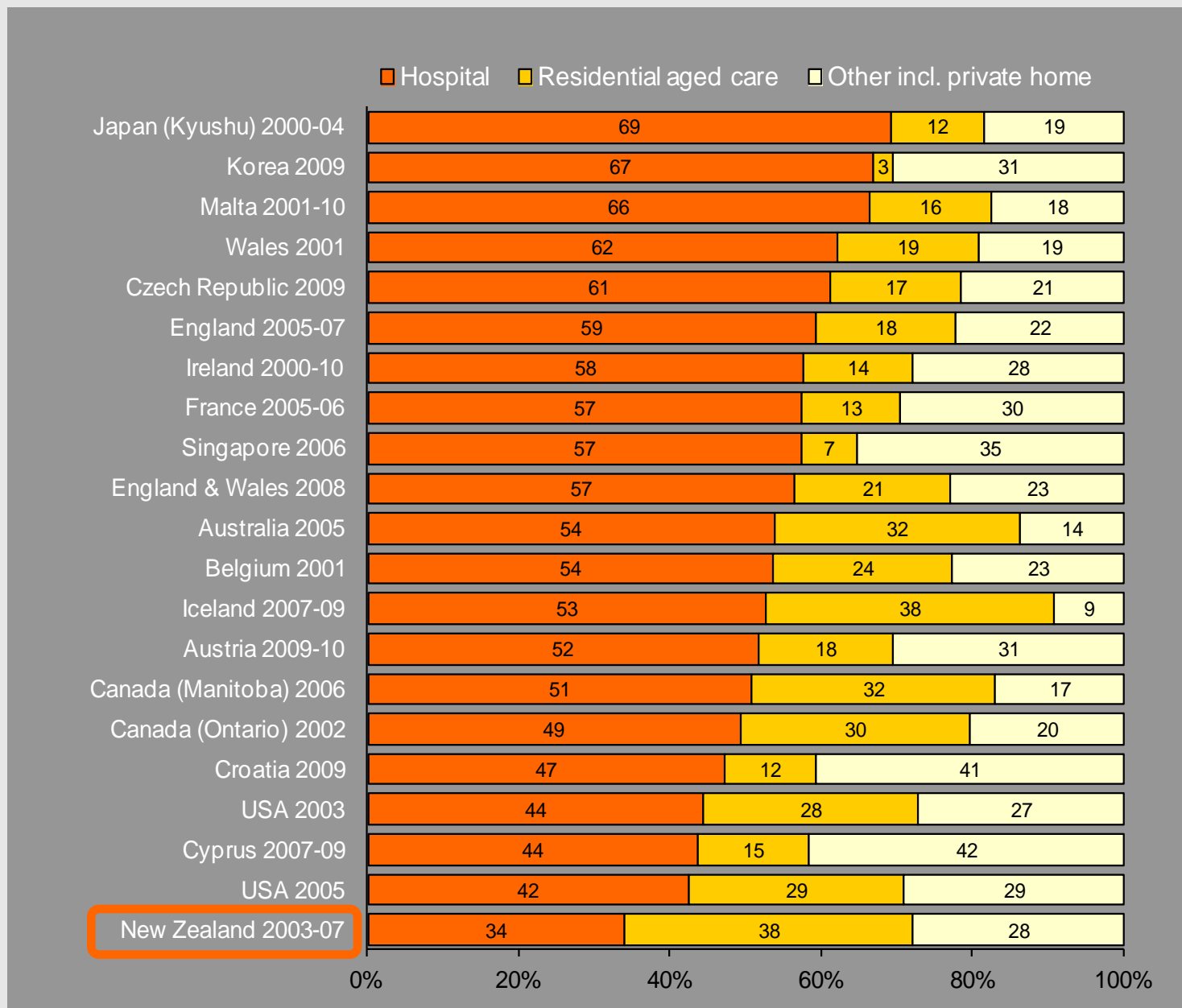
- In ~2004, 4.5 % of older people in New Zealand were reported in long-term care in institutions
- 10th of 15 OECD countries



- In ~2006, **over 8%** of older people in New Zealand reportedly lived in institutions
- **highest** of 26 OECD countries



And in place of death of 65+s ...





Bigger picture

Mark Todd (aged 56) on *Campino*

Photo by CARL COURT/AFP/Getty Images

OECD definition “long term care beds”

Beds in nursing and residential care facilities are for people...

- requiring ongoing health & nursing care due to chronic impairments and a reduced degree of independence in activities of daily living (ADL)
- in establishments ... providing residential care ...with either nursing, supervision or other types of care ...
- the care can be a mix of health and social services, i.e. accommodation and long-term care as a package

Residential aged care in New Zealand...

Residential long-term care (RAC) for older people in New Zealand (NZ) is classified as:

- *private hospital* care – need 24-hour nursing care
- *rest home* care - need support, but not 24-hour nursing

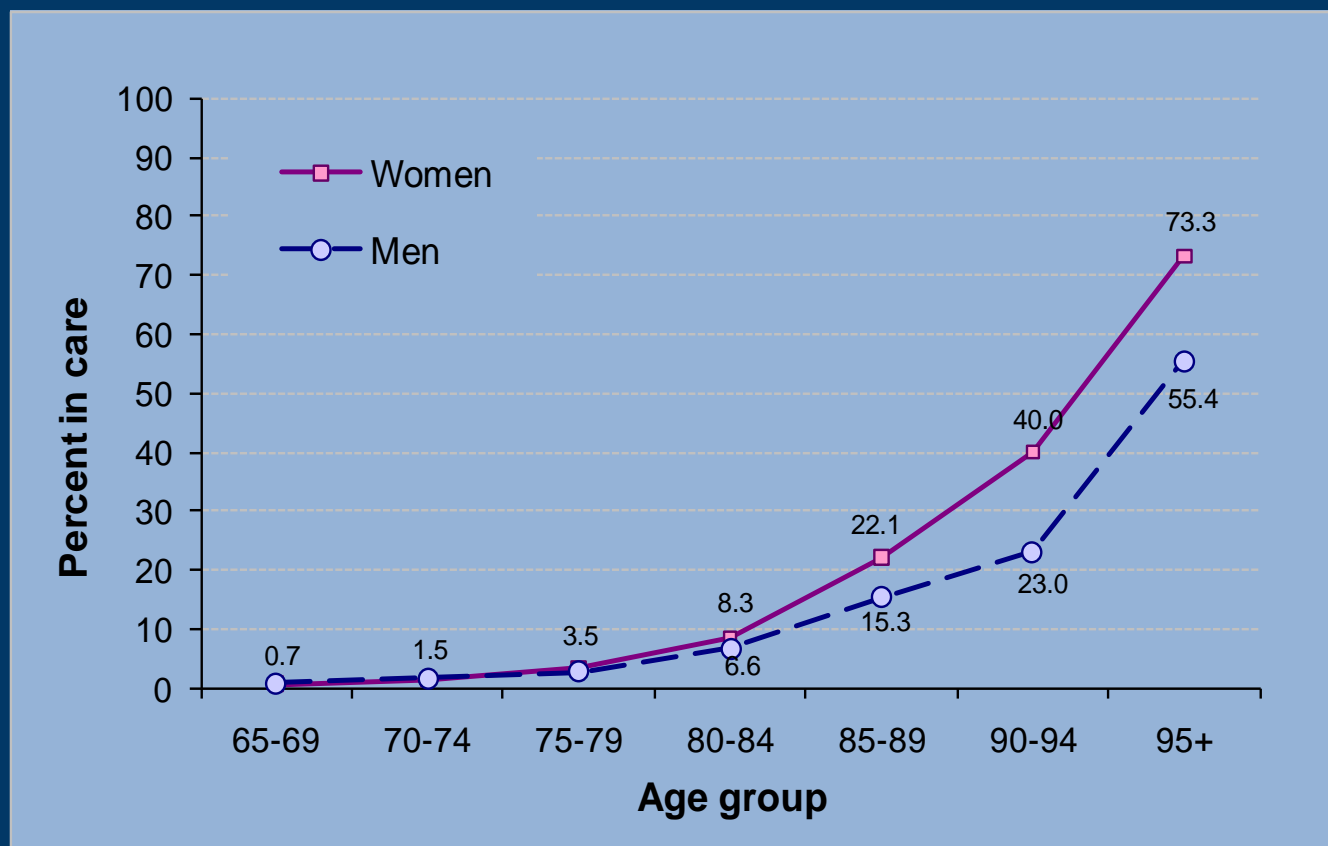
Subsidies for RAC are available for those with demonstrated needs and low income / assets

General approach...

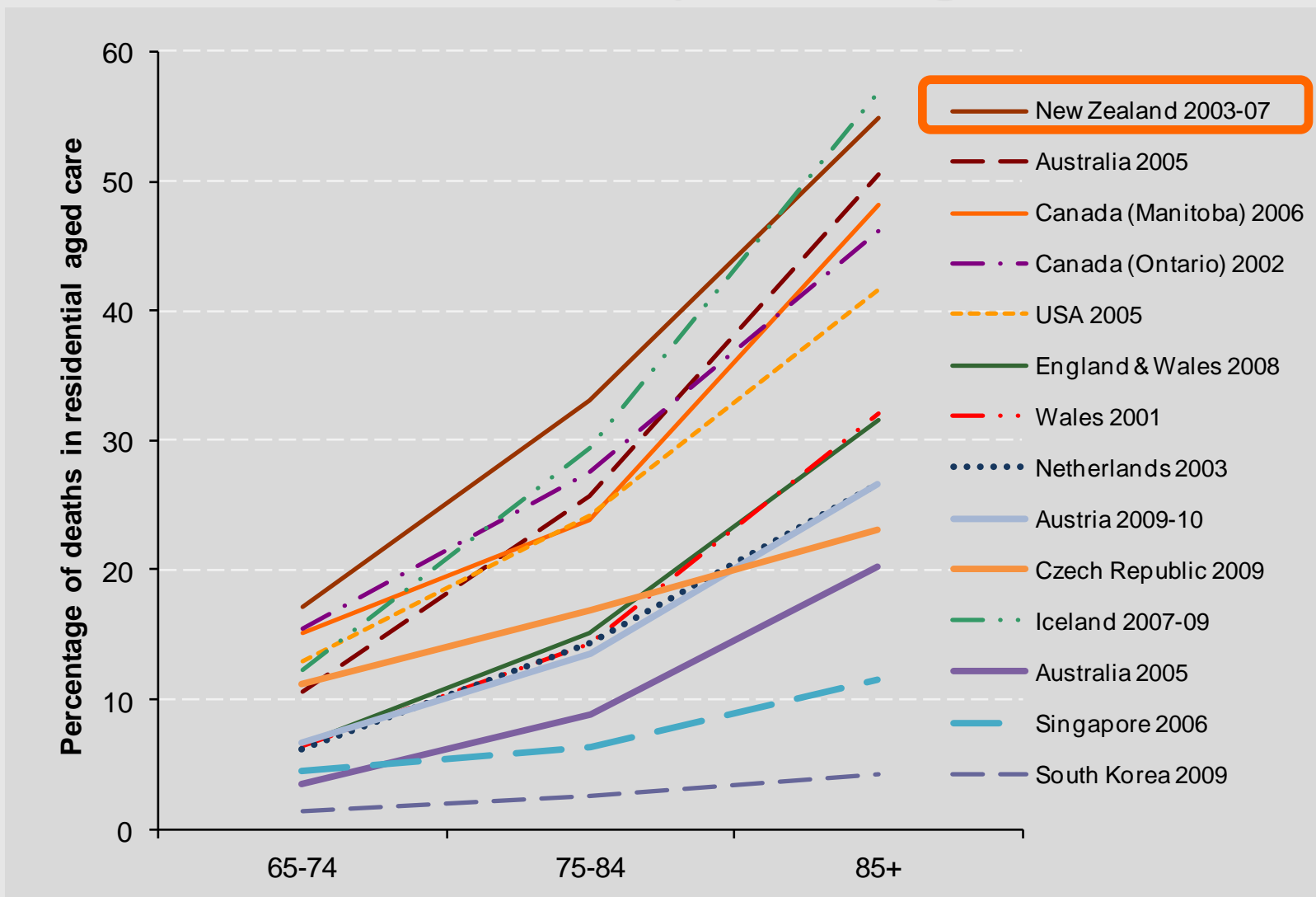
What do reports say is the percentage of older people living in residential aged care (RAC) in NZ?

Why does counting matter?

- With each 5-year increase in age over 65, rates in care approx. double, e.g. Auckland 2008, by age group
- Population is ageing
- Life expectancy is increasing
- Older people are getting older
- Projections forecast large growth in demand



As place of death,
RAC doubles with each 10 years of age...





85+s was 73,000 in 2011,
will double to 147,000 by 2031

Grey tide coming
Peter Burling and Blair Tuke

Photo by REUTERS/Pascal Lauener

Research questions:

- What *collections* of data describe residential aged care use for NZ, and *why*?
- Who *reports* use of residential aged care?
- If the reports are inconsistent, can we determine which are *more realistic*?
- How to *improve* reporting?

Methods.

- printed and online reports
 - years 1988 onwards
 - reporting use (rates or counts) of RAC for all NZ
 - convert to percentages where necessary
 - simple charts over time
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- Then, compare Auckland survey data with census data to assess differences in counts



Round and round
Simon van Velthoven

Photo by Getty Images

13 reports.

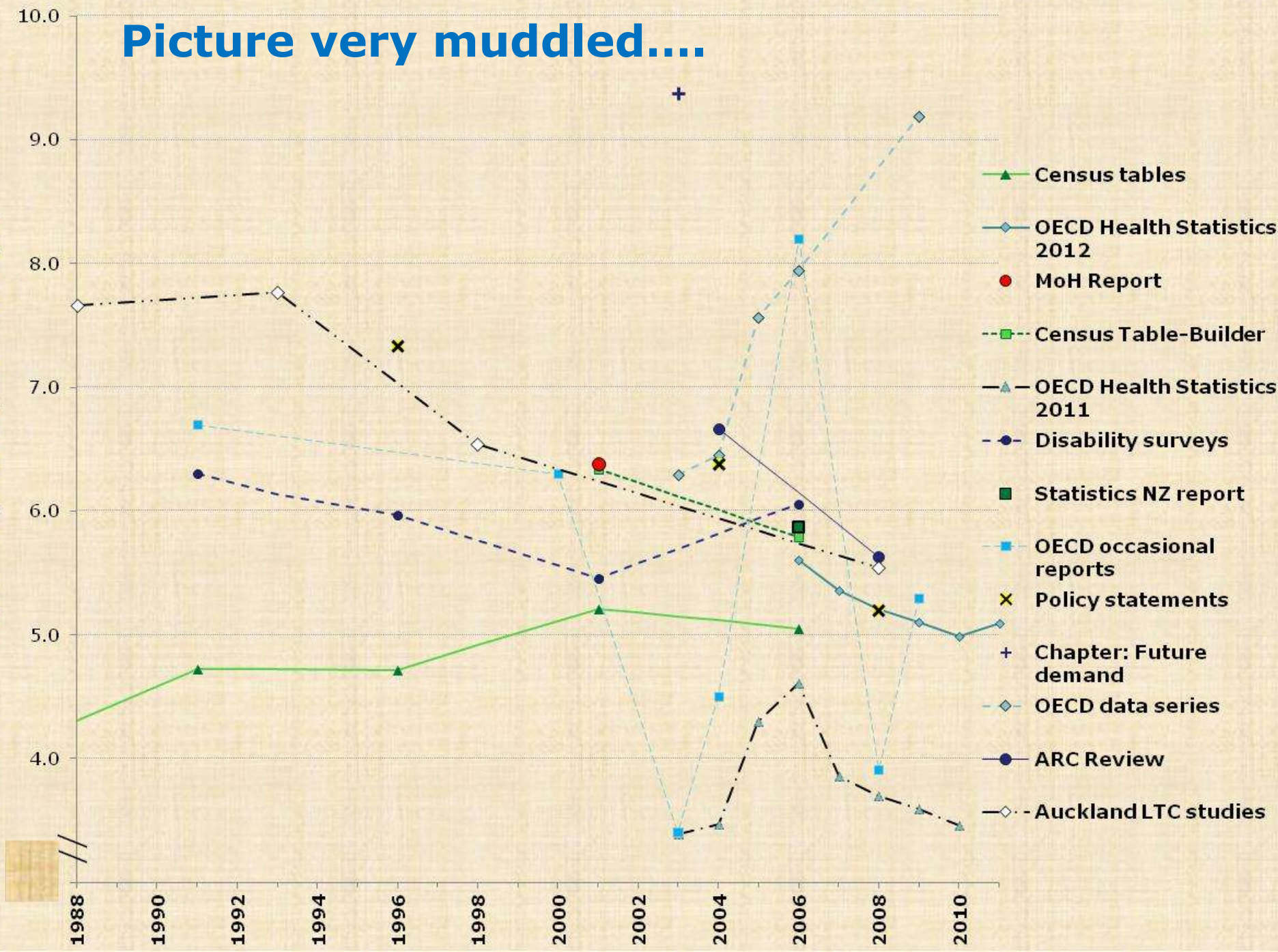
- **National census:** census-night dwelling type from 5-yearly censuses
 - *publications* – reports of older people
 - *data tables* – customised dataset & 2006 microdata online
- **Disability surveys** conducted after censuses
- **OECD:**
 - *publications* various LTC, health etc
 - *database* – online
- **Press releases** provided by Ministers
- **Miscellaneous** others

Data sources

- national census
 - 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006 censuses
 - in 2006, changed from 'residential care home' => 'residential long-term care'
- subsidy payments data
 - ~ 60% of residents receive funding support
 - counts may be scaled up for private payers
- disability surveys – population-based
- some unstated

Picture very muddled....

Proportion aged 65+ years in RAC (%)





Too hard to pick

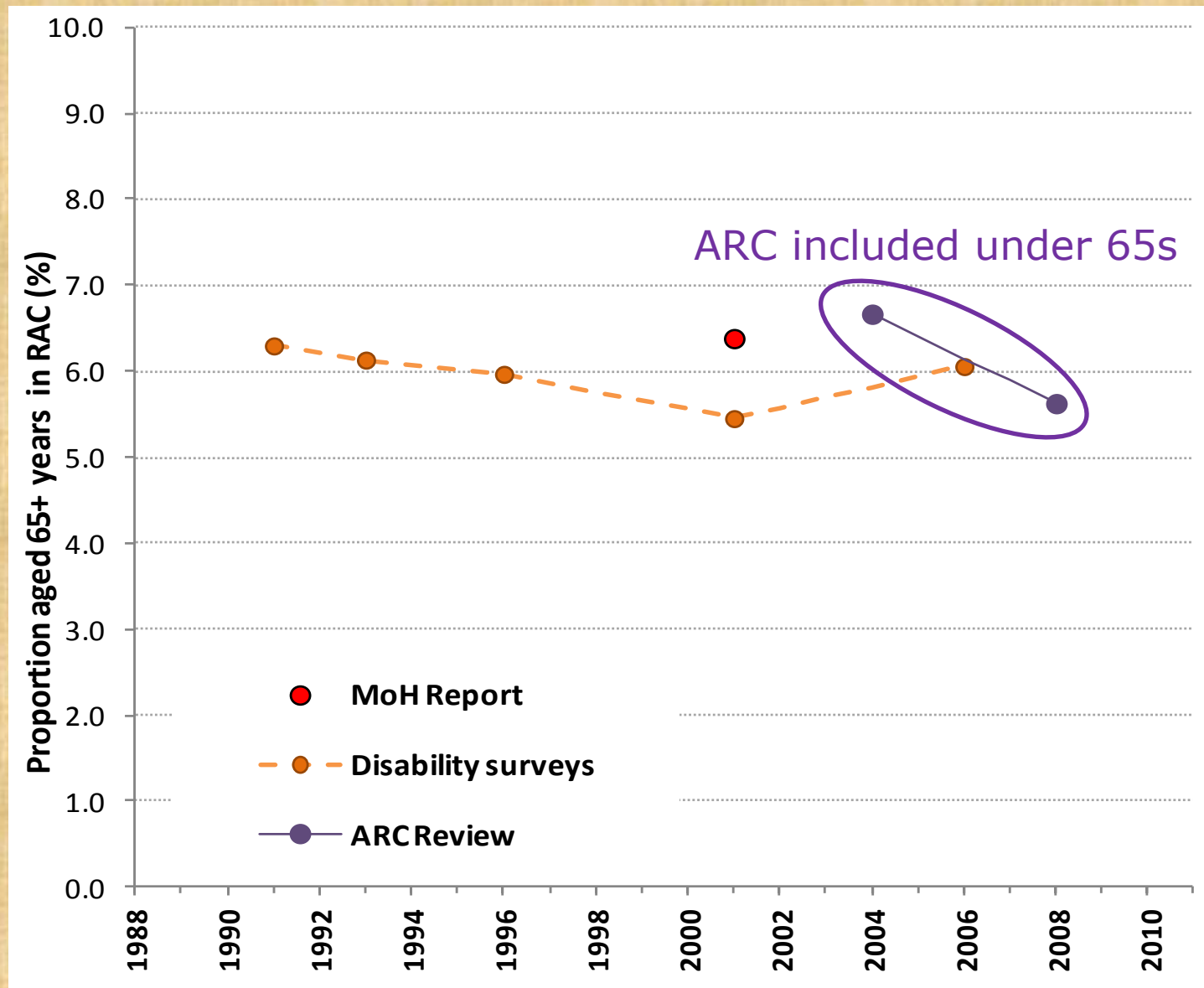
Karen Walker

Photo by PHIL WALTER, GETTY IMAGES

Ministry of Health sources

Relatively
stable over
time

Centred on
6%

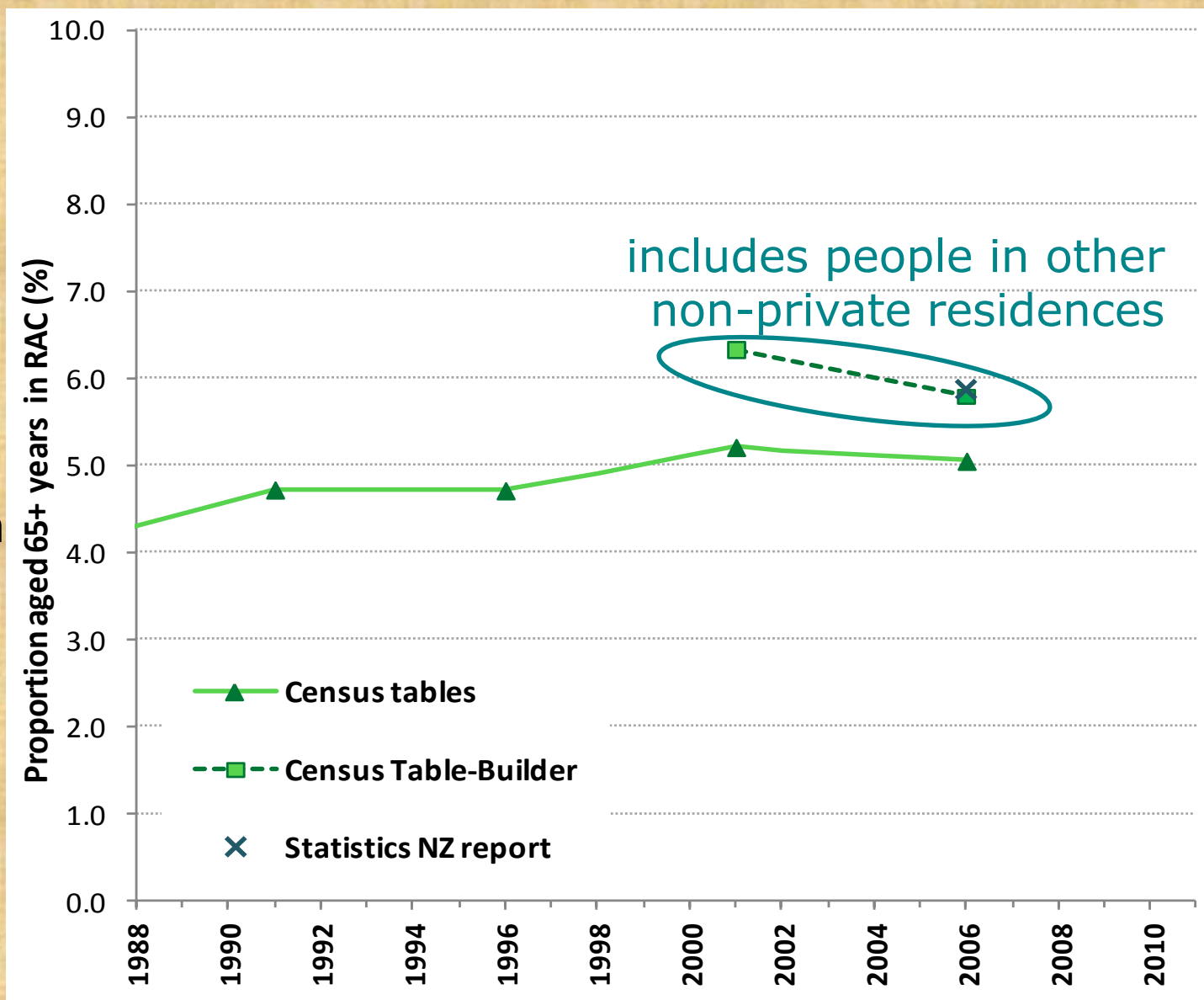


Statistics NZ sources

Census-based rates rising over time, change in definition

Online sources match printed reports, but are higher than census tables

Started at ~4%, now 5%-6%



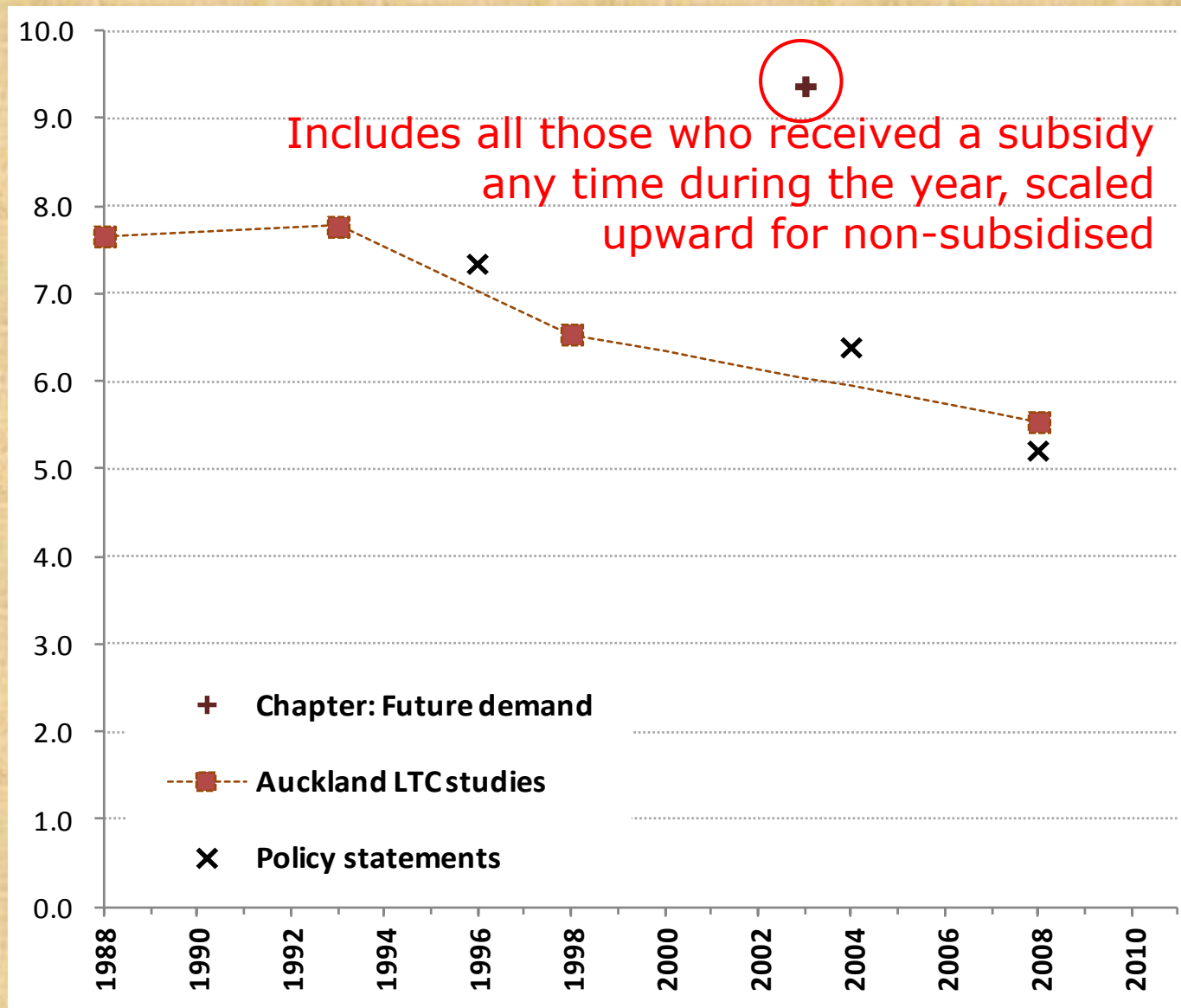
Miscellaneous sources

Auckland region surveys decline with time

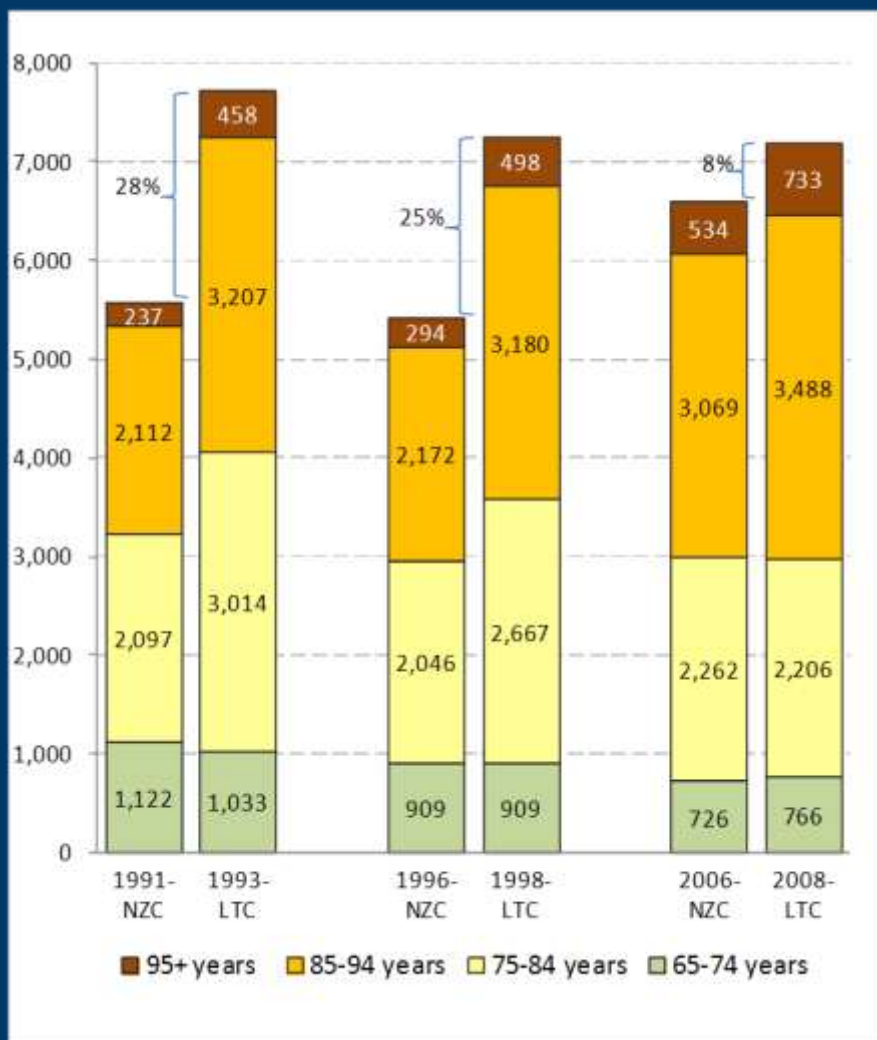
Ministerial press releases seem to agree

One source over 9% - an academic book chapter

Now close to 5%



Comparison of census with Auckland LTC studies



- Auckland LTC surveys all in Auckland geographical region
- Auckland LTC surveys 2 years after censuses
- closer matching over time, probably due to change in census definition
- most recent census was undercounted only for people aged 75+

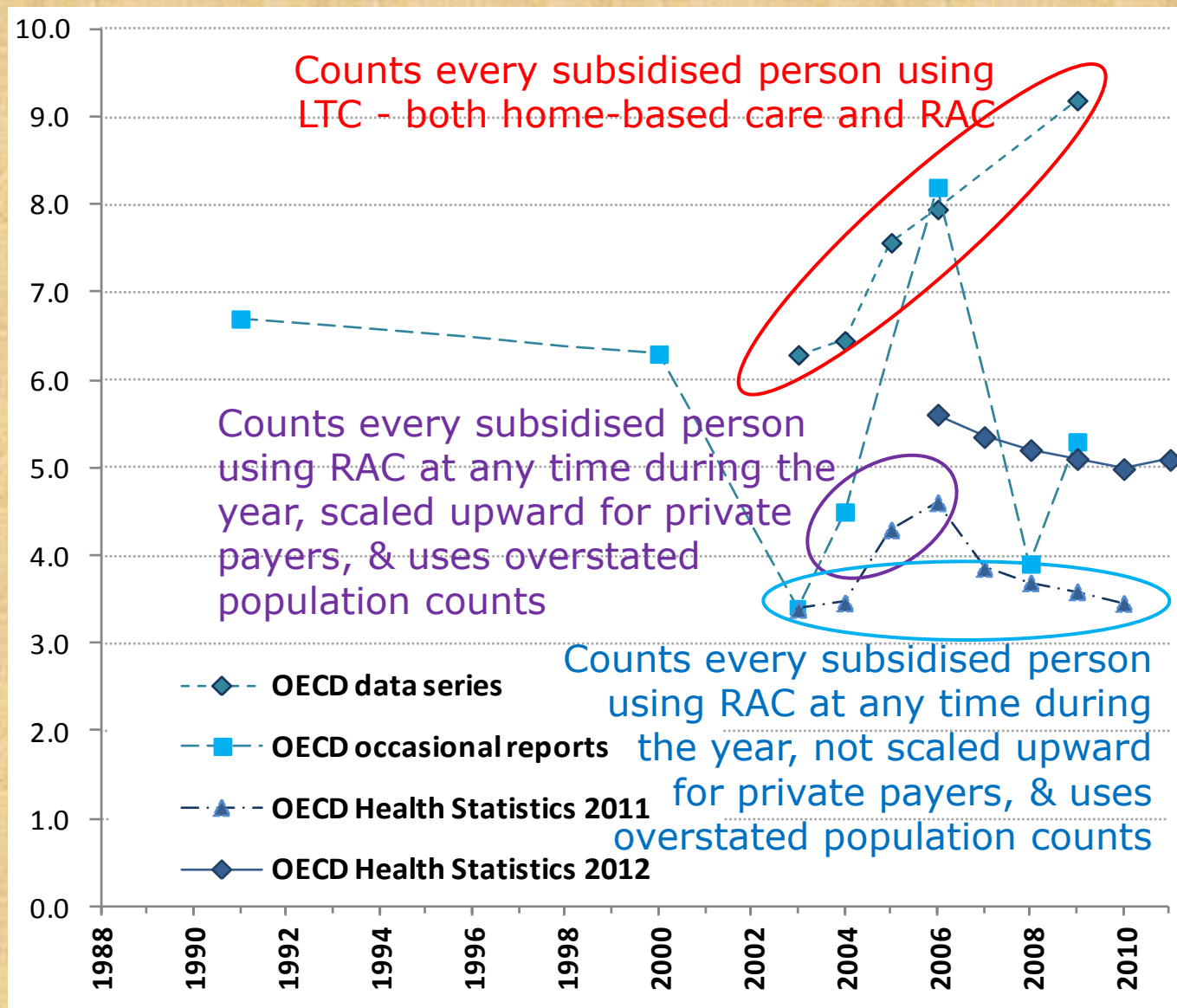
OECD sources

1 series
consistent,
growing steeply

1 series
markedly
inconsistent

1 series
very low &
inconsistent

Most recent
series
consistent, ~5%





Purpose and Perspectives: to measure, to illustrate, or to tell a story?

Mark Todd (aged 56) on *Campino*

Photo by CARL COURT/AFP/Getty Images



Bending over backwards

Jason Saunders and Paul Snow-Hansen

Photo by PASCAL LAUENER/REUTERS

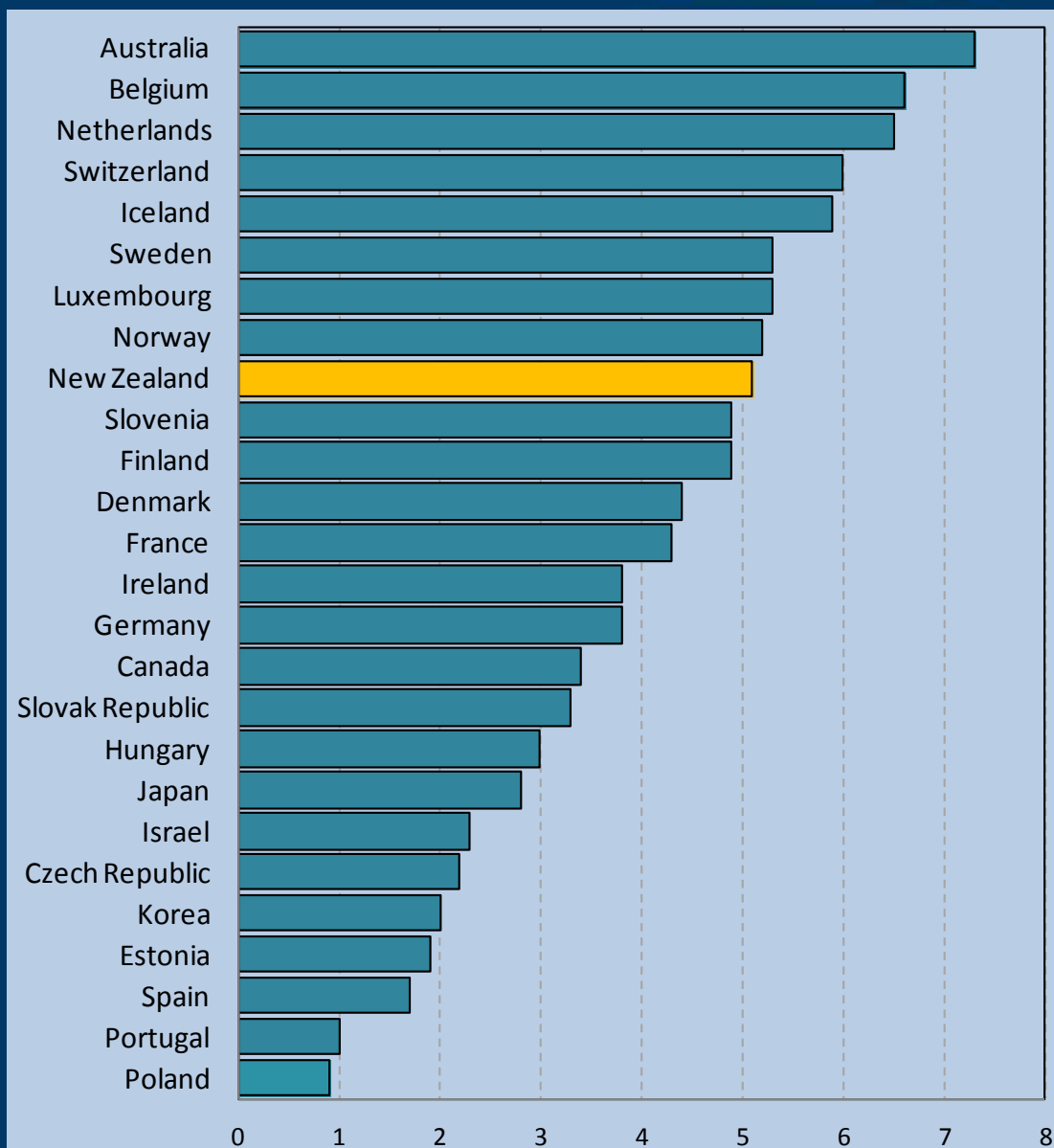
What has been done?

- Statistics NZ has further clarified census definitions for 2013
 - includes e.g. continuing care hospitals & dementia units
 - excludes independent self-care units & houses in retirement complexes
- MoH have revised analysis system & rerun
- MoH have supplied OECD with updated counts, now on the website, & old data removed

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- In ~2010, **5.1 %** of older people in New Zealand were reported in long-term care in institutions
- **9th** of selection of 26 OECD countries





Recognition, quality, success

Joseph Sullivan and Nathan Cohen

Photo by EDDIE KEOGH/REUTERS

Where to from here - lessons?

- To avoid systematic errors, important to clearly state
 - **intended** interpretation of data
 - **definitions**
- OECD & member countries could:
 - ask about their own reports
 - continue to **note exceptions** if data only partly suitable or not quite comparable
 - consider estimating **impact** of exceptions
 - reconcile each new report with previous reports & with countries' own domestic reports or research papers, to identify those "**out of step**"



Power & large numbers matter – but detail, delivery & clear targets matter too

Valerie Adams

Photo by KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS

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New Zealand's athletes at the 2012 London Olympic Games & photographers

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