NZ Walking Conference 2008 4-5 August, Auckland

Conference Organisers Harding Consultants Ltd

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Presentation topic	Travel mode		
Presentation title	USING CENSUS DATA TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME IN NEW ZEALAND: PATTERNS IN JOURNEY TO WORK DATA 1981-2006.		
Presentation Style	Presentation ⊠ Workshop / Walkshop □ Other □		
Estimated Time Required	0-10 mins	10-20 mins	20-30 mins

## **Abstract Remit**

How New Zealanders travel to and from work has implications for sustainability as well as being an opportunity to accumulate health-related physical activity. However, little comprehensive longitudinal evidence exists regarding work-related travel modes for the New Zealand population. Fortunately, the New Zealand census has asked a question regarding work travel since 1981. The objective of this study was to document work-related travel trends in New Zealand adults. Methods: Work-related travel data were obtained from the New Zealand census of population and housing conducted quinquennially from 1981 – 2006. These were compared with 2006-adjusted oil prices to understand if oil price was related to travel mode choice. Results: Private motor vehicle was the dominant travel mode across all time points (54.8% - 79.9%). The proportions of trips by public transport (~ 4%) and active transport (14.2% - 8.9%) were low across all time points and have steadily declined. Together sustainable transport modes for work-related travel have declined between 1981-2006. Conclusions: A decline in work-related sustainable transport modes over the last 25 years in New Zealand is evident. Work-related private motor vehicle travel may however be sensitive to oil prices.

Grant Schofield is Professor of Public Health at AUT University located on the North Shore Campus. He is a joint appointment between the School of Sport and Recreation, and the School of Public Health. Grant's research and teaching interests are in physical activity, nutrition, and health, especially environmental aspects of physical activity.