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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Dear Colleagues](#)
- [Wellington City Council – Consultation to open in the new year](#)
- [CHO Sector and Local Government housing stock data reports now available](#)
- [Register now: Understanding Housing Accreditation – 2-3 February 2015](#)
- [MSD requests Registration of Interest for new IRRS funding in Auckland](#)
- [AHI Awards for 2015 – what category will you apply under?](#)
- [Upcoming Conferences](#)
- [Accessible Properties opens development in Johnsonville](#)
- [Holiday Hours](#)
- [Reflections](#)

Dear Colleagues

Greetings for the Festive Season

With the festive season actively around us, we're happy to bring you this last issue of the CHA Newsletter for 2014. We'll be back with the first issue of 2015 on 29 January – unless there is some big news ahead of that.

Wellington City Council – Consultation to open in the new year

The Wellington City Council has announced they will undertake a review of their Social Housing Rental Policy in 2015. The Council reviews this policy every five years and is not proposing any radical shakeup. The announcement can be viewed on their website [here](#).

The submission deadline is anticipated to be late March, 2015. CHA proposes to work with members active in Wellington to provide our collective views on the document. We will undertake this beginning in February. If you are interested in participating, please contact Chris Gladel at projects@communityhousing.org.nz

CHO Sector and Local Government housing stock data reports now available

Commissioned by CHA, CRESA has completed two important reports that measure the housing stock operated by both the community housing and local government sectors. Thank you to all members and the non-member organisations who responded to the surveys. While the community housing sector report confirms 4021 units operated by the sector, CHA estimates a further 1000 units likely operated by sector organisations that did not respond to the survey. A fact sheet

summarising the reports will follow in January.

CHO stock report available [here](#).

Local Government stock report available [here](#).

Register now: Understanding Housing Accreditation – 2-3 February 2015

This two day workshop in Wellington, 2-3 February 2015 provides the opportunity to:

- Understand the NZ Community Housing Standards (Best Practice Guide and Assessment Booklet) and the accreditation process
- Be aware of the documents and records typically required for accreditation and the preparation required prior to the accreditation audit
- Understand the Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) to implement post audit and accreditation
- Learn more about the role of the audit team -with the opportunity to be trained and assessed as a Peer Evaluator on day 2.

Find out more [here](#).

MSD requests Registration of Interest for new IRRS funding in Auckland

As reported in last week's newsletter, MSD wants to hear from CHRA-registered CHO's about what it would take for the IRRS to let you add new housing supply and services using the IRRS.

Please let us know if you are submitting to this process – and what your key requests are. We're interested in who is going to respond and understanding more about the range of the properties that you could source in order to reply. We're keen to have a "feel" from the sector what our capacity was to respond, and to be able to make some informed comments about perceived problems. Please contact Scott, Chris or Natalie.

You can source the MSD documents [here](#).

AHI Awards for 2015 – what category will you apply under?

While you're relaxing at the beach, have a think about which AHI Professional Practice awards category you could submit to. Applications are due 28 February.

Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Conferences

New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness (NZCEH) conference 26 February, Wellington - find out more [here](#).

Unitec Community Development Conference – 18-20 February 2015 - find out more [here](#).

PrefabNZ Co-Lab Conference – 22-24 April 2015, Wellington - find out more [here](#).

CHA IMPACT Conference, 22-23 October 2015, Wellington area - **save the date**.

Accessible Properties opens development in Johnsonville



Social Housing Minister Paula Bennett opened Accessible Properties' new eight unit community housing development in Johnsonville yesterday. Accessible Properties manage close to 1000 housing units across New Zealand. Yesterday's event celebrated the completion of eight new units designed for tenants with

social support need, and built with assistance from the Government's Social Housing Fund.

Read the Accessible Properties press release [here](#).

Read the NZ Government press release [here](#).

Holiday Hours

The CHA team is wrapping up for the year on Friday 19 December, and is back on deck on Monday 26 January. During the period of 12 – 23 January, we will be working limited hours, remotely. We'll be monitoring email, but please do enjoy your holiday and give us a bit of extra time to respond during that period.

Fiona Fitzgerald has advised that the Community Housing Regulatory Authority (CHRA) will be closed for the Christmas period from Monday 22 Dec – through to Monday 12 January inclusive. Applications

received during this time will not be actioned until 13 January 2015.

Reflections

A big thanks to all of you for your support of CHA and commitment to meeting the housing and service needs of communities across our country. What you do matters greatly – and while we're still in uncertain times- a much wider audience does see the huge value in what you do every day. We hope that what we do here at CHA does help make you stronger- and able to tackle the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The CHA Council is also looking forward to an active 2015. We welcome Julie Nelson into her new role as Co-Chair alongside Warren Jack, and extend our deepest thanks to Alison Cadman for her dedicated service as our past year co-Chair. Keith Preston continues as Treasurer. We are pleased to welcome Allan Pollard, and recently appointed members Moira Lawler and Garry Moore to the Council, working alongside Rau Hoskins and David Cole as continuing members. It's a strong and balanced governance team, ready to tackle the challenges ahead. The Council has just completed a day and a half planning retreat, and we'll be reporting further on that after their next meeting in February.

On behalf of the whole team, we wish you all the best for the holidays, and enjoy your summer break.

Kindest regards

Scott Figenshow
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