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Community Housing
Nga Wharerau o Aotearoa



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Dear Colleagues

Government Announcements – Is it what we were waiting for?

I had the pleasure of joining around sixteen of our sector colleagues to hear Prime Minister John Key's speech yesterday, hosted by the Rotary Club of Downtown Auckland. Yes, it is a very positive sign to hear the first speech of the government's third term devoted not just to housing, but to their plans for social housing. We have been calling for action and attention on this issue, and it is rewarding to see that attention being paid. By now you'll have had a chance to either have heard or read the speech itself – and the published information distributed. In our view, it is still very light on the crucial details – how it's all meant to work. While we've not had a chance yet to engage with the full sector, from those of you who've emailed or have spoken with, the theme is certainly one of hoping they had been bolder.

The [CHA media release](#) covers the main points. What we're just now starting to get our heads around is what wasn't said, and what we want to say in response to that. The things that come to mind fall into three main areas:

- What does this “consultation” with the sector look like, and how much do we get to influence that?
- Why is competitive tendering the driver on the stock transfers? We believe there is a better alternative than competitive tendering. Probity is a red herring – the sector believe it can deliver better outcomes for families, for communities, and in cost effective way for the taxpayer when we are encouraged to collaborate.
- What about affordable housing? While we heard a lot about social housing, we haven't yet heard enough about how the whole housing continuum would work, or that our arguments for that have been heard.

It will be an interesting year. One that is certainly starting off though with a push in what we hope we will continue to say is the right

February, Wellington

- **Pensioner Housing Portfolio For Sale Whakatane EOI – Due 27 February**
- **AHI Awards applications – Due 28 February**
- **Wellington City Council (WCC) – Social Housing Policy review – Submissions due 27 March**
- **AHI Leadership Masterclass – May 2015 – Sydney**

direction.

More information relating to the announcements is available on the CHA website [here](#).

Read CHA's Community Housing Fact Sheet [here](#).

Housing reforms needed to go further says CHA - [media release here](#).

John Key looks to Australia's community-run housing - [Morning Report, Radio NZ, Thursday 29 January 2015, listen here](#).

Discussions on national qualifications for community housing

CHA is aware that Skills NZ is trying to build support for a NZ qualification in community housing linked to their review of the Residential Property Management qualification that currently exists. We have asked the Performance Sector Solution Group, chaired by Peter Sanders to have a more in depth look at this, and for that group to advise on the view CHA should take. We have been reluctant to endorse such an approach whilst there remains such uncertainty in funding and regulation of our sector. It just feels premature at the current time.

We have suggested to Skills NZ that the appropriate people to involve are CHA, HNZC, CHRA/MBIE and the local branch of the AHI rather than individual organisations. We anticipate the group to progress this further in March/April 2015.

Bloody Cool! Dwell Housing Trust opens mixed income, mixed tenure development in Wellington



Two brand new shared ownership and two rental homes were opened by Dwell Housing Trust on Tuesday 20 January by Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown and Dwell Patron Judge Peter Boshier. Built by Primesite Homes, the units are a great design on a challenging site. Dwell Director Alison Cadman was her usually witty self, with the best description: Bloody cool!

Read more on the Dwell website [here](#).

Save the date:

Understanding Housing Accreditation: Course for Community Housing Organisations and Peer Evaluators - 2&3 Feb 2015, Wellington

This workshop 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](#).

Affordable Housing Seminar, 11 February, Wellington

What is it? Who needs it? Who is best placed to provide it? Why is it being associated with the RMA reform process? What creative solutions are currently being developed? This seminar is hosted by He Kainga Oranga / Housing and Health Research Programme, winners of the 2014 Prime Minister's Science Prize, and will draw on insights from over a decade of housing research.

Find out more [here](#).

Official opening of Nelson Tasman Housing Trust's latest affordable housing scheme in Nelson South

The scheme will be opened by the Hon. Dr Nick Smith, Minister of Building and Housing and Minister for the Environment, at 225 Kawai Street South, Nelson on Friday, 20th February 2015.

Find out more [here](#).

PrefabNZ + CHA Workshop – Wednesday, 25 February (2-4pm), Auckland

Members of PrefabNZ and Community Housing Aotearoa are invited to a free workshop.

The workshop is part of the Levers for Prefab Action Plan research programme funded by BRANZ, the independent Building Research Association, along with members of the prebuilt design and construction industry. The aim of the workshop is to gauge the number of housing units being built at present and forecast over the next few years in order to develop a visible pipeline of construction work.

Find out more [here](#).

NZ Coalition to End Homelessness Conference – 26 February, Wellington

Conference Goals and Themes:

- To show case best practice responses to homelessness in Aotearoa
- To explore solutions to sustainably ending homelessness and achieving real social change

- To workshop the draft Homelessness Solutions Framework

Find out more [here](#).

Pensioner Housing Portfolio For Sale Whakatane EOI – Due 27 February

If you are a Registered Community Housing Provider or working towards registration with the Community Housing Regulatory Authority then this may be a great opportunity for you.

Find out more [here](#).

AHI Awards applications – Due 28 February

Who could you nominate for the 2015 AHI Awards?

In the 2013 AHI Awards, Wellington City Council and HNZC demonstrated that New Zealand housing organisations are at the forefront of excellence in professional practice.

Find out more about the awards and get the nomination form [here](#).

Wellington City Council (WCC) – Social Housing Policy review – Submissions due 27 March

Wellington City Council is reviewing its social housing service policy, which ensures Wellingtonians have long-term access to good quality social housing if they need it.

Find out how to give your feedback [here](#).

AHI Leadership Masterclass – May 2015 – Sydney

AHI have graciously extended the early bird registration to CHA members through to the end of February.

If you are interested, but find the cost a challenge, please let CHA know as we are investigating a leadership development option for NZ and are keen to know of your requirements.

Find out more about the conference [here](#).

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