

Nomination form

2017/2018 Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) National Council

Due by Monday 26 September 2017 to support@communityhousing.org.nz

I ___Bernie Smith___ am standing for the CHA National Council.

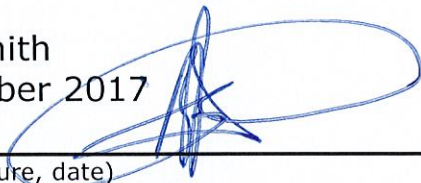
Member Organisation: Monte Cecilia Housing Trust_____

Nominated by:Jan Rutledge – DePaul House

Seconded by:John Cook – Emerge Aotearoa

By signing below I confirm that I am an employee of Monte Cecilia Housing Trust which is a Full Member of Community Housing Aotearoa for the fiscal year of 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018.

Bernie Smith
7 September 2017



(name, signature, date)

Please provide a photo and a short background on yourself -

1. Outline of involvement in community housing sector.

As CEO of Monte Cecilia with 22 staff we house 38 families in Emergency Housing and 52 families in our Social Housing. Also have a strong Advocacy service assisting over 500 families per year.

I'm proactively involved with ACHP network and take a leading role in the AEHP network.

Have supported existing & those seeking to be involved in emergency housing in setting staffing levels & requirements along with associated operational costs

2. Short biography: (Maximum of three short paragraphs)

Personal focus has been to empower the disempowered which has led to over 40yrs in social services, disabilities, seniors, child protection and the last almost 9 years in housing & homelessness working within the NFP sector or for Government agencies.

Was managing 3500 public Housing tenants in Cairns Qld with Cyclone Yasi hit & managed 1600 tenancies across North West Queensland in what I believe were almost third world conditions

Commenced at Monte Cecilia Housing Trust in January 2016

3. Key skills:

- I'm a pioneer and think outside of the box

- Great believer in collaboration & believe no one person, no one service, no one idea has the sole solution, but together we can resolve big & complex issues
- *I've led & been involved in national working groups.*
- *I'm comfortable but can be proactive with a Gov't Minister, media or the man in the street when a discussion is to be had or a case needs to be presented*
- *I was raised in Public Housing living 'on struggle street'*
- *I'm a big picture person, learn from the past, don't dwell in it, but what can we learn from the past to move into the future.*
- *Let's not dwell on what's broken without looking at & offering creative solutions*

4. Other governance positions held

- *Vice Chair of the NZ Foster Federation*
- *School Board of Trustees*

5. Election statement to members

If elected I'm committed to proactively represent the whole sector in a way that is timely & professional in all discussions in a collaborative way.

If elected I'm committed to proactively support CHA to make clear representation to Government to get Government to truly commit to partnership & that this is reflected in our contracts, funding levels & terms. Pursue building WOF, & closure of Boarding houses & the likes who do not offer warm, safe, secure accommodation

Bernie Smith
7 September 2017.

The photo and background info will be collated onto a slate of candidates and distributed by email to the CHA membership on 5 October 2017.