



## ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WELL-HOUSED



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## 13 MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Housing First announcement raises expectations for Wellbeing Budget 2019

The Government's announcement of \$197 million over four years to strengthen the Housing First programme is welcome news for communities grappling with increasing homelessness. Now we need to see additional scale investments in social, affordable rental and pathways to homeownership. While this service response is necessary, only by building new homes will we be able to truly resolve the housing crisis.

The Social Housing Register numbers continue to climb and will likely exceed 12,000 families soon. The currently budgeted 6,400 additional social housing places by 2022 is also nearly fully committed. Without a doubling of the current cap in the Wellbeing Budget, community providers will have no ability to bring forward additional supply to meet current need.

We estimate that at least 500 affordable rental homes have been re-directed to social housing by providers in response to the rising Social Housing Register. We need to replenish and grow the number of affordable rentals in the community sector to assist families over-burdened by high private rents, yet not eligible for social housing.

In addition, as highlighted in the KiwiBuy campaign, families looking to achieve secure tenure through rent to buy and pathways to home ownership are looking for investments that will permanently end their reliance on rental subsidies through the Income Related Rent and Accommodation Supplement programmes.

Our expectations are high for further Wellbeing Budget announcements to demonstrate how Government will partner with community housing providers to support delivery along the housing continuum.

You can read the Government's announcement [here](#) and listen to an interview with CHA CEO Scott Figenshow [here](#).

## Winter Energy Payment

The [Winter Energy Payment](#) is back and now available for 22 weeks from 1 May to 1 October to seniors and families needing help to pay for heating as the months draw colder. It's a small intervention that will reach an estimated million low income householders (eligible beneficiaries, superannuants, veterans). Single people will receive an extra \$20.46 a week (\$450 for 22 weeks) and couples with dependent children will receive \$31.82 a week (\$700 for 22 weeks)

## The Two+ Rethink Programme

The Two+ Rethink programme, funded by the Like Minds, Like Mine programme, is a series of two mental health workshops and tailored follow up support offered to social housing providers mainly in the North Island.

The workshops include individual and organisational self-review to identify where change is needed and practical tips on how to support clients experiencing mental distress. Mind and Body, delivers this programme and the workshop content has been developed with support from CHA, CORT and Emerge Aotearoa.

Workshops are run at your organisation by professional facilitators. There is no cost to your organisation.

**Workshop 1:** Mental Distress, Attitudes and Awareness  
Duration: 2 hours + 30 minutes of kai.

We return a few weeks later to deliver

**Workshop 2:** Resources and Practice  
Duration: 2 hours + 30 minutes of kai.

### What other participants have said:

Would love this workshop to go out fully into other social organisations. It's so important to look at ourselves and how we can develop moving forward. - **Emerge Aotearoa Participant**

These workshops talked about real examples of what happens in our day to day lives and how we can continue to develop and better deal with them. – **Dunedin City Council Participant**

For further information please contact Codey and Mind and Body directly with any [queries or to organise the workshops](#) to be delivered to your organisation.

## The WEAG has now completed its Report – Wakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand

In May 2018 the Government established the **Welfare Expert Advisory Group** (WEAG) to advise them on the future of New Zealand's social security system. The WEAG has now completed its Report – Wakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand.

According to the Working Group, "The review has led us to the clear and unequivocal conclusion that fundamental change is needed to ensure we have a social security system that is fair and accessible for everyone who needs support, thus ensuring a better future for all New Zealanders."

Our recommendations seek to embed a new basis for social security, restoring trust in the system and enabling whakamana tāngata, to ensure people can live in dignity so they can participate meaningfully with their families and communities.

CHA notes that the report provides 6 specific recommendations for "Alleviating the housing conundrum" beginning on page 119. The report makes clear the importance of stable and affordable housing to the social security system.

As from the 28 February 2019 the Welfare Expert Advisory Group has completed its work. If you have any questions about the review, please contact [WEAG\\_questions@msd.govt.nz](mailto:WEAG_questions@msd.govt.nz).

For matters relating to the response to the Welfare Expert Advisory Group's report, contact the Office of the Minister for Social Development.

[Read the full report](#)

## IN THE NEWS

- [Expansion of Construction programme to upskill beneficiaries](#)
- [300 Face Homelessness in Queenstown](#)
- [Government needs to listen to WEAG on Housing](#)
- [Submission on homelessness in Hawke's Bay](#)
- [Housing First launches in Rotorua in push to eradicate homelessness](#)
- [Project aiming 'for everyone to have a place to call home'](#)
- [Demand for state housing continues to outstrip supply](#)
- [Progressive Home Ownership could help end family poverty](#)
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## EVENTS

### The Shift Aotearoa Conference 2019 - 5-7 June, Wellington



Please register [here](#).

[The Shift Aotearoa Conference 2019](#) will bring housing sector actors together to spark collaborative action for one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most urgent problems.

Policy makers and officials across government, iwi, community housing practitioners, Māori housing providers, researchers, analysts, and those delivering housing from the ground up – builders, architects, the construction sector, finance providers, planners, philanthropists, and front-line staff – will join community representatives and rangatahi Māori for three days of learning, networking, and solution creation for fixing Aotearoa New Zealand's housing delivery system.

Sparked by the latest research from Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities Ko Ngā wā Kāinga hei Whakamāhorahora National Science Challenge and international researchers, and case studies from community housing practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand, the conference will seek to develop a platform for cross-sector action.

This conference is co-presented by Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) and the Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities National Science Challenge (BBHTC).

**Registration fees:**

BBHTC, CHPs and full CHA members \$500

Partner CHA members \$750

Regular registration (non members) \$900

AHI Awards dinner ticket \$100.

## **Working with Complex and Demanding Clients Workshop - Auckland, 2 July**



Due to popular demand, the Australasian Housing Institute will be running another session of the Working with Complex and Demanding Clients workshop in Auckland on Tuesday, 2 July 2019.

Aimed at housing professionals whose work involves direct contact with clients, this workshop will enable staff to develop strategies and communication skills to work more effectively in demanding client situations.

**Content:**

- assessment of complex situations
- introduction of de-fusing and de-escalation skills

- use of assertiveness skills
  - self-management
  - sharing local knowledge of appropriate agencies for additional expertise and referral
- Register early to attend this full day workshop for half price! This exclusive offer is only available to AHI Members until 19 April!

[Register](#) early to attend this full day workshop for half price!

## **The 2019 Lifewise Big Sleepout is Back! 20 June 2019, Eden Park**



The 2019 Lifewise Big Sleepout will take place on New Zealand's iconic Eden Park, on one of the coldest, longest nights of winter – Thursday 20th June, 2019. The event will see businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders coming together to raise funds that will go towards Lifewise's work for ending homelessness.

Stripped of their creature comforts, Lifewise Big Sleepout participants will battle the elements spending a night sleeping on a piece of cardboard, and receiving an insight into what it means to sleep rough. Their commitment is rewarded by donations from family, friends, colleagues and the public; every dollar raised goes towards Lifewise's work for ending homelessness.

Register [here](#)

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