



ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WELL-HOUSED



CHA Newsletter 3 February 2020

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IN THE NEWS

Welcome to the fortnightly newsletter of Community Housing Aotearoa *Nga Wharerau o Aotearoa*.

Included in this issue – opportunities to meet the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, an invitation to 'The Push' film, why we have reservations about the Government's Urban Development Bill, last chance to register for an exclusive members' webinar on HomeStar and HomeFit.

And - an update on the sector's work on a workforce development framework.

Schedule for visit by UN Special Rapporteur

We can now provide further detail on the visit to New Zealand from 10–19 February by Leilani Farha, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing.

CHA Chief Executive Scott Figenshow says Ms Farha will be seeking to engage on two main areas of her work. The first is the extent to which houses in New Zealand are being used simply as a financial product rather than as great homes fostering wellbeing in communities. The second is to do with how a rights-based national housing strategy has worked in other countries and what lessons New Zealand might learn in order to ensure all New Zealanders are well-housed.

We are working with a range of service and housing providers to offer Ms Farha the opportunity to hear directly from residents and persons facing homelessness during the afternoon of Tuesday 11 February in Wellington, on the afternoon of Friday 14 February in Auckland, on

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Saturday 15 February in Kaitaia, and Monday 17 February in Christchurch.

Also included in the current itinerary are a small number of RSVP events including a film screening in Wellington on 11 February, and an in-depth seminar on Housing Finance and Wellbeing in Auckland on 13 February.

Wellington: 10 -12 February

From 10 – 12 February Ms Farha will be in Wellington. Morning sessions involve engagement with Government. On Monday afternoon Ms Farha's key engagements include a series of meetings with various Commissioners and independent Crown entities.

Tuesday 11 February

Tuesday afternoon includes a series of site visits around Wellington with a focus on meeting families and individuals facing housing stress and risks to their rights to housing.

Public event: Screening of award winning documentary: The Push (Sweden, 2019, 92 minutes), featuring the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing around the globe on the issue of financialisation of housing (Director: Fredrik Gertten) 7pm, 11 February – Victoria University Wellington Lecture Hall (see separate note about how to RSVP for this event)

Ms Farha will introduce the film, with hosted Q and A. The event is free. Please contact [Ngahuia Wright](#) to ensure a seat.

Wednesday 12 February

Wednesday afternoon includes a series of meetings on tenancy rights issues, and human rights in New Zealand broadly. This programme will also include a briefing on current housing related research.

Auckland: 13 and 14 February

Thursday 13 February includes a marae visit and a Housing Finance and Wellbeing seminar as follows.

Thursday 13 February – 3pm – University of Auckland Lecture Hall (room tbc)

Seminar: Housing Finance and Wellbeing
The seminar will surface the connection between housing finance and wellbeing, in the context of growing recognition of the risks in the use of housing as a financial tool rather than as a home. It will help focus on the choices we have financing our housing stock to ensure wellbeing. The event is free.

For more information on this event please contact [Ngahuia Wright](#) to ensure a seat.

Auckland: Friday 14 February 3:30 to 5:30 pm (location TBC)

Meeting with civil society/advocacy organisations
In this session community, family and housing advocates will have a chance to speak with Ms Farha about their work and their concerns in the context of human rights.

Places are limited. Please contact [Ngahuia Wright](#) to express your interest.

Kaitaia: 15 February

Site visit to Kaitaia focused on meeting individuals and families facing housing risks and risks to their rights to housing.

Christchurch: Monday 17 February

Ms Farha is engaging a significant series of site visits in Christchurch. Please contact [Ngahuia Wright](#) if you are interested in being involved.

In Christchurch the itinerary includes:

- Site visits - Inncity red zone tour with former and current residents, and site visits in various red zone areas of Christchurch focused on meeting with individuals and families facing or having faced housing risk.
- Meeting with civil society/service organisations - places are limited. Please contact [Ngahuia Wright](#) to express your interest.
- Site visit - Housing First homelessness services focused on meeting with individuals and families

In addition, meetings with the Mayors of Wellington, Auckland, and Christchurch are being sought.

Human Rights Commissioner: UN visit provides opportunity for scrutiny

Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt says we need to embrace upcoming the upcoming UN visit as an opportunity to assess how well we're doing.

Writing in The Spinoff, he says the UN visitors will acknowledge successes, make constructive suggestions and speak up when they see human rights failings.

"As they're only here for 10 days, they can't tell us how to make universal human rights a reality in the everyday lives of all New Zealanders. We must figure that out for ourselves in the rich complexity of our unique, extraordinary society founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi," writes Paul Hunt.

His full article is [available here](#).

Invitation to Wellington screening of 'The Push' film

The film 'The Push' will be screened on Tuesday 11 February from 7-9pm at Victoria University's Pipitea Campus.

The theatre has a capacity of 150 people and we kindly request you [RSVP](#), koha requested at the door.

The Government Building Lecture Theatre 1 (GB LT 1) is located behind the main building along Stout Street. Please see [the map here](#) for the theatre's location.

Draft Urban Development Bill misses the mark

Thirty years of a lack of investment in genuinely affordable housing has given us homelessness and housing stress at an unprecedented scale.

The Government has a real opportunity to turn this around with its Urban Development Bill, currently open for submissions (due 14 February).

The bill follows on from the Kāinga Ora–Homes and Communities bill, which disestablished Housing New Zealand and set up a Crown entity in the same name.

It grants sweeping powers to Kāinga Ora, including compulsory land acquisition, streamlined consenting processes, setting and collecting development contributions and rates, and the ability to reconfigure infrastructure.

We want to support the Bill but have concerns that it has failed to pick up on the comments provided by CHA and sector partners on the legislation which established Kāinga Ora.

The current Bill does not require the development of any housing when these powers are used. While housing is enabled, nothing in the Bill requires any housing developed to be affordable or social housing. Further, the Bill does not provide a robust, statutory mechanism to ensure that any affordable homes developed will be retained so that mixed housing and communities are maintained over time. The Government could build a casino on the waterfront and not include any housing, let alone affordable housing.

We think this is a fatal flaw, one that must be remedied as the Bill proceeds through Select Committee. Our submission will indicate conditional support, subject to affordable and social housing being required in any development using the powers.

Failing to include a requirement to deliver genuinely affordable homes in the Urban Development Bill poses a risk for New Zealand's ability to recover from the housing crisis we are in.

As the draft legislation currently stands, the Government risks missing the point.

Further improvements we see needed in the Bill include:

- define affordable housing
- include registered community housing providers as both a key stakeholder and delivery agent
- add a third option for project selection – when put forward by local government
- create a SDP-lite process for these community-led projects
- expand the Betterment provisions to enable value uplift for affordable housing (by enabling tools like inclusionary zoning), in a community-led project.

Please send any questions or comments you have on the draft Bill to [Chris Glaudel](#).

Kāinga Ora Board finalised

The Kāinga Ora Board has been finalised – the announcement and brief profiles of each Board member is [here](#).

Our congratulations to CHA Council member Victoria Kingi (nee Carroll) for her appointment to the board.

CHA, Te Matapihi, and the CEO & Housing Leaders Forum wrote to Minister Woods in October last year to emphasise the need for the right mix of community and other expertise on the Kāinga Ora Board. We called for diversity, a commitment to whānau well-being, access to lived experience of housing need, business acumen, experience of community collaboration and partnerships, and kaupapa Māori service delivery.

We applaud Government for the appointments made and are confident that this new Board has the depth and range of expertise necessary for Kāinga Ora's success in working towards all New Zealanders well housed. We look forward to greater opportunities for partnership with community housing providers.

Last chance to register for HomeStar and HomeFit webinar

Opportunity to understand how HomeStar and HomeFit relate to your homes.

If you haven't already, please register for a webinar being held next week specifically for CHA members. This is a great opportunity for community housing providers to learn more about both HomeStar and HomeFit from the NZ Green Building Council. There will be plenty of time for your questions.

The webinar will cover the benefits of certification and how tools like Homestar for new houses and HomeFit for existing houses can be integrated into your existing housing assessment systems to deliver warmer, healthier and more efficient homes.

When: Tuesday 11 February, 12.30-1.15pm.

Where: By webinar

Cost: Free

[Register here by Monday 3 February.](#)

Update on workforce development framework

In October 2019, a group of community housing providers leaders met to discuss a workforce development framework for the sector. This workgroup was formed by the CEO & Housing Leaders Forum and is supported by CHA.

Representatives of the following organisations generously gave of their time:

- Community Housing Aotearoa
- Te Matapihi
- Emerge Aotearoa
- CORT
- Haumara
- Salvation Army
- Accessible Properties
- Otautahi Community Housing Trust

The discussion was wide-ranging, covering the perceived gaps in training available in New Zealand, the consideration of our Māori housing service providers and workforce, and ensuring that Te Ao Māori principles flow through all stages of training through to pilots currently underway and how to ensure best practice after training. This led to a discussion on whether the sector was large enough to support an accreditation and competency body.

To get us started we have agreed that there is merit in evaluating the learning outcomes of two pilots currently underway with the Australasian Housing Institute/CareerForce and Otautahi Community Housing Trust. The Workforce Group enthusiastically endorsed the suggestion that the sector develops Community Housing and Māori Housing 101 modules to sit alongside these existing pilots.

The Workforce Group pooled their knowledge and previous experience in housing, mental health, older person's health, and drug and alcohol sectors to develop a four-tier approach to the community housing provider workforce development and professionalism and validation of qualifications.

CHA is now working on a paper with the group that will be presented to the next CEO & Housing Leaders Forum and, if endorsed, there will be more detail available in a future CHA newsletter. This project is aimed to roll out over two to three years, with the first sector leadership days to occur around September or October 2020.

Cate Kearney

Lead on Workforce Development for the CEO & Housing Leaders Forum

David Zussmann

Senior Programme Manager, CHA

Your Community Housing Networks

Want to stay up-to-date with regional community housing matters and discuss strategic issues relevant to your work? You might like to consider joining one of the regional community housing networks up and running.

The networks meet regularly – please contact [David Zussman](#) at Community Housing Aotearoa to be put in touch with the network chairs. The Auckland network is only for registered CHPs and there is an approval process to join.

The Auckland network also has [its own website](#) with more information about its members and the range of housing solutions they provide.

Dates for the Auckland network's meetings in 2020 are:

12 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December.

Dates for the South Island network, Te Waipounamu, are:

17 February, 2 April, 4 May, 16 July, 13 August, 22 October, 26 November.

Come @ us!

CHA's Twitter handle is [@HousingAotearoa](#)

IN THE NEWS

- [Waitara housing market heats up as community fund hits \\$3.8 million](#)
- [Christchurch mayor says heat pumps on track for social housing by winter](#)
- [People who are homeless in Rotorua could be trespassed from parks and reserves](#)
- [Plans for a new Wellington suburb take shape](#)
- [How Finland is eradicating homelessness](#)
- [Iwi partnerships result in housing for Lower Hutt](#)
-

HUD seeks new Deputy Chief Executive

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is advertising for a new Deputy Chief Executive following Mark Sowden's appointment as Statistics New Zealand Chief Executive late last year.

HUD Chief Executive Andrew Crisp has circulated the job advertisement, saying the role is a critical one and includes leading a comprehensive government response to homelessness and its causes. A collaborative approach will be vital to leading and delivering a system-wide approach to New Zealand's public and social housing supply.

[The job ad is available here.](#)

EVENTS

Sydney conference on housing as the foundation for mental health

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), in partnership with Mind Australia, is holding a one-day conference in Sydney on Wednesday 19 February on 'Housing: the foundation for mental health'.

Stable housing is critical for recovery from mental ill health and for being able to access appropriate support services. However, housing and mental health systems are not well integrated and, when they do connect, are crisis-driven. This means that many fall through the cracks and experience a downward spiral rather than being set on a path to recovery.

This conference will draw on new national data to examine the links between the mental health and housing trajectories of individuals.

The conference will be held at the Mercure Sydney from 8am to 4.30pm on 19 February. [More information is available here](#), including registration details.

Housing hui for people with disabilities, their whānau and caregivers

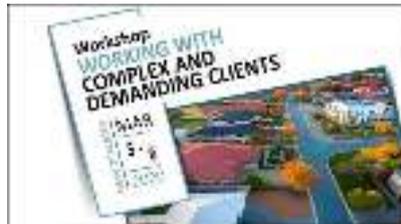
You are warmly invited to a hui with Ministers Carmel Sepuloni and Kris Faafoi, hosted by the Community Housing Collective (Disability Connect, Mangere East Family Services, Otara Health Charitable Trust, Complex Care Group, Yes Disability, Children's Autism Foundation, IHC, Cerebral Palsy Association, Te Manawa Respite Care, Auckland Disability Law).

The hui will be held on Friday 28 February from 1-3pm at the Otahuhu Town Hall, Main Street, Otahuhu, Auckland.

More [information is available here](#) and you can [RSVP here](#).

Enquiries: 09 636 0351

The Australasian Housing Institute - Workshops 2020



The Australasian Housing Institute will be running workshops in Auckland and Hamilton in March on the subject of working with complex and demanding clients.

AHI says the workshops will help housing staff in direct contact with clients to develop their strategies and communication skills to work more effectively in difficult situations.

By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to assess complex situations, defuse and de-escalate situations, use assertiveness skills, self-manage, and learn from local knowledge of appropriate agencies for additional expertise and referral.

You can [register here for the Auckland workshop](#) on Thursday 5 March and [register here for the Hamilton workshop](#) on Friday 6 March.

Housing First Partners conference March 2020

The Housing First Partners conference will be held in Seattle from 17-19 March 2020.

The first biennial conference was held in 2012 to further the conversation among practitioners about Housing First as a proven model for ending homelessness for those with chronic health conditions and long stints of experiencing street homelessness.

Since then, Housing First has been implemented across many elements of the crisis response and homeless systems and is being successfully applied in diverse interventions and as an overall community approach to addressing homelessness.

More information is [available here](#).

Property Council conference March 2020

The Property Council is holding a conference themed 'City Shapers 2020 - Creating communities' in Auckland on 25 March 2020.

The focus will be on shaping cities where communities thrive, and the conference will include analysis of the political landscape and legislative environment, innovative case studies in urban design, and the blurring of lines between traditional development and emerging residential sectors such as Build to Rent.

More information is [available here](#).

NZGBC Housing Summit May 2020

The New Zealand Green Building Council's next Housing Summit will be held in Auckland on 19 May 2020.

More information is [available here](#).

National Māori Housing Conference May 2020

The national Māori Housing Conference will be held in Hastings from 30 April to 1 May 2020.

The theme is: Providing shelter and a foundation for whānau.

The conference is a biennial event and provides an opportunity for regions to showcase their leadership and contribution to housing initiatives and developments.

It also provides a platform for Māori and stakeholders to share ideas, information, network and to formulate strategies to assist Māori into quality, affordable housing.

[More information, including the programme and registration details, are available here.](#)

AHI Housing First Finland study tour May 2020

The Australasian Housing Institute is calling for expressions of interest for a Housing First Finland study tour from 11-15 May 2020. Applications close on 28 November 2019.

The study tour is an opportunity to examine first-hand Finland's Housing First application and how Finland's lessons might work in an Australasian context.

More information is [available here](#).

LGNZ annual conference July 2020

The 2020 Local Government New Zealand annual conference and excellence awards will be held in Blenheim from 16-18 July.

The conference website, with information about the programme and registration details, will open in February 2020.

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