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CHA Newsletter 11 May 2020

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

Included in this issue – preparing for a new COVID-19 Alert Level, the questions that still need to be asked, and efforts to understand the cost of delivering public housing.

Move to Alert Level 2 from Thursday

The Government has announced that New Zealand will mostly move to Alert Level 2 from 11.59pm on Wednesday 13 May.

Many businesses will be able to open, including restaurants, malls, cinemas, shops and hairdressers. Bars will not be allowed to open until Thursday 21 May. Schools and early childhood centres will be able to open from Monday 18 May. Social gatherings are restricted to 10 people, and this will be reviewed after a fortnight.

The Prime Minister's announcement is [available here](#).

Media coverage so far includes:

- [Stuff](#)
- [NZ Herald](#)
- [Radio NZ](#)

Video: 'Are you well today?' The questions to keep asking

[In this short video](#), Clare Aspinall, CHA Programme Manager COVID-19, outlines the important questions for community housing providers to keep asking as the country moves into Alert Level 2.

These include questions about their health and whether they have a fever of 38C+.

Upcoming sector meeting

Providers are invited to the following online Zoom meeting this week:

- 2pm **Friday 15 May** - Operating at Alert Level 2

Please contact CHA Senior Programme Manager [David Zussman](#) or Deputy Chief Executive [Chris Glaudel](#) for a Zoom link to the meeting.

Sector meetings are being held each week. They are for community housing providers but you do not need to be a member of CHA to attend.

HUD to release updated guidance

With the Prime Minister's announcement on the move to Level 2 from Thursday, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is working to provide new Guidance. They will also post an update to their Frequently Asked Questions for Level 2. Both documents will be placed on their website [here](#) once completed.

Essential workers struggling with overcrowding at home

A new Research Bulletin has found that some essential workers are dealing with overcrowding at home.

The Building Better Affordable Housing for Generations team has found that while essential workers are out serving the nation they're putting their children, partners, or housemates at risk due to a lack of space.

Team co-leader Dr Kay Saville-Smith was interviewed about the findings by RNZ and a [link to that interview](#) is on the BuildingBetter website.

Among essential worker households in rentals, 13 percent are crowded while a further 39 percent are not crowded but have no spare bedroom.

More information is available here in the [Research Bulletin](#).

Public housing funding report

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released the Public Housing Funding Review report completed last year.

The review of subsidised housing expenditure was commissioned by the Government last year to better understand the cost of delivering public housing and options for funding it.

The review drew on information from community housing providers, Kāinga Ora and other government agencies to assess delivery costs and performance using the types of metrics that are used overseas.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) says the review highlighted the challenges with assessing the costs and value of public of public housing and housing-related services given the different sizes and types of developments, regional variations and range of tenant circumstances.

Community Housing Aotearoa is working with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to discuss the findings with registered Community Housing Providers.

The full report is [available here on the HUD website](#).

Shovel-ready projects and the CHP sector pipeline: part of an affordable housing-led recovery

CHA is discussing with our Australian counterparts at CHIA their initiative called the Social Housing Acceleration and Renovation Programme.

This could be a good way for the New Zealand CHP sector to talk about our capacity. CHA is working with providers to pull together details on your shovel ready projects through the Shovel Ready Projects work that many of you are participating in.

More reading on the Australian initiative is available at [Building the Recovery: Investment in social housing will create jobs and improve social outcomes during the pandemic](#).

CHA and HUD both understand that funding settings to date haven't worked for a lot of the new supply housing projects our sector has proposed. We are discussing with HUD the findings from the Public Housing Funding review to shape settings that would work for Government and you. We are working to ensure we play our part towards all New Zealanders well-housed.

Scott Figenshow, CHA Chief Executive

Shaping our new normal - pausing to think about changes that work

Have a look at this [2-pager](#) produced by the WiseGroup – it's an inspirational piece of thinking about how we've cut through barriers during the pandemic to respond to community needs. It calls for a new way of working with the community sector and what settings we should embed as part of our new normal. Please share!

Scott Figenshow, CHA Chief Executive

In the news

- [Welfare advisory group calls for post-war style house building programme](#)
- [Time to channel Great Depression, get building state houses: Infometrics](#)
- [Former homeless woman says motel has given her hope](#)
- [Interview with Bernie Smith, Monte Cecilia](#)
- [Why 'shovel-ready' is not good enough on its own](#)
- [Homeless being housed quicker in lockdown](#)
- [Call to address housing](#)
- [Saints of Auckland: Heroic work to help homeless in coronavirus lockdown](#)
- [Rental shortage in Westport despite vacant properties, locals say](#)
- [Supporting construction while rectifying state housing](#)
- [Million dollar boost for community support groups](#)