



**ALL NEW  
ZEALANDERS  
WELL-HOUSED**



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## CHA Newsletter 2 June 2020

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

Included in this issue – recognition for housing, the CHP sector development pipeline, meeting of the CEO Forum, educating politicians about how to help the community sector, and the gift of song for the Auckland City Mission.

## Recognition for our sector - and a reminder that our work is part of the solution



Firstly, I'd like to congratulate all of those recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for their housing-related work. I spotted the names of two people I've known for some time, Trevor McGlinchey, Executive Officer of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, and Lisa Woolley, CEO of VisionWest Community Trust. It's always great to see the leadership that comes through our sector rewarded.

You can read more about Lisa Woolley's award [here](#) and about Trevor McGlinchey's recognition [here](#). Abbeyfield New Zealand life member Peter Smale has [also been recognised](#) in the Honours list.

Please let us know if you spot anyone else who has been acknowledged for their housing-related work as we'd love to profile their work in a future CHA newsletter.

I want to talk a bit now about inclusion and inclusive communities. We have to remember that the difference between what we're seeing in New Zealand with the peaceful protests and the violence that we're seeing play out in the United States has also to do with crimes of poverty. It's a reminder, certainly to me and I think to many of us, that our work in housing is part of the solution to ending child poverty and ensuring that all of our whānau have access to the decent, safe, affordable homes that they need.

So in some ways it's a call to action, to ensure that we step up and really embed the system settings as we go forward that are going to ensure that our work becomes more around quantum, quality and the inclusive communities that we know are part of all of what we do.

I also want to stress how we raise the bar a bit. I encourage all of us to think about how do we become, dare I say, the economist that each of us needs to be and can be? Over the long weekend I had the opportunity to delve into Kate Raworth's book '*Doughnut Economics*' and her call to action is that each of us intrinsically knows through our work what needs to happen if we're going to achieve our goal of ensuring that all whānau can access homes that they need at the price they can afford for our vision of all New Zealanders well-housed to be realised.

For me, part of that is reflecting back to the amazing work you are all doing to bring forward new permanent, affordable homes. We are going to continue to further prioritise the kinds of developments that you are all doing and why that development and investment needs to happen locally and with our regions.

Going forward, you're going to hear [CHA](#) talking a lot more about the work we need to do with local government, what local housing plans look like, and how those can be better enabled through work that central government is doing. So, if you've got a bit of extra time, I urge you to get a copy of Kate Raworth's book. It'll help you understand a bit where the work at CHA is going and why making sure that you have access to the kind of investment to deliver locally makes so much sense.

**Scott Figenshow, CHA Chief Executive**

## **CHP sector development pipeline**

If you haven't yet talked to CHA about projects you are planning in your region, please get in touch with either [Ken Allen](#) or [Scott Figenshow](#).

The next Zoom meeting will be at **2.30pm on Wednesday 10 June**. We have invited HUD to discuss the public housing funding plan and how they wish to engage with our sector on the pipeline.

Your work across the regions has brought forward over 83 housing developments, of 2,986 new homes, across 15 regions, with just over \$1 billion of total development cost. That's a lot of jobs around the

motu. We are working hard alongside you to get the investment settings right that will unlock your potential to deliver.

**Scott Figenshow, CHA Chief Executive**

## **CEO Forum**

The sector's CEO & Housing Leaders Forum met by Zoom on 21 May. The meeting was convened by Garry Moore and attended by a broad range of sector organisations.

Highlights included discussions with Reserve Bank Governor Adrian Orr, Kāinga Ora Board member John Duncan, and the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Andrew Crisp.

Sector members reported on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic response on their work to house people in need, and noted the swift action to secure motel accommodation and to work closely with Housing First providers. Talks are continuing with government agencies to ensure no one will become homeless again as the pandemic restrictions ease.

Bernie Smith from Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, and Chair of Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA), acknowledged the work of community housing providers to house people and sustain tenancies during the COVID-19 response.

Scott Figenshow, CHA Chief Executive, reported on work to gather information about 'shovel-ready' housing projects, with nearly \$1 billion worth of development already identified, and more information still coming in.

The participants received an update on progressive home ownership and the work underway to clarify what will be funded under the \$400 million allocated by Government for the PHO programme. A number of things are still unknown but good progress is being made and there is good engagement. Wayne Knox from Te Matapihi reported on efforts to determine the detail of what an iwi/Māori pathway will look like.

Garry Moore set the scene for the discussion with Adrian Orr, and this was followed by brief presentations by Hope Simonsen (Emerge), Ricky Houghton (He Korowai Trust), Roine Lealalautu (Penina Health Trust) and Cate Kearney (Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust), who posed the question: 'Is there a way for central Government and the Reserve Bank to create a financial market that is only available for CHPs?' The discussion that followed was very useful and the Forum will seek further engagement on the issues.

Andrew Crisp from HUD was accompanied by two of his Deputy Chief Executives, Stephanie Rowe (System Performance) and Anne Shaw (Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships). Andrew noted the strong place-based approach being taken by HUD and acknowledged the great work by CHPs around the country.

Bernie Smith noted the importance of cooperation between government agencies to ensure providers did not have to compete to

obtain sustainable homes for people in transitional housing, particularly as we go into winter. Andrew Crisp assured the meeting that HUD was aligned with MSD on this.

## **Webinar: Educating political parties to help the community sector**

What does a thriving community and voluntary sector look like as we move into a post-pandemic era?

Hui E! Community Aotearoa, ComVoices, Sue Barker Charities Law, and Trust Democracy are hosting a webinar to hear from MPs and political party members about their parties' vision and planned policies to support a thriving and sustainable sector.

Representatives from seven political parties have been invited, and there will be time for questions.

The free Zoom webinar will be held from 4pm until 5.30pm on Wednesday 10 June, and [you can register here](#).

## **Find your way back home: a gifted song**

Musician Neil Finn has gifted a song called 'Find Your Way Back Home' to help raise awareness of and funds for the building of the Auckland City Mission's HomeGround project.

The song is [available here](#), with royalties going to HomeGround. You can also view and hear the song [here](#), and [here's a link to media coverage](#) of the gifted song.

More information about the HomeGround project is [available here](#).

Auckland City Missioner Chris Farrelly says the song is a special and precious gift ahead of the Mission's centenary commemorations.

The Mission is focusing on how it can support more people than ever before, with every indication being that the current levels of support for food will continue for many months.

"Whilst we will keep providing at least 1,000 food parcels a week, we are also working with like-minded agencies to create a better future for the approximately 1m Kiwis now considered to be in need of support for food.

"We are also working towards a future where homelessness is brief, rare and non-recurring, with the government's support. Right now that means keeping those people we placed in accommodation at the height of the pandemic, in their motels and apartments. In the future that means finding permanent housing for those people."

## **In the news**

- [More than 200,000 children may face hardship, children's commissioner says](#)
- [Covid-19: House buyers risk losing deposits](#)
- [New Zealand sheltered its homeless during Covid-19 – but can it last?](#)
- [Salvation Army expects need for their services to increase for years](#)
- [Drop in number of new homes consented](#)
- [Planning for major projects at NZ's largest industrial & residential development underway](#)
- [Government exempts some home improvements from costly consents](#)