



ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WELL-HOUSED



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CHA Newsletter 29 October 2019

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

Included in this issue – meet your new CHA Council, hear from the CEO and Housing Leaders Forum, HUD's first annual report and the latest information about the sector.

CHA welcomes Forum

CHA was delighted to support the recent meeting of the CEO & Housing Leaders Forum for a workshop ahead of the CHA AGM on 15 October. It's a sign of the growing maturity of our sector that we are coming together in these new ways to press for the policy and other changes that we know will make a real difference to our ability to see all New Zealanders well-housed.

The members of the CEO & Housing Leaders Forum are, of course, all members of CHA so in a sense we are already working closely together. However, the Forum provides an excellent opportunity for sector leaders to think strategically as a group about important issues in a way that hasn't presented itself before. Here at CHA it's our hope that the Forum's contribution will result in community housing providers doing even more of what you all do so well: finding homes for people who need them.

As we look to deepen our sector's engagement with government agencies such as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the new *Kāinga Ora*, we want to show that we are aligned on the things that matter, capable of thinking long-term and seeing the big picture, and able to work in partnership to fix New Zealand's housing crisis.

We're looking forward to working with the Forum and to keeping you updated on its work.

CEO & Housing Leaders Forum: October meeting

We had an excellent turnout of community housing providers from around the country at the third meeting of the Forum in Wellington on 15 October. It was a good opportunity to discuss the pressing issues the sector faces, such as our access to capital and land, and to have some useful conversations with senior government officials in the room.

One of the things we're continuing to consider is the terms of reference for the Forum. Probably not the most exciting of topics but important for us as a group of sector leaders to think about how we can work together to be effective advocates for our work as community housing providers and to really maximise our impact as a sector. That means finding our feet as a new group within the sector, choosing the right things to focus on and working towards a unified view on the things that matter most to us wherever possible. We will be looking to work closely with other sector bodies such as CHA and Te Matapihi, and we will report back after each Forum meeting.

Finance, as always, was one of the items top of mind for our most recent meeting and we were pleased to be given presentations on four interesting capital options for sector-led initiatives in affordable rentals and social housing. These were from Joy Marslin from New Ground Capital, David Nixon from Modus, James Palmer from Community Finance, and Ed Leason from Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust. There was much to think about following these presentations, and CHA is preparing a paper exploring them further.

Cate Kearney from Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust then led a discussion about workforce development, with the intention of giving the people who work in our organisations a career path and opportunities for growth. A lot of work is required in this area to look at what's required in terms of an overall framework and qualifications, and what needs to happen on the ground.

We also had several interesting discussions about where things are at with progressive home ownership and affordable rentals, before Andrew Crisp, the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, joined us for a broader discussion. I find it inspiring that the CEO of HUD took the time to sit with us and talk about strategic issues, and we hope he will return for another free-and-frank with us. His DCE Housing System Performance, Stephanie Rowe, was also present and we were able to talk about some of the things we are looking to progress. We made the point that housing was essential to the Government's focus on well-being, that we are supporting communities and housing should not be seen in isolation.

We will have four meetings of the Forum each year, with the next one in February.

Garry Moore
Chair, CEO & Housing Leaders Forum

The CHA AGM - and your new CHA Council

CHA's Annual General Meeting in Wellington on 15 October was well-attended by members.

The [Annual Report](#) and financial information was presented. Co-Chair Allan Pollard thanked fellow Council members who were stepping down or had departed during the year - Co-Chair Julie Nelson, Treasurer Carrie Mozena, Rau Hoskins and Peter Taylor.

Chief Executive Scott Figenshow reported on CHA's busy work programme and priorities in the past year, and introduced members of the team.

Carrie Mozena advised that CHA was in a solid financial position at the end of the year. She noted the \$275,000 of philanthropic funding as a significant driver behind the results.

The CHA Council recommended maintaining the current membership fee for full members as approved at last year's AGM. Partner member fees will remain at \$250+GST. Full member fees will remain as below +GST based on tiers of operating revenues of:

- \$500 for members with annual operating revenue up to \$1 million
- \$1,000 for members with annual operating revenue of between \$1 million and \$5 million
- \$1,500 for members with annual operating revenue of over \$5 million.

Following nominations for vacant positions on the CHA Council and an election, the [CHA Council](#) now comprises Allan Pollard and Bernie Smith (Co-Chairs), Greg Orchard (Treasurer), Victoria Carroll, Nic Greene, Yvonne Wilson, and Cate Kearney. Te Matapihi is expected to provide their appointment to the Council after their next governance meeting.

Attendees at the Forum and CHA AGM



HUD Annual Report and Dashboard

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's first Annual Report since its establishment in October 2018 has been presented to Parliament.

In a note accompanying the Annual Report, HUD Chief Executive Andrew Crisp acknowledged that HUD does not do its work alone and said he looked forward to continuing to work together.

The HUD Annual Report is [available here](#).

HUD has also published its [Housing Dashboard](#), which includes information on community housing.

Opening of Accessible Properties development

Congratulations to Accessible Properties on the opening of six new homes as part of plans to help address Tauranga's housing shortage.

Accessible Properties wants to replace 140 former state homes in Tauranga with more than 400 new townhouses and apartments.

Chief Executive Greg Orchard says housing wellbeing has become an urgent issue for Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty, and Accessible Properties wants to take action, with a housing project that stands for inclusion and choice.

One of the new tenants, Raymond, was pleased to see his new home, which he has watched being built from his previous accommodation across the road.

More information is [available here](#).

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 in Auckland and the South Island.

Both networks meet regularly – please contact David Zussman at Community Housing Aotearoa (davidz@communityhousing.org.nz) to be put in touch with the network chairs.

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

Christchurch Housing Initiative

Over the next three years, the Christchurch Housing Initiative, Te Whāriki tū-ā-Rongo, will be partnering with up to 50 Christchurch households to make their dream of home ownership a reality.

The Initiative is jointly funded by the Crown and the Christchurch City Council and is being administered by the Christchurch affiliate of Habitat for Humanity.

The Initiative will provide selected eligible households with the extra money they need to bridge the gap between their savings and the deposit threshold required by banks and other mortgage lenders. No interest will be charged, although the Initiative will share in any equity gains or losses over the period of the Initiative's contribution. Participating households have up to 15 years to repay the Initiative's contribution.

Applications for the Initiative open on 1 November 2019, and demand is expected to be high. Since the announcement of the Initiative in early October, nearly 200 potential home-buyers have pre-registered their interest.

To be eligible applicants need to have at least one household member in full-time employment and to not own or rent out a home. There is also a maximum household income threshold and applicants must be either New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

Priority is being given to applicants with household income at, or below, the Christchurch median of \$83,000, families, first time buyers and those who would otherwise be unable to enter the housing market.

More information on the Initiative is [available here](#).

IN THE NEWS

- [Queenstown Trust announces architects for Tewa Banks project](#)
- [EECA to look at LEDs in all housing](#)
- [Trade Me reports soaring demand for rental properties across the country](#)
- [200 fewer families bought first home in August 2019](#)
- [House deposit the real inequality for Govt to fight](#)
- [Growing demand for public housing](#)
- [NZ short by nearly 40,000 houses](#)
- [Accessibility and universal design not part of Building Act reforms](#)
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EVENTS

Child Poverty Action Group 2019 Summit

Whakamana Tāngata: Where to from here?

How we can make Aotearoa a better place for children and families?

18 Nov 2019, University of Otago, Wellington.

[More information here](#).

2019 National Kaumātua Service Providers Conference

Tēnā rā koutou katoa!

The National Kaumātua Service Provider Conference has been held for over a decade to support our kaumātua service provider sector to better serve kaumātua. Through these forums, and in response to provider and kaumātua feedback, the national collective, Hei Manaaki Ngā Kaumātua, was conceived.

This year's conference is made up of keynote presentations, world café style workshops, concurrent speakers and panel discussions, in alignment with the over-arching theme, 'Empowering Kaumātua Mana Motuhake'.

The Conference this year has three main information streams: Houora, Housing and Wellbeing.

Date: 19 - 21 November 2019. Venue: Novotel, Rotorua Lakeside.

More information and to register is [available here](#).

NZGBC Housing Summit 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](#).

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