



Media release

Conference addresses the challenge of housing for needy New Zealanders

The challenge of how to provide community housing for New Zealanders in most need will be under the spotlight in Nelson on Thursday and Friday next week (3-4 July).

About 150 delegates from the sector will be attending a conference organised by Community Housing Aotearoa which will take stock of what is happening and what needs to happen in the future.

The Director of Community Housing Aotearoa Scott Figenshow, says it is a crucial time for the sector.

“We know we need 20,000 houses for people in need - the goal is to get them built over the next six years. It is a challenge that the sector is very keen to take on,” he says.

Scott Figenshow says research shows that the community housing sector can provide two to three times the value for the taxpayer than a government spend on the same project.

“We know the benefits of the community housing model which sees developments with a mix of rent and shared ownership properties and we know we can achieve that in a very cost effective way.”

He says CHA will be presenting its vision and announcing its investment plan for achieving the affordable housing target at the conference.

Other speakers at the conference include Stephen Selwood, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Council for Infrastructure Development who will tell the conference that to get better value, we need to be thinking bigger in our approach.

Speaker Carol Croce, Community Housing Federation of Australia Executive Director will talk about Australia’s experiences and the need for governments to provide consistent long term funding of projects.

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The Impact Conference www.cha-impact.co.nz

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