

# Partnerships between Community Housing Providers & government key to improved social housing outcomes

Government partnerships with established Community Housing Providers are a value-for-money approach to ensure people in need get the right sort of help, says Don Wang, Social Housing Manager for the CNSST Foundation.



*Opening blessing, March 28th 2018*

CNSST was set up in 1998 to help Asian migrants to settle well in New Zealand. Today, its staff and volunteers provide a range of social services, including social work and counselling, education and training, translation services, help with immigration issues, and social housing.

Two years ago, the Trust opened CNSST Kotuku House, a 36-unit public housing development in Auckland's Panmure.

The units have been specifically designed for Asian seniors who face a range of difficulties in accessing the private rental market in Auckland.

Each unit is 59m<sup>2</sup>, with a private bathroom and balcony, and waste management and security systems. The ground floor of the four storey building houses CNSST's office, from which a range of services are offered to tenants and the wider community.

Wang says the development has been welcomed by both tenants and the surrounding community, but difficulties in accessing capital has prevented the Trust from developing further such initiatives.

"Government investment, in partnership with CNSST, was vital to getting CNSST Kotuku House off the ground. Similar support for other such

projects would go a long way to meeting the housing, social and cultural demands of the people we work with,” says Wang.

“We have proven the model works. CNSST Kotuku House is financially sustainable; equally importantly, our volunteers and staff reflect the linguistic and cultural needs of various migrant communities and can tailor the support we provide to suit.”

CNSST staff stay in regular contact with their tenants and offer them additional education and awareness workshops including recent workshops on recycling and safety.

Wang says CNSST’s combination of social housing and culturally appropriate wrap-around support services has attracted attention from other groups looking to develop a similar offering.

“Like the rest of New Zealand, Auckland’s population is getting older – it is also increasingly diverse in terms of ethnicities.



*Tenants in their new apartment*

“Community Housing Providers like CNSST offer a great way for government to work in partnership to deliver more new homes. We are able to meet the diverse needs of local communities in NZ offering affordable housing alongside the cultural and linguistically appropriate wrap around services.”