

ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WELL-HOUSED



CHA Newsletter 23 January 2020

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

Included in this issue – a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, an opportunity to engage with The Shift Aotearoa, and the search for good homes for former refugees settling here.

Also - a webinar especially for community housing providers on Homestar and HomeFit. Register now!

2020 off to a flying start

Housing is well and truly on the radar as we enter election year – as it needs to be. Our sector's vision of all New Zealanders well-housed is more pressing than ever, and we're looking to the Government to partner with community housing providers for practical, smart solutions to this country's housing crisis.

Community housing providers are already making a difference in the lives of many thousands of New Zealanders every day, and our members are keen to share their experience and insights.

An early highlight for 2020 will undoubtedly be the upcoming visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha. Her official visit to New Zealand next month, and her subsequent report to the New Zealand Government, will really set the scene for our politicians as their election campaigns take shape, and as the Government prepares for another housing Budget mid-year.

Your collective leadership calling for a rights-based, national housing strategy, underpinned by cross-party support, is a beacon of hope. Our sector is bringing together the many actors and parties needed, as government can't do this alone – no one can.

I encourage you all to join the regional community housing networks that are up and running in a number of areas, including Auckland and Christchurch. These are a great way to network with other community housing providers, discuss issues directly relevant to your work, and to feed into the regional and national thinking on a range of strategic issues. Please feel free to contact CHA Senior Programme Manager [David Zussman](#) to find out more about the networks and how CHA might support your work.

And remember to let us know about your successes, launches and various projects – we're keen to tell the world about the work you're doing!

Property Council
conference March 2020

NZGBC Housing Summit
May 2020

National Māori Housing
Conference May 2020

AHI Housing First Finland
study tour May 2020

LGNZ annual conference
July 2020

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Scott Figenshow
CHA Chief Executive

Visit by UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing

The United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha, is visiting New Zealand from 10 – 20 February.

This official visit provides an opportunity for the UN to assess positive developments as well as challenges and gaps in the protection and promotion of the right to adequate housing. The visit will result in a summary report from the Special Rapporteur, which may be delivered at the end of the visit or shortly afterward. A full report will also be produced in due course.

During the visit the Special Rapporteur will meet with Ministers and government departments, as well as non-government organisations, and human rights and housing experts.

CHA is working with the UN delegation, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Te Matapihi and others to offer Ms Farha access to a wide range of housing-related meetings, people, and on-the-ground insights.

A schedule for Ms Farha's visit is being developed and will be available shortly. CHA and Te Matapihi are working on a series of engagements for the following dates:

Wellington - 10, 11, 12 February
Auckland - 13 & 14 February
Christchurch - 17 February

If you would like to find out more about the visits or opportunities to meet Ms Farha, please contact [Brennan Rigby](#), Project Lead for The Shift Aotearoa.

The Shift Aotearoa

By [Brennan Rigby](#), Project Lead for The Shift Aotearoa

At The Shift Aotearoa conference last year Dr Moana Jackson ripped open (probably not for the first time) New Zealand's history, to reveal it as a story of colonisation, as a history of home invasion, and as a history of a gradually inflicted homelessness.

Dr Jackson then re-framed homelessness for Maori as house-lessness, to underline his belief that Maori are not homeless in Aotearoa. Māori by definition are at home in Aotearoa... and those facing a housing crisis face a crisis which is better understood as house-lessness. On the flip side, Dr Jackson suggests that the idea that the government is addressing homelessness is equally misguided, because what is generally being addressed by government approaches should more correctly be termed house-lessness as it focuses on housing, and rarely involves reconnecting people with their homes.

Overall, this field of ambiguity between the ideas of house, home, house-lessness and homelessness seem to serve a subversive purpose, helping us forget traditional ideas of home and connection, helping us relinquish some of that emotional power of home, and may be even helping us connect with the idea of a house as a transferable commodity. Or at least blurring the edges.

At the June conference the sector and those around the periphery moved further toward a direct conversation about the human right to

adequate housing in Aotearoa.

This impetus came in two parts. The first was through a powerful and thoughtfully produced kaupapa Māori/Treaty-based initiation of the conference led by Dr Jackson. In the second part, Aotearoa's Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt provided a definitive statement on the status of the human right to adequate housing in Aotearoa. The Commissioner reignited a sense that the human right to adequate housing could be meaningful in Aotearoa. As with the kaupapa Dr Jackson covered there was a sense of a surfacing of true opportunities.

These are really important inputs and starting points for The Shift Aotearoa as a project. They provide the foundation for conversations about colonisation, human rights, strategy, culture, government and civil society interface, our housing system, and at the same time highlight some big forces to grapple with: inertia, misunderstanding, the power of language, and the high price we pay when housing is financialised as a commodity.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing visits New Zealand in February and we have a strong sense that her approach and her expertise will find real support and understanding here... and following last year's conference we are also hoping Ms Farha can observe a sector which is willing and able to grapple with challenges which frequently cross historic, systemic, cultural, and sector borders.

For more information on the Special Rapporteur's visit or on The Shift Aotearoa project contact [Brennan Rigby](#).

Have your say on the Urban Development Bill

The Environment Committee has opened for public submissions on the Urban Development Bill. The bill follows on from the Kāinga Ora–Homes and Communities bill, which disestablished Housing New Zealand and set up a Crown entity in the same name.

The overarching aim of this bill is to provide Kāinga Ora with powers to improve the social and economic performance of New Zealand's urban areas through complex development projects.

Please contact [Chris Glauadel](#) if you have comments you would like to share for CHA's submission. You can also make your own submission on the bill by midnight on 14 February 2020.

[More information is available here.](#)

Webinar for CHA members: Homestar and HomeFit

The Healthy Homes Standards and quality new homes

Community housing will soon need to meet the Healthy Homes Standards. In addition, Government and city councils are now requiring that their new social housing be built better than Code. What does this mean for community housing providers?

The NZ Green Building Council has organised a webinar exclusively for our members on the benefits of certification and how tools like Homestar for new houses and HomeFit for existing houses can be integrated into your existing housing assessment systems to deliver warmer, healthier and more efficient homes.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the relevance of Homestar and Homefit for your work, and CHA encourages as many

community housing providers as possible to take part.

When: Tuesday 11 February, 12.30-1.15pm.

Where: By webinar

Cost: Free

[Register here by Monday 3 February.](#)

They've found a home - now they need a place to live



By [Christina Fordyce](#)

This year, we will be welcoming 1,500 former refugees to New Zealand. We've invited them to New Zealand as their new home – for many this will be their first home in many years. Now they need a place to live.

Former refugees are New Zealand permanent residents once they arrive and want a place to call home, to belong, where they can start their lives anew and contribute to their new community. This is where you can help.

Refugees are all assessed by MSD and placed on the housing register according to their needs. Our former refugee support system works to ensure a positive settlement experience for both tenants and landlords, led by contracted settlement service providers in each region. Additional support of translation services can also be provided, if needed.

More information about the refugee quota increase programme is [available here](#).

To find out more about former refugees as tenants or the housing process for them, contact [Christina Fordyce](#), Refugee Quota Programme, 0212623656.

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 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.

Dates for the Auckland network's meetings in 2020 are:

12 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December.

Come @ us!

CHA's Twitter handle is [@HousingAotearoa](#)

IN THE NEWS

- [Wainuiomata community protests transitional housing development](#)
- [Wellington's tight rental market spikes emergency housing grants](#)
- [Rental properties should be getting warmer, more liveable, but are they really?](#)
- [What is fuelling New Zealand's severely unaffordable housing?](#)
- ['No homeless men' ad for Auckland CBD apartment slammed as insensitive](#)
- [New survey ranks New Zealand's most and least affordable cities](#)
- [New Zealand's waiting list for state housing hits record high](#)
- [Unaffordable housing requires partnership approach says Infrastructure New Zealand](#)
- [Kāinga Ora's borrowing limit lifted by \\$4 billion](#)
- [Māori Council calls housing crisis a disgrace](#)
- [Political finger-pointing not helping New Zealand's housing crisis](#)
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EVENTS

Sydney conference on housing as the foundation for mental health

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), in partnership with Mind Australia, is holding a one-day conference in Sydney on Wednesday 19 February on 'Housing: the foundation for mental health'.

Stable housing is critical for recovery from mental ill health and for being able to access appropriate support services. However, housing and mental health systems are not well integrated and, when they do connect, are crisis-driven. This means that many fall through the cracks and experience a downward spiral rather than being set on a path to recovery.

This conference will draw on new national data to examine the links between the mental health and housing trajectories of individuals.

The conference will be held at the Mercure Sydney from 8am to 4.30pm on 19 February. [More information is available here](#), including registration details.

Housing hui for people with disabilities, their whānau and caregivers

You are warmly invited to a hui with Ministers Carmel Sepuloni and Kris Faafoi, hosted by the Community Housing Collective (Disability Connect, Mangere East Family Services, Otara Health Charitable Trust, Complex Care Group, Yes Disability, Children's Autism Foundation, IHC, Cerebral Palsy Association, Te Manawa Respite Care, Auckland Disability Law).

The hui will be held on Friday 28 February from 1-3pm at the Otahuhu Town Hall, Main Street, Otahuhu, Auckland.

More [information is available here](#) and you can [RSVP here](#).

Enquiries: 09 636 0351

The Australasian Housing Institute - Workshops 2020



The Australasian Housing Institute will be running workshops in Auckland and Hamilton in March on the subject of working with complex and demanding clients.

AHI says the workshops will help housing staff in direct contact with clients to develop their strategies and communication skills to work more effectively in difficult situations.

By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to assess complex situations, defuse and de-escalate situations, use assertiveness skills, self-manage, and learn from local knowledge of appropriate agencies for additional expertise and referral.

You can [register here for the Auckland workshop](#) on Thursday 5 March and [register here for the Hamilton workshop](#) on Friday 6 March.

Housing First Partners conference March 2020

The Housing First Partners conference will be held in Seattle from 17-19 March 2020.

The first biennial conference was held in 2012 to further the conversation among practitioners about Housing First as a proven model for ending homelessness for those with chronic health conditions and long stints of experiencing street homelessness.

Since then, Housing First has been implemented across many elements of the crisis response and homeless systems and is being successfully applied in diverse interventions and as an overall community approach to addressing homelessness.

More information is [available here](#).

Property Council conference March 2020

The Property Council is holding a conference themed 'City Shapers 2020 - Creating communities' in Auckland on 25 March 2020.

The focus will be on shaping cities where communities thrive, and the conference will include analysis of the political landscape and legislative environment, innovative case studies in urban design, and the blurring of lines between traditional development and emerging residential sectors such as Build to Rent.

More information is [available here](#).

NZGBC Housing Summit May 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](#).

National Māori Housing Conference May 2020

The national Māori Housing Conference will be held in Hastings from 30 April to 1 May 2020.

The theme is: Providing shelter and a foundation for whānau.

The conference is a biennial event and provides an opportunity for regions to showcase their leadership and contribution to housing initiatives and developments.

It also provides a platform for Māori and stakeholders to share ideas, information, network and to formulate strategies to assist Māori into quality, affordable housing.

[More information, including the programme and registration details, are available here.](#)

AHI Housing First Finland study tour May 2020

The Australasian Housing Institute is calling for expressions of interest for a Housing First Finland study tour from 11-15 May 2020. Applications close on 28 November 2019.

The study tour is an opportunity to examine first-hand Finland's Housing First application and how Finland's lessons might work in an Australasian context.

More information is [available here](#).

LGNZ annual conference July 2020

The 2020 Local Government New Zealand annual conference and excellence awards will be held in Blenheim from 16-18 July.

The conference website, with information about the programme and registration details, will open in February 2020.

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