

The Shift Aotearoa conference 2021 | a project of Community Housing Aotearoa and partners

WORKSTREAM: Housing System Settings

Issues Paper #2 | 9 Feb, 2021

If there was a chance for you to make three changes in the housing system tomorrow... what changes would you choose?

In this paper:

Opportunities to explore in future meetings | Ideas about Housing System structure | We need change | Envisioning a stable and effective housing system for all New Zealanders who need housing support

Opportunities to explore in future meetings

- National Māori Housing Conference, February
- Human right to housing:
 - UN Special Rapporteur final mission report due to be published March
 - Launch of HRC guidelines on the right to a decent home in Aotearoa, March/April
- Shift Aotearoa Conference June
- RM reform process to June 2021 [inc. inclusionary zoning]
- WAI 2750 hearings initiating this quarter
 - Incorporating existing Waitangi Tribunal guidance/jurisprudence
- Government plans and strategies [interpreting and supporting implementation]:
 - Public Housing Plan
 - Homeless Action Plan
 - MAIHI
 - Kāinga Ora Māori Strategy in development
 - Review of the Social Allocation System via the HAP
- Progressive Home Ownership roll out
- Climate change impacts and climate resilience in housing and the built environment
- Continued development of a clearer national strategic approach to housing in the long term.

Ideas about Housing System structure

- The housing system can be usefully differentiated from the housing market [leaving 'supply' aside, the market is a transactional place where vendors and purchasers meet]
- It may be useful to also differentiate the *housing supply system* from a *housing system based on the social outcomes/lived experience of housing?*

- These two systems are very different, with very different complexity and barriers: that defines them as separate systems, and it's why thinking about them as separate systems is useful
- [The *housing supply system* will be discussed in later documents]

This differentiation makes it possible to clarify and simplify the government's role in a *housing system based on the social outcomes/lived experience of housing*, as opposed to the whole system, and the market. Government has basic immutable social welfare and human rights obligations: to provide social housing, to ensure those in need are supported. These are constitutional obligations, and framed in that way could carry some weight. More importantly, these also happen to be the areas where we really want better outcomes and more government investment.

The problem is we have stopped doing housing really well; funding has been cut or reallocated and critical settings have become variables; opposition to government intervention in what was seen as 'the housing market' spread to include resistance to government delivering on those basic obligations.

In essence our constitutional 'social contract' got turned upside down, and 'we' started worrying more about having less government than making sure our vulnerable families were OK.

We need change

"...to create powerful innovations, you need a transformed image and vision of the future, and from this to develop a narrative of change that projects your journey into the future..."

Breakthrough conceptual prototypes need to be grounded in a re-imagined and renewed sense of future-facts and future possibilities. This is the first step in the journey to create powerful experiments that can scale."

[<https://actionforesight.net/narrative-foresight/>]

On this basis, it is worth reimagining our future as one in which we have a great housing system, and linking our housing system idea to narrative, especially new narrative. The Kiwibuy campaign did just that.

Thinking about the housing system, or maybe system change, shouldn't always be about the big magnetic force of government. But in the case of the housing system it's important that through government we are resourcing and sustaining a stable and effective housing system for all New Zealanders who need housing support.

To get there we need government to be as committed as we are to that vision, and to promise as a government – not just as parties - to maintain that commitment. What we need is a promise to keep investing in the housing system in sustainable ways over 25 years, and that can only happen in one of two ways: either one party remains in power and remains committed to the programme, or a cross party agreement is legislated.

Our new tools include the new narratives we create together, along with new breakthroughs in government responsiveness to Māori, and the guidelines on the right to housing and the Special Rapporteur's final report, both of which promote the idea of a national rights-based housing strategy.

Envisioning a stable and effective housing system for all New Zealanders who need housing support

There is a significant momentum behind a policy and practice shift toward Māori practice and outcomes. The simultaneous emergence of a dedicated Māori provider and engagement programme around Progressive Home Ownership, and HUD’s underlying MAIHI framework, have crystallised a new capacity within government’s housing policy shop. It’s possible we may on the brink of seeing a real genuine alignment between Crown and Māori, at least in housing matters, which will form the basis for much more productive partnerships based on... well... partnership.

If successful in the medium to long term, we may enter a period in which the old assumption that ‘if we can solve the housing crisis for Māori we will have solved it for many of our most vulnerable families’ is tested.

The question posed here, and the area of the housing system re-visioned here is really about the social welfare system at large, re-oriented to Te Tiriti and perhaps human rights, and viewed through a housing lens:

- We need **public housing**, and we might as well have about the right number to meet demand – making sure those in need receive.
- For the sake of our most vulnerable families, we also need our **biggest landlord to be our best landlord**, implementing human rights and other standards in tenancies everyday.
- Māori must be well housed, and it is critical that **Māori can be well-housed on ancestral land**: barriers to develop on Māori land under the right circumstances must be addressed first.
- Communities don’t just need big Kāinga Ora blocks of social housing; **communities need various housing types and typologies, tenures and housing opportunities**. Iwi, Māori providers, marae, community housing providers all have the capacity, together, to deliver that diversity.
- There’s a great chance to embed the **right to housing** to underpin this housing system. The right to housing comes with deep global experience, with high expectations of democratic policy making, and a strong ethic of accountability.
- So **how should we pay for all this?** Let’s be clear, strategic, agreed, and committed about this. We are paying for our 30 years of ignoring housing right now in vast government expenditure on housing and in the lived experience of many families living in housing poverty, stress, and homelessness.
 - One source of revenue is the housing market – it generates a lot of revenue pretty consistently, little of which is gathered for public use
- We could do all this through a **legislated national strategy**.

Pre-conference work programme | initial schedule of meetings

Our pre-conference work programme includes a series of engagement meetings on these matters. Please let us know if you would to be involved.

2021 work programme	Constitutional transformation*	Housing System Settings	Narrative Change	Development phase
---------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------	-------------------

Shift Aotearoa | Conference 2021

Meeting agenda prepared 3 working days prior published via available channels				
Meeting minutes circulated 3 days after specifying agreed next steps/tasks published via available channels				
Meetings are open and inclusive – there is no membership or limit on attendance: feedback will consistently be sought				
This schedule offers a framework: there can and will be other meetings, 'offline' and otherwise				
Existing networks and sector networks will be kept up to date and consistently invited to feedback and participate				
Standard timing	-	1PM – 3PM	10AM-Midday	
January	TBC	26 Jan	26 Jan	Convene conversation with those interested in each workstream Draft forward work/discussion milestones to June 2021
February	TBC	9 Feb	9 Feb	Agree vision for what could be achieved at conference, & to 2023 How? Develop ideas to get there
March	TBC	9 March	9 March	Agree vision for what could be achieved at conference, & to 2023 How? Develop ideas to get there
April	TBC	13 April	13 April	Conference presentations planned – key points agreed Issues paper or discussion papers agreed
April / May	Evolving work stream leadership engages with sector Wide net engagement on issues and discussion papers			
May	TBC	11 May	11 May	Feedback on issues and discussion papers circulated to inform presentations
May 12 - 31	Networking and engagement Conference presentations pre-recording			
Conference date:	9 June	10 June	11 June	Conference presentations focus on decision making and advocacy opportunities
Post conference initial review	TBC	29 June	29 June	Review conference proceedings and plan future work Establish forward meeting schedule
Conference 2021 outcomes include the development of a clear agreed future work programme				