

MEDIA RELEASE

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Moves to streamline Māori housing projects welcomed

The Government's decision to include the National Papakāinga Network in its fast-tracking of 11 infrastructure projects is being welcomed by community housing providers.

Scott Figenshow, Chief Executive of Community Housing Aotearoa, says it will make a big difference for organisations such as He Korowai Trust in Kaitaia, which are working hard to find good homes for whānau in need. The Trust's Chief Executive, Ricky Houghton, has told Radio New Zealand that a fast-tracked consenting process will mean whānau can be housed two years sooner (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018750978/fast-tracked-consenting-a-boon-for-maori-housing-trust>).

"That's really significant for an area like Kaitaia, where families are struggling to find secure, affordable permanent homes," says Mr Figenshow.

"We need to increase the supply of homes that are warm, dry and affordable, culturally appropriate, and meeting the needs of our communities. A key part of that will involve building the capacity of Māori and Pacifica housing providers in order to build and find homes appropriate to Māori and Pacifica communities.

"Community housing providers around the country are ready to roll up their sleeves and do even more to help ease New Zealand's housing situation as we look to stimulate the economy, create jobs and build communities that can thrive.

"Housing organisations like He Korowai Trust are doing essential work in their communities and we welcome any moves by the Government to streamline processes that will help families get into good homes sooner."

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Community Housing Aotearoa is the umbrella group for New Zealand's community housing sector. Our 90 provider members house approximately 25,000 people nationally across 13,000 homes. More information is available at www.communityhousing.org.nz.