



# HOUSING UPDATE

4 May 2018

Hi everyone,

Today the Government has announced a package of housing initiatives to tackle homelessness with the Housing First programme, and to support people in urgent need of housing this winter.

There's more on Housing First and winter 2018 below, and you can also check the [Beehive website](#) for the Minister's announcement.

This is a call to action for all of us – government, frontline services and community providers – to do everything we can together to make sure no one in need goes unsupported, to increase public and transitional housing supply, and find new housing opportunities.

No single organisation can manage this alone. I really encourage providers and the wider community sector to talk and work with us, to share ideas and opportunities and information.

Please feel welcome to talk to us. If you don't know who to talk to, [click here to email us](#).

And once again thank all of you for your amazing efforts, as we continue our work to provide more secure, warm and dry housing to more people in need.

Ngā mihi,

Scott Gallacher

Deputy Chief Executive, Housing

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## Housing First

As part of Budget 2018, Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Minister Twyford has announced a \$63.4m investment to sustain and expand the Housing First programme.

Housing First is focused on housing and supporting people who have been homeless for a long time or who are homeless and facing multiple and complex issues.

We have amazing Housing First providers working in Auckland, who have housed more than 215 homeless people and families since they began operating in March 2017. We're also working with providers to bring Housing First to Tauranga, Christchurch and Wellington.

We're looking forward to bringing Housing First to more high need regions. We'll know more about these locations soon.

[Budget 2018 – Housing First for homelessness – factsheet \(PDF\)](#)

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## Winter 2018

We want to make sure that all New Zealanders have the housing support they need this winter.

During winter 2018, government agencies, frontline services and community providers are working together to increase housing supply and support those in urgent need of housing this winter.

Minister Twyford has announced that by the end of winter 2018, government and community providers will deliver at least 1,500 more public, transitional and Housing First places, compared to the end of 2017. And we'll do more if we can.

We're encouraging all providers, councils and others working in communities to let us know what's happening on the ground.

If you know of properties that might be available over winter, such as seasonal worker accommodation or private rental homes, we'd like to hear about those.

We'd also like help to identify small land options suitable for temporary housing, with power and water connections already available, such as marae or private land.

If you are working with people who need support with housing, please encourage them to come to Work and Income. Our frontline services are ready with a raft of support options to help people in urgent need of housing.

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Please feel welcome to talk to us. If you don't know who to talk to, [click here to email us](#).

[Preparing for winter 2018 – factsheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Support with housing – fact sheet \(PDF\)](#)

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## Changing the way we work together

Within the MSD Housing team, we are changing the way we work with the sector, focusing on long-term strategic partnerships and collaboration, and making it simpler and easier to do business with us.

We've listened to what the sector has been telling us, and we are overhauling the way we source and contract for housing supply and services.

We're looking forward to letting you know more as we develop and refine the new approach and tools in the near future.

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## An update on some recent openings

I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of people right across the sector to get a number of developments on the board. In the lead up to winter it is more important than ever to get people into warm, dry, safe homes. Some recent openings include:

- *Kotuku House*: [Read the press release here](#).
- *Brown's Road*: [Read the press release here](#).
- **Tū Māia Ki Te Ao**: [Read the press release here](#).

These are just a few examples of the amazing places recently opened, and we are thrilled to be bringing more on board.

Browns Road transitional housing opening on 2 March.

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## What's been happening

- Tenancy reviews for all public housing tenants are on hold until the end of June 2018. [Read the press release on the Beehive website](#).
  - Increases to Accommodation Supplement and Accommodation Benefit took effect on 1 April 2018. There is a [simple calculator on the Working for Families website](#) for people to get an
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estimate of the likely impact of the Accommodation Supplement changes for them.

- Winter energy payments (WEP) will become available from 1 July. The WEP will be available for every New Zealander 65 and over who receives New Zealand Superannuation or a Veteran's Pension, as well as people receiving a main benefit. [Read the press release on the beehive website.](#)

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