



Community Housing
Nga Wharerau o Aotearoa

MEDIA RELEASE

27th August 2020 – **For immediate use**

Cross-party support for Community Housing Providers welcomed

Cross-party backing for community-led initiatives to solve New Zealand's housing crisis has been welcomed by Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) Chair Bernie Smith.

Mr Smith said he was pleasantly surprised by the broad support community housing providers received from politicians attending a CHA-sponsored webinar held last week. The webinar featured a policy discussion involving ACT's Karen Chhour, Green Party co-leader Marama Davidson, Māori Party co-leader John Tamihere, National's Simon O'Connor, and TOP leader Geoff Simmons.

The five put forward numerous policies that would enable community housing providers to provide more families in need with permanent housing solutions, including using Government-guaranteed bonds to attract low-cost development finance to the sector.

"While there were a number of different views on the causes of the current crisis, there was a general consensus that solutions needed to reflect individual communities' needs, and that involving the community housing sector was one way to ensure that would happen," said Mr Smith.

"Government needs to lead the way, but it cannot single-handedly provide all the answers," said Mr Smith.

Mr Smith, who is CEO of Auckland's Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, said it was unfortunate members of the current coalition government were not able to attend the event.

"The government has unquestionably made some positive steps towards recognising the scale of the country's housing crisis and its potential to generate long-term social damage. However, it seems somewhat reluctant to make full use of the expertise Community Housing Providers could provide," said Mr Smith.

"If the government wants shovel-ready infrastructure projects that will deliver long-term social and economic benefits, we've got them."

The full webinar can be viewed [here](#)

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.

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ENDS

Community housing providers have written a letter of expectations detailing a set of specific actions required in order for all New Zealanders to have somewhere that is safe, warm affordable and permanent to live. [Click here](#) to read the Letter of Expectations.

Case study links:

Abbeyfield Case study: [Click here](#)

Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust Case Study: [Click here](#)

CNSST Case Study: [Click here](#)

We Believe...

Everyone needs a place to call home: [Click here to view](#) a video by the Auckland Community Housing Providers Network, supported by Community Housing Aotearoa.

Hear first hand how good, affordable homes give people hope, connection and stability:

- [Alex \(Salvation Army\)](#)
- [Joan \(Haumaru Housing\)](#)
- [Mau and David \(Housing Foundation\)](#)
- [Christine \(Haumaru Housing\)](#)
- [Rozeena \(Monte Cecilia Housing Trust\)](#)

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