

Media release Community Housing Aotearoa

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### **Provide homes now – reap the benefits later**

New research shows the benefits of good housing and indicates the long term benefits of helping people move between private and social housing into home ownership says peak body, Community Housing Aotearoa.

The three pieces of research commissioned by the New Zealand Housing Foundation are:

- The Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit looked at over 120 international studies to see if there was a link between better housing tenure and positive social and economic outcomes
- Research from BERL models the fiscal impact of transitioning New Zealand renters into home ownership; and
- Nexus Research surveyed nearly 300 households in a new Auckland community-built using the principles of community development and place making, and tracks residents experience of life before and after moving there.

[The research can be found here.](#)

“This research backs up what we’re seeing day to day – good housing is an up-

front social investment that reduces long-term welfare liability down the track,” Scott Figenshow, CEO of Community Housing Aotearoa says.

“It’s the evidence that shows us we need to make as much effort as possible to reverse the trend of fewer people owning their own homes. We will be better off as a country in the long term if we support and assist home ownership and more tenure security in housing for families and individuals,” Scott Figenshow says.

“The work of community housing providers like New Zealand Housing Foundation, assisting low-income families into home ownership, has many positive outcomes. More families over the country need access to these housing options that they aren’t able to access any other way.

“Great progress is underway in the emergency and social housing end of the housing continuum. But what we haven’t seen enough of is mid-continuum support for assisted rental and assisted ownership.”

Scott Figenshow commented that there are 43 Community Housing Regulatory Authority (CHRA) registered organisations capable of delivering homes across the range of social and affordable housing.

“The research shows we should support these organisations to grow in scale to meet the demand for both social and affordable homes.

“The solutions of supply by providing more land, greater intensification and removing obstacles for development can contribute.

[Additional research by Sense Partners](#), commissioned by Community Housing Aotearoa, also shows that inclusionary zoning is a safe tool to assist in delivering affordable rental and assisted homeownership, Scott Figenshow comments.

“We have the tools, we just need to use them more actively.”

(ENDS)

For more information contact: Scott Figenshow on 0210619664

[www.commmunityhousing.org.nz](http://www.commmunityhousing.org.nz)

*Community Housing Aotearoa's vision is to make sure every New Zealander is well housed with a warm, safe, dry and affordable place to live.*

*We are the umbrella organisation for over [100 organisations](#) who are building and managing affordable and social housing for under-served parts of our population. We play an advocacy and stewardship role for the sector, building capacity by promoting best practices, skill development, resources and policy guidelines for our members and other stakeholders.*

*Ultimately, we want to demonstrate that non-profit housing is a critical element alongside private and government owned housing. No one alone can do it. We need all three housing pillars to achieve our ambition of providing every New Zealander with a home that fits their needs and means, as a basic human right. As a country - this will make us better and stronger.*

[How we think this can be achieved](#)

[Our 2015-2016 annual report](#)



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**Our mailing address is:**

Level 1, Southmark House, 203 Willis Street

PO Box 11543  
Wellington 6142

**Phone:** (04) 385 8722

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