

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

Register interest: project@theshiftaotearoa.org. Content status is 'draft'.

Conference working dates are 8, 9, 10, 11 June, 2021. The conference will be primarily online but we are hoping there will be associated regional in-person events.

In 2019 the conference opened with a successful, through-provoking Māori housing think-tank. We hope to work with Te Matapihi and others to provide a similar foundation in 2021. This work will sit alongside the work programmes described here, and may occupy day one of the conference [8 June].

Pre-conference work programme | initial schedule of meetings

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

Draft

Brief description of work programmes:

1. Constitutional transformation

This context was introduced to the Shift Aotearoa Conference 2019 by Dr Moana Jackson, including both Treaty of Waitangi and human rights elements, as well as transformation itself. Constitutional context – including Te Tiriti, and western legal and economic frameworks - has always been in the background of the housing system and it is strategically important to maintain, revisit, and interrogate this relationship.

* This work programme requires substantial discussion and engagement to understand the appetite for this discussion, in this context, from a broad range of parties including those involved with Matike Mai Aotearoa – the starting point for this discussion. For this reason no dates have been included in the schedule at this time.

2. Housing System Settings

We are proposing to approach and use the 2021 conference in a different way. Rather than surveying progress across the sector and the system, we want to develop a sector and system wide focus on a smaller number of 'housing system settings' we agree are critical.

Our system will never work if it continues to discriminate against Maori in regard to barriers to development and in more urban dynamics. System settings holding those barriers in place must be surfaced.

By separating out constitutional matters from *housing system settings* we can hopefully leave some big picture issues like *capitalism* and *neo-liberalism* - which have been running interference in the housing system - where they belong: in a constitutional context.

This offers an opportunity to drill down further on fewer settings and policies, and perhaps more importantly, to end the conference on the same page about our forward priorities.

3. Narrative Change

After an election period respite, in December 2020 our media is once again flush with housing coverage, led in the most part by simple narratives: the highly prevalent *supply* narrative says 'we just need more supply' has many flaws: it is harmful to those who cannot enter into new supply and have no stake in it, while living in poverty and poor quality housing. It has capitalist and colonial under-tones.

Other narratives serve reinforce false binary conflicts, dramatizing the news coverage: landlords v renters, first-home buyers v investors, rich v poor. And these are tied up in a deeper and bigger narrative: *the market*.

Whether we can in fact influence media commentators, or influence government by influencing the commentary, we will certainly be best situated to do so if we have meaningful conversations about both harmful and productive narratives, and how we can shift the balance or introduce new narratives.

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