



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter 29 October - Great things happen when we have a plan!

In this issue we have some of the highlights from the CHA IMPACT Conference 21-23 October and a focus on the Australasian Housing Institute Awards.

We hope you enjoyed last week's conference! Thanks to the huge efforts of our presenters, sponsors, colleagues and partner agencies for their support. Yet again our combined efforts demonstrate what a vibrant, thoughtful and capable sector we are building.

A big thank you to Conferences and Events for their superb organisation. We are working through posting all of the content and presentations from the sessions and will post these as they become available over the next fortnight. Please visit www.cha-impact.co.nz for more information.

Read some of the feedback on the conference [here](#).

Congratulations to the CHA members who won awards at the recent Australasian Housing Institute New Zealand awards ceremony

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Our Place: All New Zealanders well-housed



Leading Innovation: Whangarei Accessible Housing Trust

The Whangarei Accessible Housing Trust built eight fully accessible, high quality rental homes in the Takanini suburb of Auckland in June 2014. The provision of the homes transformed the lives of the eight tenants and their families who had previously been living in homes that were unsuited to even their basic needs.



The Trust was formed in 2006 with a commitment to providing affordable accessible homes to people with disabilities. The Trust's point of uniqueness is the majority of trustees have lived experience of disability ensuring the Trust truly represents the community it serves.

Outstanding Achievement: Lisa Woolley



For the last 16 years, Lisa Woolley has been working for Vision West Community Trust and as the CEO for the last 13 years. She is passionate about community development and addressing social issues such as poverty, marginalisation, unemployment and homelessness.

Over the last 10 years, Lisa has been highly involved in developing community-based social housing. She served on the CHA Council for six years as well as on ministerial advisory panels

and other social housing reform reference groups that influence

policy direction. Lisa has a Graduate Diploma in Not-For-Profit Management and a Masters in Social Practice. She sees her role as, “staying connected with the team and with the people we are serving,” She is committed to making a real difference in the lives of people and has demonstrated this personally and professionally over the years, particularly through her influence as CEO at Vision West.

Stop press- Lisa also won the outstanding achievement award at the Australasian Housing Institute presentation last night in Perth.

The Winner of the Leading Housing Development Project Award: Accessible Properties

This is a mixed tenure development in the suburb of Johnsonville in Wellington. It was completed in December 2014 and is part of the growing intensification of housing in the Johnsonville suburban hub, only 500 metres from the town centre.



The development consists of eight two-bedroom units owned by Accessible Properties New Zealand Ltd and eight privately owned townhouses. They were developed by Middleton Capital Limited and constructed by Holmes Wellington Ltd. Social housing tenants occupy the units owned by Accessible Properties, which are indistinguishable from the remainder and include facilities developed to meet the needs of people with limited mobility, such as wheelchair access.

The Winner of the Inspirational Team Member Award - Keith Preston



If anyone in New Zealand doesn't know Keith then they haven't been involved with social housing for long. 2014 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) and Nelson Tasman Housing Trust (NTHT). Keith was a key person in the establishment of both organisations and there are very few people in New Zealand who have had more experience or who have contributed as much to community housing as Keith. Keith has just completed his term as Treasurer of CHA. Congratulations Keith!

Leading Tenant Engagement Practice – Tenants Protection Association Christchurch

Established in the late 1970s and incorporated in 1982, the Tenants Protection Association offers a range of services from advice and advocacy to education, outreach and in-depth case managed tenancy support. At an individual level, tenants benefit from a consistent wellinformed and credible advice/advocacy service.



In the past two years, in an environment of significant upheaval, there have been over 20,000 calls through the phone service and post-earthquake, the call duration has risen significantly. TPA has conducted 80 education sessions, prevented numerous evictions and stabilised a large number of tenancies at significant risk of eviction in a time of unprecedented rental scarcity in both the private rental market and the social housing arena. TPA has provided 160 rental clinics in the eastern suburbs which were hardest hit by the earthquakes. They

have also organised 15 housing forums with an estimated attendance of over 2,000 participants. TPA has worked tirelessly to improve rental housing standards.

Highlights from the conference



A key part of the conference was the closing speech from the Minister of Finance, Bill English and the presentation of the 'Our Place' community housing sector draft strategy with the goal of all New Zealanders well-housed. Here Scott Figenshow presents Minister English with the dart board target of 50,000 more people housed in community housing by 2020. Feedback from the 'Our Place' policy and outcomes workshops is still being compiled and will soon be available.



The conference was opened by the Minister of Social Housing Paula Bennett followed by Minister for Maori Development Te Ururoa Flavell.



A fully packed and exciting conference with 187 registrations

Ricki Houghton, He Korowai Aroha, with some of our new friends from the Manukau Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church at the conference.



Site visits on Wednesday took in Accessible Properties and Dwell housing at Riverside Gardens



Outside the community house supported by Trust House in the Wairarapa

Homelessness is a form of 'internal exile'



Sam Tsemberis and Moira Lawler at WCC Central Park Complex after his Wednesday workshop

Here is a recent video called "Housing the Homeless" on the Housing First programme presented to us at the CHA Impact Conference by Sam

Tsemberis. Sam believes that we've long been treating the symptoms of homelessness, not the root cause. He contends that what homeless people need first, before mental health services, addiction counseling, job training or anything else, is simply a home. In this episode from nowwhat, they chose to focus largely on one person, Tony, and his story as he moves through the Housing First programme as a way to illustrate the transformative power of Housing First. Click the link [here](#).

Some comments from Sam over his week here in New Zealand:

- Homelessness as a form of 'internal exile'
- The traditional model of housing focuses on over-specialised service support – people have a whole life – how do we help with the whole life?
- Housing based on choice -services based on need
- We develop a crisis response to homelessness as if it's an acute situation. For the group we're talking about it's a chronic situation.
- The client drives the service rather than us trying to drive the client through the existing system
- Refusing the offer of a service that doesn't make sense to the person is not choosing to be homeless- it's refusing an ineffective service
- People will get better, their need for services will reduce over time. It takes much longer to recover from poverty, people will need rent support for the long haul.
- Make services hard to be discharged from. People might lose their housing but they keep their support and are rehoused.

You can go [here](#) to see more of Sam's presentation.

Thank you

Thank you to all of those who joined us for the conference – It's only with your initiative that we can make the IMPACT that our sector wants, to see our communities thrive and all New Zealanders well-housed.

We are able to do our work through your membership and the support of our sponsors. We are grateful to Wellington City Council for signing on early as our principal sponsor for the event, this ensured that we could bring this conference to you at the fantastic Te Wharewaka ki Poneke venue.

We are grateful for our platinum sponsors- through the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, the Treasury and the Ministry of Social Development. And to Lifewise Trust for their sponsorship and support to bring Sam Tsemberis to New Zealand.

A huge thank you to Westpac as our gold sponsor – they continue to show an interest in how the commercial and community sectors can partner and that is an ongoing discussion.

Many thanks to our Bronze sponsors- Trust House, The Property Group, the New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness, Housing New Zealand. Further thanks to BNZ and BECA for supporting both the Making Homes Happen development guide initiative in Auckland

and for its connection to our wider work here at the IMPACT conference.

Presentations and audio from the conference will be posted on our website and the conference website within the next two weeks.

PrefabNZ UniPod design competition



Prefab^{NZ}
The hub for prebuilt construction

This is your chance to get a team together and design an open-source universal bathroom pod. Win \$5,000 and get to see it built in time for the CoLab, April 2016 in Auckland. See more information and the design brief [here](#).

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