

**ALL NEW
ZEALANDERS
WELL-HOUSED**



Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) COVID-19 Update

Welcome to the third special issue of our newsletter about Covid-19 for community housing providers from your sector body, Community Housing Aotearoa Nga Wharerau o Aotearoa.

We have provided useful links to information and advice about responding to Covid-19 including:

- CHA's support for members
- Ministry of Health information and advice
- Government support for your organisation
- Other helpful resources

Message from CHA's Chief Executive

Kia ora koutou,

It has been good to see more of you over the last week, albeit in circumstances that I know are at best uneven for many of you.

We have heard strongly that we need to ensure priority vaccines for our people, more vaccine mobility for the rough sleepers and homeless communities in our care, and to ensure we have good local and national safety nets available for mental health.

We've heard that planning for supplies and food is difficult with the day by day approach.

We've also heard that our rangatahi/youth have specific safety needs that require addressing.

There is work underway on each of these things – please keep your feedback and requests in relation to these and whatever else you may need coming. Chris Glauadel and I have another opportunity to

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meet the Minister next Friday 3 September and feedback on issues is most welcome.

In the middle of all of this we have a submission to the Productivity Commission's 'a fair chance for all' inquiry due, which our team has put together and is attached to this newsletter for you to take a look at. It's a reminder that while we respond to the Delta crisis, we still need to work on the long-term changes that we need to address our housing crisis. That's what we're here for at CHA and I hope you can endorse our submission (and have one less thing on your plate).

Ngā mihi,

Vic Crockford
Chief Executive
Community Housing Aotearoa

Productivity Commission Submission - Include Housing in the Terms of Reference

A final reminder, the deadline for input into the Productivity Commission's Terms of Reference for a new Inquiry 'A Fair Chance For All – Breaking The Disadvantage Cycle' is 5:00PM tomorrow, Friday 27th August 2021. The community housing sector is encouraged to make sure that housing is included in the Terms of Reference.

There are three ways you can provide input:

- Endorse the [submission from Community Housing Aotearoa](#) - email support@communityhousing.org.nz. You will note it is wide ranging, but given this is a Terms of Reference submission we felt it important to 'join the dots' of the housing system.
- Answer the four questions on the [online submission form](#) on the website Productivity Commission | A Fair Chance For All.
- Make your own submission using some or all of [this template provided by CHA](#). This is a shortened version of our full submission with the intent of getting a number of organisations behind the key messages.

CHA's support for members

Guidance resources for Alert Level 4

A reminder, Community Housing Aotearoa developed resources to assist providers to safely provide housing services during the initial lockdown periods in 2020. The [Level 4 information](#) is still relevant and is available on our website. The guidance documents contain information, contacts, resources and advice to help you in your day-to-day service delivery and decision-making under the Government's Levels 4 through 1 response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We urge all

providers to review the resources to ensure your residents, staff and visitors have information available to maintain their health and safety.

REGIONAL EVENT SERIES

MSD Training Series

Brought to you by CHA, Housing First Auckland & MSD

Community Housing Aotearoa and Housing First Auckland in partnership with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) will host a series of four online training sessions for practitioners working in the housing and homelessness sector. The series is being trialled in the Auckland region with the content being delivered by Auckland based MSD staff. Due to the generic nature of the content, the series is intended for all practitioners currently working in our housing and homelessness sector.

The registration link and series details are listed below.

Wednesday, 8 September – 9:30-10.30am

Session 1: Public Housing Assessment

An overview of how the priority rating is assessed, bedroom allocation and how letting areas impact on a person's ability to be matched.

Wednesday, 29 September – 9:30-10.30am

Session 2: Work and Income 101

An overview of benefits, supplements and hardship payments.

Wednesday, 20 October – 9:30-10.30am

Session 3: Emergency Housing

Emergency housing, including pathways to alternative accommodation, contributions, and supports.

Tuesday, 30 November – 9:30-10.30am

Session 4: Products and Services to Support Private Rental
Products and services to support private rentals including rent arrears, bonds, supplements and sustaining tenancies.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for one of the training sessions or the series.

Further details are available in this [information sheet](#). We encourage you to share this with your networks.

Sharing ideas and issues

Update on Te Matapihi Zoom Meeting

- Some of the CHA team attended the Te Matapihi 'zui' on Tuesday to hear from iwi and Māori providers about how they're doing. It was important to hear some of the common themes coming through with respect to access to mental health services and the mobility of vaccinations – both topics Te Matapihi and CHA have been able to raise to the Ministers as a joint group.

Update on CEO & Sector Leaders Forum

- The CEO & Sector Leaders Forum was focused on the COVID response, the redirects issue and investigating how the change to the

Operating Supplement will work in practice for different providers. The Forum also heard from the Productivity Commission's Geoff Simmons about the importance of having the housing voice heard in the 'fair chance for all' inquiry that is getting underway.

Update on Te Waipounamu Network

- Our providers in Te Waipounamu met online to discuss some of the key COVID issues they're facing and to get an update on recent engagements with the Minister. They also heard from Geoff about the Productivity Commission's work.

Ministry of Health information and advice

The Ministry of Health has set up an inbox to receive information about both continuity of mental health and addiction services and about psychosocial needs. This address can also be used to ask questions about national advice or guidance and how it relates to mental health and addiction services.

The inbox address is: COVID-19Psychosocial@health.govt.nz

You may also be interested in signing up to the [Mental Health and Addictions newsletter](#) which is one of the key channels the Ministry use to provide frequent updates.

There is also [COVID-19 mental wellbeing advice](#) and resources available on the Ministry's website.

A reminder, please visit the [Ministry of Health website](#) for the most up-to-date official advice and information about COVID-19 in New Zealand:

More government information about COVID-19 is available [here](#).

Government support for your organisation

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development - Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga

Ko te reo mihi tēnei te maioha ake nei ki a koe, kei te mōtoi kahotea,
me te tangi ki ō tāua mate

huhua o te wā, ki te iwi kua whetūrangitia, tauārai i te pō, titoko o te
ao mārama, tēnā tāua.

We wrote to you last week following the Prime Minister's announcement that Aotearoa New Zealand was moving to Alert Level 4 Lockdown. Now that the lockdown has been extended, we want to let you know Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga continues to support your organisation and your mahi to ensure you can provide emergency and temporary accommodation to those in need.

We want to acknowledge the fantastic job all our housing providers have done to ensure the homeless have a roof over their heads during lockdown. Thank you for working so hard to support individuals and whānau experiencing homelessness to move

quickly into stable accommodation and access wider social support to address their needs.

We are working closely with the Ministry for Social Development to ensure everyone has accommodation. People with nowhere to stay should contact MSD who will support them with emergency housing. Government Ministers and officials are meeting regularly with Iwi to ensure effective engagement to ensure strong open communication continues in our response to COVID 19. These meetings enable open dialogue and actions for agencies to follow up on.

The collective work done across agencies in response to COVID-19 in 2020 means we're in a much stronger position to respond swiftly now to ensure our providers and staff can operate under any alert level. We continue to work with all our providers as they assess the level of need and have responded quickly to these changing circumstances.

A number of additional units have already been secured in Auckland in response to a request from one of our providers and additional places have been sourced in Whangārei for rough sleepers. A big thanks to our providers like Kahungunu Whānau Services who have also begun offering vaccination programmes for the homeless in and around Wellington amongst the wide service provision they provide to whānau in need, while organisations such as Wellington City Mission have been delivering shopping orders to support individuals and families where needed.

HUD is working with the Ministry of Health to provide further information about vaccination needs. DHBs in some areas have already begun working with providers on the initial vaccinations. We continue to support our partners and sector leads Te Matapihi and Community Housing Aotearoa who have contacted other housing providers including iwi and Māori organisations to access immediate needs required for the homeless.

Our providers have told us that while there has been no significant change to the demand for emergency and temporary accommodation, there have been pockets of increased need and we've been able to respond as required to add capacity. Evictions from emergency and transitional housing need to be a last resort, now more than ever.

However, welfare of other residents and staff is also important. Talk to your relationship manager if you need any support with security.

If you want to talk with HUD directly about any aspect of your service delivery including housing opportunities, please contact your HUD relationship manager or email ProviderEnquiries@hud.govt.nz

You can find information about operating in Alert Level 4 on the [HUD website](#) For more detailed information about Alert Level 4 please refer to the [Ministry of Health website](#)

Ngā manaakitanga ki a koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuetanga katoa o te wā. Kia haumaruru te noho.

Kararaina Calcott-Cribb
Deputy Chief Executive, Tumuaki,
Te Kāhui Kāinga Ora

Anne Shaw
Deputy Chief Executive, Housing Supply,
Response and Partnerships

Ministry for Pacific Peoples - Youth Zoom Fono Friday, 27 August - 6:00pm

At 6:00PM tomorrow Friday 27 August, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples National Pacific Youth Zoom Fono to talanoa about COVID-19, wellbeing and social services support for their young people. More information is available [here](#).

A reminder you will find a range of videos and factsheets on Alert Level 4 across the Ministry for Pacific Peoples digital channels about the alert level changes. They include English and 9 Pacific languages. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

Important website links

- [Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://covid19.govt.nz)
- [Alert Level 4 | What to do at alert level 4](#)
- [Doing business at Alert Level 4 | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://covid19.govt.nz)
- [COVID-19: Locations of interest | Ministry of Health NZ](#)
- [Mental Wellbeing For You & Your Workplace — Mentemia](#)
- [Link to our previous Covid-19 newsletter](#)