



MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate use

Community Housing Aotearoa Calls For Mandatory Vaccinations To Cover Community Housing Providers

The government's net for mandatory vaccinations needs to be widened further to include the community housing sector, say's Community Housing Aotearoa Chief Executive, Vic Crockford.

The peak body's 75 provider members house 30,000 people across 18,520 homes around the country, and have been pivotal to the COVID response.

"The community housing sector has been, and remains, key in holding up the frontline of the Delta outbreak. Everyday our housing provider members and their teams are delivering essential, public-facing services to whānau in their homes and to those who are homeless, as well as facilitating food networks and helping health teams vaccinate harder-to-reach communities."

"That's why we need certainty about the vaccine mandate for our providers and for the people in their care and we need it before COVID-19 spreads any further."

Earlier this month the government updated the health order to reflect mandatory vaccinations for high-risk border, health and disability and education sectors. Yesterday they announced their plans to roll out vaccination certificates for higher risk businesses when the country moves to the traffic light system.

"The current health order is causing confusion across our sector. We have front-line staff and other key workers who continue to provide essential day-to-day support services to whānau in their homes, often in the same type of close quarters as a hairdresser or a nurse would, yet they're not considered care or support workers under the health order."

"We know that Minister Wood is working on further mandates in the coming fortnight. We need the government to keep the community housing sector front of mind as they go about that work and to provide certainty as quickly as possible," says Vic.

ENDS

Please contact: Wendy Marr, Communications Manager – 027 228 4200

We Believe...

Everyone needs a place to call home: [Watch](#) 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:

Community Housing Aotearoa is a peak body for New Zealand's community housing sector. Our 75 provider members house approximately 30,000 people nationally across 18,520 homes. More information is available at www.communityhousing.org.nz



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