



9 September 2025

Te Matapihi and Community Housing Aotearoa acknowledge the Government's response to homelessness is a step in the right direction

"The joint announcement on Friday from the Ministers of Housing to review policy settings is a clear signal that the Government is listening to our sector's concerns to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness pressures," says Ali Hamlin-Paenga, Chief Executive of Te Matapihi and Paul Gilberd, Chief Executive, Community Housing Aotearoa.

Te Matapihi and Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) met recently with Ministers and officials to express members' concerns about homelessness and increasing numbers of rough sleepers.

"The immediate increase of 300 Housing First places and the decision to make more funding available for related support services for people experiencing homelessness is a positive response to addressing the urgent housing needs of Māori and ensuring more New Zealanders are well-housed."

"The next step from Government is to commit to policy settings that prioritise medium and long-term solutions to end homelessness and prevent recurrence," said Ali Hamlin-Paenga, Chief Executive, Te Matapihi/Paul Gilberd, Chief Executive, Community Housing Aotearoa.

In July the National Data Homelessness Project produced evidence highlighting widespread increases in homelessness occurring across our regions and cities. Alarming rises in rough sleeping and people living in cars were recorded across the country.

"Homelessness is not a personal choice. Our members work to find homes for women, men, young adults, whānau and kaumātua who are experiencing homelessness. They know and understand the needs of their communities and the solutions that are needed to ensure whānau with children at risk of homelessness, the long-term homeless and those currently sleeping rough are supported quickly into suitable homes."

"We know that co-ordinated efforts across government agencies (MSD, HUD, Kāinga Ora, etc.), Māori and community housing providers result in the placement of people and whānau into homes. As a sector we remain committed to continuing to work together and keeping Government informed and updated of housing outcomes."

About Te Matapihi

Te Matapihi He Tirohanga Mo Te Iwi Trust ("Te Matapihi") is the independent national peak body for Māori housing established by the Māori housing sector as "a window offering a vision to the people".

In 2011, Te Matapihi was registered as a charitable trust to:

- Advocate for Māori housing outcomes at a national level.
- Offer an independent voice for the Māori housing sector.



- Assist in Māori housing policy development at central and local government levels.
- Support the sector's growth by providing advice, facilitating collaboration, and sharing high-quality resources and information.

About Community Housing Aotearoa

Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) is a peak body for the community housing sector. To achieve our vision of 'all New Zealanders well-housed', we have a strategic focus on supporting a responsive housing system underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Right to a Decent Home.

Our member organisations provide homes for nearly 30,000 people nationally across 26,000 homes, and our partner members include developers, consultants and local councils. Community Housing Organisations are primarily not for dividend entities that develop, own and/or manage social and affordable housing stock, with a variety of tenure offerings.

CHA is a proud Tangata Tiriti organisation and works closely with national Māori housing advocate Te Matapihi, which also represents iwi-based and Māori community housing organisations.

We believe all New Zealanders have the right to a decent home. A home that is affordable, secure, habitable, is near schools, transport and services and is culturally adequate.

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