

Sharing the Journey Growing and Strengthening Pacific Community Housing

‘O le mea e tupu nei, e tapena ai taeao’

What happened today, prepares for tomorrow



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Community Housing Aotearoa — Who We Are

Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) is an Incorporated Society and a peak body for the community housing sector in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our vision is simple: all New Zealanders well-housed. We work toward that vision by supporting a responsive housing system underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the right to a decent home.

Our 105 full member organisations provide homes for over 30,000 people across 26,000 homes nationwide. Our members include 67 registered Community Housing Providers (CHPs) alongside partner members such as developers, consultants, and local councils. CHA is a proud Tangata Tiriti organisation and works closely with Te Matapihi He Tirohanga Mō Te Iwi Trust (Te Matapihi) the national Māori housing advocate.

Overview

“Improving housing outcomes for Pacific communities requires culturally anchored, community-led solutions. The greatest opportunity lies in backing Pacific strengths — strong family systems, faith networks, and collective values — to deliver sustainable housing outcomes.”

— CHA Member

This paper tells the story of CHA’s journey in Pacific community housing. It provides an honest account of what has been tried, what has been learned, and what the evidence now points to — alongside a set of concrete recommendations for the future.

The paper is intended for CHA members, ministers, policymakers, housing and service providers, funders, researchers, and advocates working in or alongside the Pacific Housing sector. Throughout, CHA uses the term ‘Pacific Housing sector’ to describe community organisations and housing activities led predominantly by Pacific peoples and communities, while also recognising the important role non-Pacific organisations play where their workforce is largely Pacific and their history of service is deep.

A grounding principle runs through this paper: for many Pacific aigā, housing is more than a house. The fale is a tie to community, family, and church. It is that understanding — not just the data — that shapes the Pacific Housing sector and CHA’s role within it.

Executive Summary

This paper presents the current state of the Pacific Housing sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the role Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) has played in helping grow and strengthen the sector. It shows that Pacific Housing need is both urgent and systemic. Pacific peoples are a young and fast-growing population, yet they continue to face some of the most severe housing inequities in the country, including declining home ownership, high rates of overcrowding, disproportionate representation in severe housing deprivation, and significant reliance on social housing. These outcomes are not simply the result of individual circumstances; they reflect a housing system that has not been responsive to Pacific realities, including larger households, intergenerational living, cultural values, and strong connections to family, church, and community.

The paper traces CHA's journey with Pacific Housing from early sector-building efforts through to more recent investment in Pacific-led support, staffing, and network development. It reflects on two major attempts to support Pacific organisations into Community Housing Provider registration, noting both the progress achieved and the structural barriers that remain. While milestones such as the registration of Penina Health Trust and Central Pacific Collective Trust are significant, the overall lesson is clear: Pacific organisations need more than encouragement to participate in the housing system; they need sustained capability support, culturally grounded engagement, and access to capital and development pathways that have historically been out of reach. The paper also highlights the importance of the government's *Fale mo Aigā Pacific Housing Strategy 2030*, while acknowledging that momentum has slowed and renewed commitment is needed.

Across talanoa, fono, surveys, and sector engagement supported by CHA from 2023 to 2026, Pacific Housing leaders have delivered a consistent message: the current housing system is not working for Pacific families, and incremental change is no longer enough. The strongest call is for a system reset grounded in Pacific leadership, Pacific data, and Pacific-designed solutions. Home ownership remains a central aspiration because of its role in intergenerational wealth and wellbeing, but this must sit alongside greater investment in social and affordable housing, support for Pacific-led providers, and better housing design for larger and multigenerational families.

In response, this paper sets out seven recommendations: reset the housing system for Pacific peoples; improve Pacific Housing data and research; strengthen Pacific leadership and influence; ring-fence funding for Pacific Housing; build sector capability and workforce support; promote affordable and culturally appropriate housing; and improve coordination across government and the sector. Together, these actions provide a practical roadmap for a stronger, culturally anchored, and more equitable Pacific Housing future.

Background and Context

CHA and Pacific Housing

The Pacific Housing sector has been important to CHA since its establishment in November 2004. Pacific representatives served on the original Council, and outreach to Pacific communities began as early as 2006, establishing a Pacific presence within CHA's kaupapa from the start.

CHA's role in Pacific Housing can be understood through the lens of Teu le Vā — a Samoan concept meaning to nurture, care for, and honour the space between people. It speaks to respectful and harmonious relationships, to reciprocity and empathy, and to the relational space that connects individuals and communities. That is the space CHA has sought to hold: through conferences, networks, and support resources, ensuring Pacific voices and organisations have had genuine opportunities to participate.

First Attempt: Creating a Collective Pacific Voice (2015–2019)

CHA's first focused engagement with Pacific Housing communities came in 2015, when it supported the inaugural Pacific Housing Symposium. Convening Pacific leaders from across Aotearoa, the symposium led to the establishment of the Pacific Housing Network (PHN), with early support from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Twelve organisations participated between 2016 and 2019, meeting regularly to share common issues and advocate together for better policy settings and greater investment.

Despite the energy of that early period, the network ran into persistent structural barriers. Pacific organisations faced real difficulty entering the housing sector without adequate capital or subsidies — obstacles the network itself could not resolve. In 2019, after calls to address barriers were unsuccessful, members concluded that continued meetings would not be productive in the absence of wider systemic change, and the PHN came to a close.

Alongside the network, CHA worked with the Ministry of Pacific Peoples (MPP) in 2017 on a programme to support three Pacific organisations seeking Community Housing Provider (CHP) registration with the Community Housing Regulatory Authority (CHRA). Internal constraints — including capacity and cultural capability — combined with external barriers around funding and housing expertise meant none progressed to registration during that period. One notable milestone came nonetheless: in 2018, Penina Health Trust became the first registered Pacific-led Community Housing Provider in Aotearoa.

Reflection 1: *Creating a Learning Culture*

The focus on CHP registration alone can obscure the value of the work that took place. Pacific community organisations showed remarkable tenacity and curiosity throughout this period. Many started the journey and chose to redirect their focus — but no effort was wasted. Each engagement gave organisations the opportunity to reflect, reset their strategic direction, and strengthen their internal processes and systems.

Second Attempt: A New Approach (2021–2024)

In 2021, CHA responded to an MPP Request for Proposal with a renewed programme to support Pacific-led organisations toward CHP registration. Building on its existing CHP registration support experience, CHA received a contract and began the next phase of its Pacific Housing journey.

In 2022, CHA made a more substantial commitment: two full-time Pacific staff were employed to lead the Pacific work programme in substantive, permanent roles. For the first time, the CHA strategic plan explicitly identified Pacific Housing as a priority focus area, under the goal of supporting a ‘thriving Pacific CHP sector.’ Sixteen Registrations of Interest were received from Pacific organisations, with MPP approving ten groups advancing to work with CHA.

Similar challenges re-emerged. At the end of the MPP contract period in June 2024, five of the ten groups paused or withdrew from the programme. An evaluation found widespread acknowledgement of the Government’s intent, but also significant frustration with the complexity of the CHP application process. A persistent mismatch between expectation and reality was a central finding: many organisations assumed CHP registration would automatically unlock capital funding. In practice, registration enables organisations to apply for existing funding programmes — it does not guarantee access to them.

CHA continued to support the remaining five groups after the contract ended. In 2025, Central Pacific Collective Trust in Porirua became the second Pacific-led organisation to achieve CHP registration — a meaningful milestone in a long journey.

Reflection 2: *Commitment and Resourcing as an Enabler*

The second attempt was more effective than the first across a range of measures. CHA’s explicit strategic commitment to Pacific community housing, backed by dedicated staff and sustained resourcing, made a genuine difference. A Pacific-led approach, with culturally grounded engagement at its core, strengthened trust, deepened relationships, and enabled more meaningful collaboration over time.

Fale mo Aigā — The National Pacific Housing Strategy

In November 2022, MPP, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), and Kāinga Ora jointly launched *Fale mo Aigā: Pacific Housing Strategy 2030*ⁱ. The strategy represented a targeted, government-level response to the housing needs and aspirations of Pacific communities. Through Budget 2020, MPP received up to \$41.3 million over four years through the Improving Housing for Pacific Families and Communities initiative, aimed at laying the foundations for improved housing conditions and pathways to home ownership.

In 2023, a change of government led to the reorganisation of the housing team at MPP and a reduction in funding for Pacific Housing outcomes. The Fale mo Aigā strategy remains in place, but progress against its targets has slowed. CHA believes it represents the right foundation from which to rebuild — and that renewed government commitment to its implementation is essential.

The Collective Voice of the Pacific Housing Sector

Since 2023, CHA has convened a series of Pacific Housing-focused conversations with leaders across Aotearoa. The first took place at the Pacific People and Housing Futures Talanoa in Christchurch in May 2023. What emerged from that gathering — and has been consistently reinforced in every subsequent conversation — is a clear and unified message: the current housing system is not working for Pacific families, and incremental adjustments are no longer seen as sufficient.

Pacific leaders have called for a system-wide reset, one that centres Pacific voices, data, and leadership in both policy design and delivery. There is strong consensus that Pacific families have been historically excluded from housing opportunities, and that the system lacks the flexibility to accommodate multi-generational and culturally grounded living arrangements. Across every forum, participants have pointed to the same priorities: dedicated funding for Pacific-led initiatives, better coordination across government agencies, investment in Pacific-specific research, and support for pathways from social housing into home ownership.

In 2024, CHA supported the MĀPIHI Pou (the Māori and Pacific Housing Research Unit at the University of Auckland) in convening a Pacific Housing Fono focused on Hanga/Whenua (building and land) and Kāinga/Hauora (home and health). Participants identified key priorities including intergenerational housing solutions, culturally integrated housing design, economic self-determination for Pacific communities, and the diversification of tenure models. Access to land, financial capability, and the integration of Pacific values into policy and design were identified as barriers requiring urgent attention.

In 2025, CHA convened further conversations in the North and South Islands — open to Pacific leaders and practitioners across Pacific-led organisations, community housing providers, and government agencies. The strongest theme was consistent across both gatherings: home

ownership, both at the family and community level, as the primary pathway to intergenerational wealth. Participants also called for more social and affordable housing, warmer and healthier homes, larger homes (four or more bedrooms), more Pacific-led CHPs, and better collaboration across all parts of the system.

Reflection 3: *Consistent Pacific Voices Calling for Systemic Change*

Pacific Housing voices across 2023–2026 are consistent and increasingly unified. The current housing system in Aotearoa is not meeting Pacific peoples’ needs, and Pacific communities are not simply identifying problems — they are articulating a coherent alternative vision, grounded in Pacific values, leadership, and intergenerational wellbeing. CHA’s role is to amplify that vision and translate it into action.

Re-convening the National Pacific Community Housing Network

In May 2024, CHA re-convened the Pacific Housing Network, opening membership to all Pacific leaders working across any part of the housing sector: Pacific-led community organisations, CHPs, central and local government agencies, tertiary institutions, funding agencies, and property developers. The original group of twelve organisations has grown to an active collective of more than thirty.

The network meets quarterly to share updates, explore opportunities, and collectively address sector challenges. Ministry representatives from MPP, MHUD, and Kāinga Ora regularly participate. What distinguishes the network is not just its size but its character: a caring, inclusive culture that enables open dialogue and shared problem-solving.

Alongside the network, CHA has embedded a Pacific lens into its wider advocacy work, incorporating Pacific perspectives into submissions on the Stats NZ Census Changes and Data and Statistics Amendment Bill (2025/2026), MSD’s Long-term Insights Briefing (2025), and the 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Minister. Pacific considerations are now a consistent thread through CHA’s policy engagement, not a separate strand.

Reflection 4: *From Participation to Influence*

The re-convening of the National Pacific Community Housing Network reflects a maturing of the sector — more connected, more collaborative, and increasingly capable of collective action. The shift CHA is now supporting is one from participation to influence: Pacific voices not simply responding to housing policy but actively shaping it.

CHA Members Survey

In February 2026, CHA surveyed its members to better understand where Pacific peoples sit across the housing continuum. While the sample size is small and findings should be treated as preliminary, the results are illuminating.

Pacific peoples make up a significant and valued part of the community housing workforce. One Pacific-led organisation reported that 90.9 percent of its staff identify as Pacific. But Pacific representation is not confined to Pacific organisations: one large non-Pacific CHP reported that more than half of its team — 53 percent — identify as Pacific peoples. Of non-Pacific CHA member organisations that responded, 71 percent either had a specific Pacific strategy or had objectives that would considerably benefit Pacific communities.

These findings point to something important: the Pacific Housing sector is broader than Pacific-led organisations alone. Strengthening housing outcomes for Pacific peoples requires engaging the whole sector — and that is precisely what CHA intends to do.

Reflection 5: *Building the Case for a Pacific Housing System*

Taken together, CHA’s networks, fono, surveys, and systems analysis make a compelling case: Aotearoa requires a more deliberate, coordinated Pacific Housing system — one that enables Pacific leadership, reflects Pacific values, and supports long-term intergenerational wellbeing. The evidence base for that argument has grown substantially, and CHA is well-placed to make it.

The State of Pacific Housing

Pacific People of Aotearoa

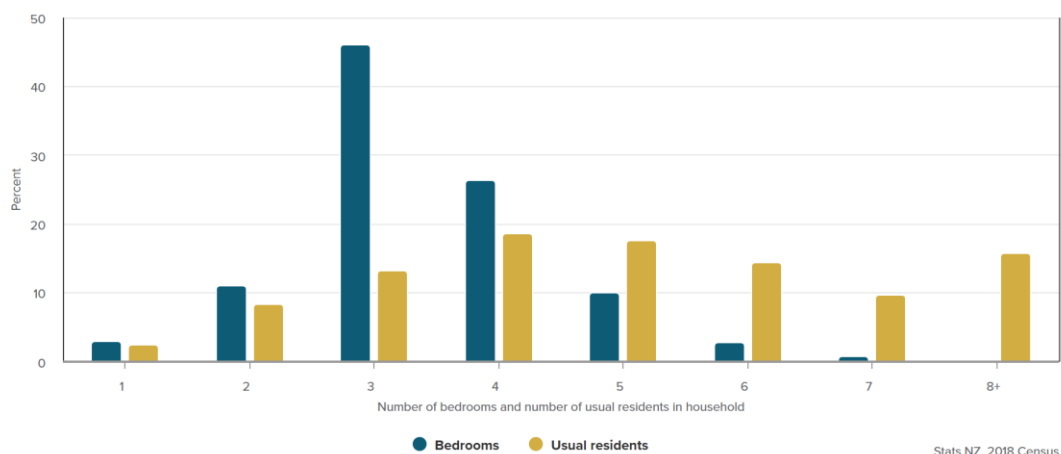
Pacific peoples began arriving in significant numbers during the 1950s and 1960s, recruited to work in New Zealand’s rural-based primary industries. Today, Pacific peoples constitute one of Aotearoa’s principal population groups, and one of its youngest and fastest growing.

Year	Pacific Population	Total NZ Population	Percentage
2001	231,801	3,820,749	6.1%
2006	265,974	4,027,947	6.6%
2013	295,941	4,242,048	7.4%
2018	381,642	4,699,755	8.2%
2023	442,632	4,993,923	8.9%

The 2023 Census reports a Pacific population of 442,632 — 8.9 percent of all New Zealanders. The median age of Pacific peoples is 25 years, compared with 38 years for the total population. Yet economic inequality remains deeply entrenched: average adult personal income for Pacific

peoples is \$35,200, compared with a national average of \$41,500. The disparity is most pronounced for Pacific women, who earn 72 cents for every dollar earned by Pākehā menⁱⁱ.

Percentage of Pacific peoples' households by number of bedrooms and number of usual residents in household, 2018



As shown in the chart above, Pacific family structures are distinct, and housing policy has been slow to acknowledge this. Pacific households are significantly larger than European, Māori, and Asian households. They are more likely to include five or more people, more likely to be multiple-family households, and more likely to include adult children (15 years and over) — a pattern that has held consistently since 2001. Pacific families also have the highest proportion of dependent children of any ethnic groupⁱⁱⁱ.

These are not incidental features of Pacific life — they reflect deep cultural values around intergenerational and extended family living. The current housing stock, shaped by a default of nuclear family households, often fails to accommodate those values. The result is a mismatch between how Pacific families live and the homes available to them.

Pacific Household Tenure and Home Ownership

The majority of Pacific peoples live in rental homes they do not own. The table below shows tenure patterns across the three most recent censuses.

Tenure	Pacific 2023	Pacific 2018	Pacific 2013	NZ 2023	NZ 2018	NZ 2013
Owned	30%	35%	20%	54%	64%	65%
Not owned	66%	65%	79%	35%	36%	35%

The decline in homeownership rates has translated directly into an increasing proportion of Pacific people living in less secure rental housing. This is an overall trend across all New Zealanders, but is particularly acute for Pacific peoples, with nearly twice as many living in rental housing compared to the whole population. The lack of housing security for Pacific peoples is evident in the rise of Pacific homelessness.

The decline in Pacific home ownership is one of the most significant housing trends of recent decades, and one of the most troubling. The 2023 Census shows 16.8 percent of Pacific peoples owned their own home, compared with 42.1 percent of all New Zealanders^{iv}. That gap has not narrowed over time — it has widened.

Year	Pacific Peoples	Total NZ Population
2001	35.5%	67.8%
2006	34.1%	66.9%
2013	18.5%	50.2%
2018	17.6%	40.8%
2023	16.8%	42.1%

This decline carries profound consequences. Home ownership is not simply a housing outcome — it is a mechanism for intergenerational wealth building and long-term wellbeing. A falling ownership rate risks entrenching existing inequities across generations. This trend is occurring even as the Pacific population grows and remains overwhelmingly young: Pacific children experience the highest rates of material hardship (28.7 percent) and household food insecurity (44 percent) of any ethnic group in Aotearoa^v.

Pacific Homelessness

Pacific peoples experience the highest rates of severe housing deprivation in Aotearoa — by a significant margin. The 2023 Census recorded 657 Pacific peoples per 10,000 experiencing severe housing deprivation, compared with 394 per 10,000 for Māori and 127 per 10,000 for New Zealand Europeans^{vi}.

Population Group	2018 (per 10,000)	2023 (per 10,000)
NZ European	41	127
Māori	166	394
Pacific Peoples	578	657

A quarter of all households experiencing severe housing deprivation in Aotearoa identify as Pacific — a rate six times higher than that of New Zealand Europeans. Overcrowding affects 39 percent of Pacific peoples living in private homes, compared with 21 percent of Māori and 11 percent of New Zealand Europeans. For young Pacific peoples aged 15 to 24, nearly half — 46 percent — live in overcrowded homes.

Around 26 percent of public housing tenants identify as Pacific, and Pacific applicants make up 16.7 percent of the national Housing Register — a disproportionate share relative to their population^{vii}. Pacific peoples account for 22.4 percent of all lead tenants in social housing^{viii}. These figures reflect the scale of unmet housing need, and the critical role the social housing system currently plays in supporting Pacific aigā.

Gaps and Opportunities

Growing the Pacific Housing sector requires an honest account of where the gaps lie — and where the opportunities are. What follows draws on CHA’s direct engagement with Pacific organisations and communities over many years, and on the evidence gathered in preparing this paper.

Culturally Responsive Housing Systems

The current housing system — its assessment frameworks, service responses, and delivery mechanisms — does not adequately reflect Pacific ways of living. Pacific families consistently describe navigating a system that does not recognise their cultural worldview or practices. The ways housing need and overcrowding are defined and measured require more careful reconsideration in Pacific contexts, where intergenerational and collective living arrangements carry cultural significance, not just practical necessity.

Data, Evidence, and the Ability to Tell Our Own Story

The preceding sections offer a snapshot of what is currently known about Pacific Housing in Aotearoa. Significant gaps remain. With the shift away from a traditional Census model toward an admin-first approach based on a smaller household sample, the depth of Pacific-specific insights available to policymakers is likely to diminish. CHA anticipates that responsibility for filling that gap will fall increasingly to the sector itself.

This presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Building better data collection capability across the sector — and telling the story of Pacific Housing clearly and consistently — will become essential to ensuring Pacific communities are meaningfully represented in the evidence that shapes decisions.

Expanding Pacific Home Ownership

Home ownership remains a strong and consistent aspiration for Pacific families. Over the decades, successive governments have attempted various mechanisms to support Pacific home ownership — but the data tells a clear story of decline since the 1980s.

Many Pacific families who bought homes in that earlier period are still living in them, often on substantial parcels of land. There is real potential here. A reconsideration of policies around subdivision and change of ownership could unlock additional value and create pathways to

multiple and intergenerational home ownership structures — arrangements that better reflect Pacific family realities and support long-term community wealth building.

Growing Pacific-led Community Housing Providers

Through its CHP registration support service, CHA has engaged with Pacific-led organisations across Aotearoa that hold land and resources with real potential to deliver social and affordable housing meeting the stated aspirations of Pacific peoples. What they lack is access to the right guidance and the enabling capital funding required to progress. This is not a capacity problem within Pacific organisations — it is a structural gap in the support system.

Pacific organisations have not had access to the capital and capability funding that was available to many established providers through instruments such as the Housing Innovation Fund and the Social Housing Fund. That asymmetry has shaped the sector's current composition and addressing it will require deliberate policy action.

Relationship and trust lie at the core of effective engagement with Pacific communities — and both take time to build. When the housing system does not reflect Pacific cultural practices, it makes those relationships harder to establish and sustain. Strong intercultural communication across the sector is not a nicety: it is a prerequisite for Pacific Housing organisations being understood, supported, and able to thrive.

CHA also recognises the particular importance of faith communities. Connection to church is central for many Pacific peoples, and housing and community design should support that connection. CHA remains committed to advocating for policy and funding settings that enable and accelerate the growth of Pacific-led organisations.

CHA is also committed to delivering a culturally appropriate CHP registration service that supports and reflects the realities of the communities it serves. The successful Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga programme supporting iwi, hāpu and Māori housing providers provides insights into the type of system supports which can grow Pacific Housing providers.

Integrating Pacific Values into Policy and Design

Research and community engagement consistently point to the same conclusion: growing the Pacific Housing sector requires a more intentional focus on Pacific Housing needs — from the way homes are designed and programmes are structured, through to how tenancies are supported. CHA members have been consistent in noting that working directly with Pacific community leaders is not optional but essential to shaping solutions that reflect Pacific aspirations.

There is also significant potential in connecting housing more deliberately with employment, health, and financial capability services. Pacific families often face intersecting challenges, and a housing solution that addresses only one dimension of those challenges will fall short. Strengthening financial capability through tailored resources, alongside structural and policy

shifts that create affirmative pathways, will help Pacific organisations participate fully in the housing sector.

CHA remains committed to working alongside MĀPIHI, tertiary institutions, government agencies and sector partners to build and share knowledge, strengthen best practice, and support improved housing quality and supply for Pacific communities across Aotearoa.

Towards Better Coordination

CHA’s vision — that every New Zealander be well-housed in a warm, safe, dry, and affordable home — is not achievable without deliberate coordination across the Pacific Housing sector. Housing is a human right. Yet despite the launch of the *Fale mo Aigā Pacific Housing Strategy 2030* and the investment that accompanied it, government commitment to meeting its targets has been limited.

Research led by Moana Connect in 2023 *Tamaiti o le Moana (Child of the Ocean)* confirmed what Pacific communities already know: good housing underpins good health, good educational outcomes, wealth building, and greater life satisfaction^{ix}. The knowledge required to improve housing outcomes for Pacific peoples already exists within those communities. What is needed is a system equipped to act on it.

Whether Aotearoa continues with *Fale mo Aigā* or develops a renewed national strategy, the need for an active, current, and properly resourced Pacific Housing strategy is clear. Four years have passed since *Fale mo Aigā*’s launch. It remains the right foundation for any new programmes and actions — and CHA aligns its own strategic development to it.

Coordination must extend beyond Pacific-led organisations. CHA’s member survey found that 71 percent of non-Pacific member organisations either had a specific Pacific strategy or had objectives that would considerably benefit Pacific communities. The sector already has the will. What it needs is the architecture to act together.

Creating and sustaining spaces where organisations at every stage of their housing journey can connect, collaborate, and learn is essential. Those spaces must be culturally grounded, reflecting Pacific values of connection, collective leadership, and shared learning. The Pacific Housing Network is one such space — it began 2026 with growing momentum, and CHA is committed to sustaining it.

Strong leadership will be critical as the sector moves forward. Policy, definitions, and practice must be continually shaped by lived experience and cultural understanding. Diversity of perspectives is not an aspiration — it is a precondition for making good decisions on behalf of Pacific communities.

Recommendations

Pacific Housing is embedded in CHA’s strategy and workplan and will remain a core focus of our mahi. CHA is well-placed to continue and deepen this work — not because the journey is clear and simple, but because it is essential to improve outcomes, and because the people and communities we serve deserve nothing less than the full weight of our commitment.

The future of a thriving Pacific Housing sector lies in its existing strengths: strong families, faith networks, collective values, and community-led action. The following seven recommendations are designed to back those strengths, remove the structural barriers that have held the sector back, and ensure that every New Zealander — including every Pacific aigā — is well-housed.

1. Reset the Housing System for Pacific Peoples

The current housing system does not adequately serve Pacific families. CHA advocates for a system-wide reset that recognises Pacific voices, data, and experiences in housing policy design and delivery. This includes reviewing the definitions, assessment frameworks, and service models that shape how Pacific Housing need is understood and responded to.

2. Improve Pacific Housing Data and Research

Pacific-specific housing research requires sustained investment. CHA calls for improved quality and coverage of Pacific data across the housing continuum, including the Housing Register and social housing datasets. With the shift away from the traditional Census model, the sector must also develop its own data collection capability to ensure it can tell its own story reliably and consistently.

3. Strengthen Pacific Leadership and Influence

Pacific-led housing solutions must be supported and scaled. This means growing the number of Pacific Community Housing Providers, creating genuine pathways for Pacific organisations to influence regional and national housing strategies, and ensuring Pacific voices are present and heard at every level of decision-making.

4. Ring-fence Funding for Pacific Housing

Dedicated, accessible funding streams for Pacific Housing initiatives are essential. Funding must be designed to reach Pacific-led organisations — including those without prior development experience — and must reflect the time and resourcing required to build the trusted relationships on which effective Pacific Housing work depends.

5. Build Sector Capability and Workforce Support

Building a capable, well-supported Pacific workforce is a long-term investment in the sector's sustainability. Addressing this requires investment in remuneration, training, governance support, and organisational development for Pacific Housing providers.

6. Promote Affordable and Culturally Appropriate Housing

The amount of affordable housing that genuinely reflects Pacific ways of living must be increased. This means designing for multi-generational and intergenerational households, creating space for extended families and cultural practices including connection to faith communities, and prioritising pathways from social housing to home ownership as a route to intergenerational wealth.

7. Improve Coordination Across Government and Sector

Better coordination between the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Kāinga Ora, CHA, Pacific community organisations, and faith communities is essential. Pacific resourcing must be coordinated and aligned across agencies. This coordination should be grounded in a renewed national Pacific Housing strategy with clear targets, accountability, and the political commitment to act on them.

Acknowledgements

This paper has been informed by Pacific Housing communities across Aotearoa over many years. CHA acknowledges the following gatherings and groups whose contributions have shaped our understanding.

Talanoa and Fono

Pacific People and Housing Futures Talanoa, Christchurch — May 2023

CHA Conference 2023: Realising Pacific Housing Aspirations — May 2023

Talanoa Workshops on CHRA Registration — 2023

MĀPIHI Pacific Housing Fono — November 2024

South Island Pacific Housing Fono — May 2025

National Pacific Community Housing Fono — September 2025

Groups and Organisations

National Pacific Housing Network

Community Housing Aotearoa Members and Partners

MĀPIHI Māori and Pacific Housing Research Centre

Ministry For Pacific Peoples

Endnotes

ⁱ *Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. (n.d.). Fale mo Aigā Pacific Housing Strategy 2030. hud.govt.nz*

ⁱⁱ *Gender Equal NZ. (n.d.). ‘It’s not just a gender pay gap.’ genderequal.nz*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Stats NZ. (2023b). ‘Aotearoa’s housing often unsuited to Pacific families.’ stats.govt.nz*

^{iv} *Stats NZ. (2023a). Pacific Peoples, Place and ethnic group summaries: Percentage of population by individual home ownership status, 2018–2023 Censuses.*

^v *Barber, P., Ika, & Skinner. (2026). ‘State of the Nation 2026: Foundations of wellbeing — Poipōia te Kākano.’ The Salvation Army.*

^{vi} *Stats NZ. (2024). 2023 Census severe housing deprivation (homelessness) estimates. stats.govt.nz*

^{vii} *Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. (2026a). The Housing Dashboard: Social Housing Register.*

^{viii} *Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. (2026b). The Housing Dashboard: Social Housing.*

^{ix} <https://moanaconnect.co.nz>

Appendices

Appendix A: Initial Pacific Housing Network group members (ended 2019)

Pacific Housing Network Group Members	
Penina Health Trust	The Fono
Fiso Group Community Housing	Tongan Health Trust
Alliance Community Initiatives Trust	Totara Seed Trust
Atamu Housing Trust	Fale Pasefika Aoraki
Cook Islands Development Association NZ	Fatugatiti Housing Trust – Manukau PIPC
Pasifika Futures	Tokelau Atafu Community - Porirua

Appendix B: Current Pacific Housing Network group members (as of June 2026)

Pacific Housing Network Group Members	
Anofale Trust	Lalaga Pasifika Trust
Atafu Tokelau Porirua Inc	LinkPeople
Central Pacific Collective	Ola Le Ola Aotearoa Charitable Trust
Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) Ngā Wharerau o Aotearoa	Pacific Island Community Trust Bay of Plenty (Tauranga)
De Paul House	Penina Trust
Good Seed Trust	POU ONO TRUST
Grace Foundation Charitable Trust	Vahefonua Tongan Methodist Mission Charitable Trust (SIAOLA)
Housing First - Christchurch	Tangata Atumotu Trust
Housing Foundation	Taulanga U Youth and Family Social Service Trust
Ka Puta Ka Ora Emerge Aotearoa	Tautai Pasefika Hawkes Bay Services
K'aute Pasefika Trust	The Family Centre, Lower Hutt
Ko Ta'ua Taua Trust	The Fono - Health & Social Services
Lagima'a Services	Vahefonua Tonga Methodist Church
Lalaga Foundation	Visionwest Community Trust
Auckland City Mission	Monte Cecilia Housing Trust
Māori and Pacific Housing Research Centre (MĀPIHI) University of Auckland	Te Toi Mahana Community Housing
Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities	Ministry for Pacific Peoples
Nelson Pasifika Trust	Tāmaki Regeneration Trust

Briefing Paper

Prepared for National Pacific Housing Symposium - 22 June 2026
CHA Conference 2026



Auckland City Council	Tongan Society South Canterbury Inc
Foundation North	Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Navigator	Ramwall Group
Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau	Modus Community Housing
Salvation Army	