



14 September 2026

Political Parties to Face Direct Questions on Housing and Homelessness at National Housing Election Forum

Faith leaders, community housing organisations and people with lived experience of housing insecurity will come together in Wellington at a major Housing Election Forum to ask political parties where they stand on one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most pressing challenges: ensuring everyone has a safe, secure, affordable and accessible place to call home.

The forum brings together representatives from across the political spectrum to respond publicly to questions about housing affordability and accessibility, social housing supply, homelessness and long-term housing policy.

The event will be co-hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington and the Anglican + Movement Diocese of Wellington, in collaboration with Compassion Te Pūaroa, Common Grace Aotearoa, Presbyterian Support, New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, the Methodist Alliance and The Salvation Army. It will be moderated by Paul Gilberd, Chief Executive, Community Housing Aotearoa.

Audience members will hear directly from community leaders and speakers whose experiences highlight the human impact of housing insecurity and homelessness across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Community Housing Aotearoa Chief Executive, Paul Gilberd says the forum is designed to move beyond rhetoric and give voters clear commitments from political parties.

"Housing continues to be one of the defining social and economic issues facing our country. This forum provides an opportunity for political leaders to state clearly what they will do to address housing insecurity and homelessness, and to be held accountable for those commitments," says Gilberd.

During the evening, political representatives will be invited to respond to four questions and discuss the values underpinning their housing policies.

Questions Political Representatives Will Be Asked

1. What Do You Believe? Values and Government's Role Approximately three minutes per party

What values would guide your party's approach to people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity and what do you believe are the Government's roles and



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responsibilities to ensure that everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand has access to safe, secure and affordable housing?

2. Social and Affordable Housing – Will You Build More Homes?

YES or NO

Will your party commit to building at least 3,000 more social and affordable homes, including pathways to affordable home ownership, per year during your term, and to provide long-term funding so housing providers can plan, invest and build with certainty?

3. Will You Commit to Ending Homelessness?

YES or NO

Will your party set a clear target and a date for ending homelessness in Aotearoa New Zealand, and report publicly each year on progress?

4. Will You Work with Other Parties on a Long-Term National Housing Plan?

YES or NO

Will your party work with other political parties on a long-term National Housing Plan with measurable targets to increase social and affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and restore Māori-led housing delivery programmes?

The forum is expected to attract representatives from multiple political parties, faith communities, housing providers, advocates, people with lived experience, media and members of the public interested in housing policy ahead of the election.

"This is an opportunity for political leaders to share their party values and the actions they are prepared to take to address affordable housing supply in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is about ensuring every child, teenager, adult, and older person has a decent place to call home," said Gilberd.

Details

Event: Housing Election Forum

Location: Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Corner Molesworth and Hill Streets, Wellington

Date: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Time: 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Live stream link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNO3vzFBfVo>

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