



Homelessness in New Zealand

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Kia Ora from New Zealand

- Homelessness in New Zealand
- Māori Context
- Housing First Pilot
- Housing First Programme
- Outcome Data in New Zealand

Current homelessness numbers

- One percent of the NZ population is homeless
- 41,705 people had lack of access to minimally adequate housing on the night of the 2013 census
- 4,197 people were without shelter (sleeping rough)

Rate and demographics

- The prevalence of homelessness grew 15% between 2006 and 2013, and 9% between 2001 and 2006.
- More than half of homeless adults are working, studying, or both.
- More than half are younger than 25.
- Pacific, Māori and Asian groups are over-represented.
- Most rough sleepers are single males, but most homeless are women and children.

Unable to pay steep rent, family huddle in freezing tent

ASHLEIGH STEWART

BLANKETS and body heat.

That is how one Christchurch family, huddling together in a freezing tent as rain batters their makeshift home, have spent two months trying to keep warm.

The family of five have just weathered their third storm in a tent pitched at the Spencer Beach Holiday Park.

Taurua Houia, his wife and their three children are one of 270 priority A applicants on the Housing New Zealand waiting list.

They have been priority A for three weeks, despite being assessed in February.

"We had a private rental in Hills Rd, but it was too expensive," Houia said.

"I've just been sitting up in the tent every night. I don't get much sleep."

Houia works fulltime as a roofer, but wife Sonia is unemployed and receives a benefit.

But they say this income still does not provide enough money for Christchurch's rents as well as being able to survive.

A large tarpaulin is draped across the outside of the tent for



Tent trap: Taurua Houia and his family live in tents at a holiday park because of a housing shortage.

Photo:FAIRFAX NZ

extra insulation as members of the family curl together under duvets during this week's rain. The mattresses account for about half of the floor in the small tent, the remainder is bare.

There are no separate rooms, and no privacy.

"It's blankets and body heat to keep warm," Houia said.

They had returned to the spot on Monday after a brief, but un-

pleasant, stint outside the camping ground.

Forced to leave as it was booked out for Easter, the family moved their tent to Waikuku on Friday - where it was blown

down. In an effort to save money, they then gave freedom camping a try.

After their tent flooded, they moved to a camping ground in Linwood, where they paid \$62 a night for a campsite.

But even after their ordeal and as the weather closed in, Houia was hesitant to complain. "We just take it. I'm all right, it's just the kids."

Family friend and Taurua's boss, Allan Rolfe, has been helping the family and advocating for them to the agencies.

He had offered to let the family stay with him at his home, but they were "fiercely independent" and had refused, Rolfe said.

"It's a horrendous situation. It's a desperate situation, they've got three children as well."

Ministry of Social Development general manager Marama Edwards said Sonia Houia - whose name the application was under - was first assessed in February, and has been on the waiting list since April 4.

"Housing New Zealand and registered community housing providers will continue to work with Ms Houia to find a suitable property," Edwards said.

Defining homelessness

- Severe housing deprivation refers to people living in severely inadequate housing due to a lack of access to minimally adequate housing. This means not being able to access an acceptable dwelling to rent, let alone buy.
- Official New Zealand definition: Homelessness is defined as living situations where people with no other options to acquire safe and secure housing: are without shelter, in temporary accommodation, sharing accommodation with a household or living in uninhabitable housing. (adapted from ETHOS typology).

Why is there a problem?

- Housing shortage in most main centres.
- Housing is often unaffordable, and tenants have few rights and insecure tenancies.
- Housing NZ, the Government's provider has been selling state housing stock, and outsourcing to private providers.
- 5,353 people are on the Social Housing Register. (<http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/social-housing-quarterly-report-june-2017.pdf>)
- Policy focus has been on emergency housing.

Māori and Housing First

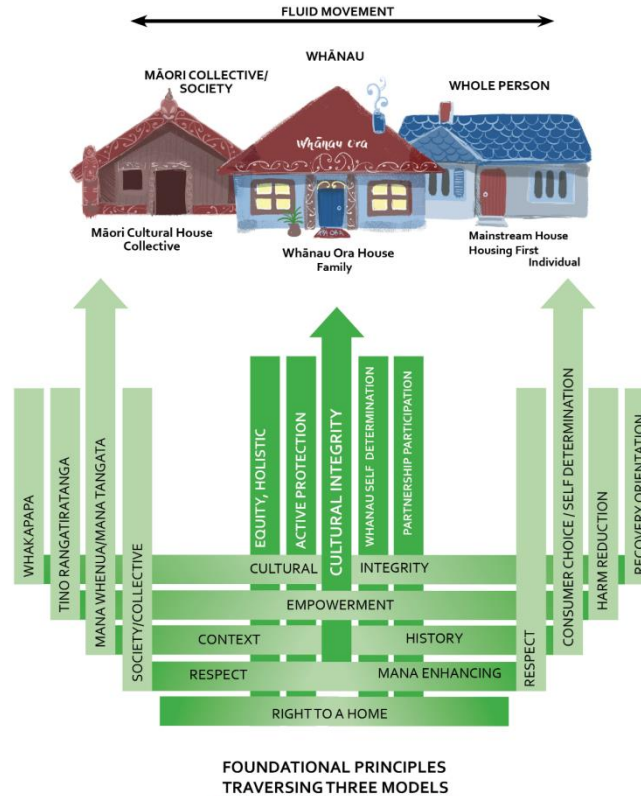
- Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand, are over-represented in homelessness statistics (2 in 100, compared to 0.4 in 100 for NZ European).
- Solutions to homelessness for Māori need to incorporate Kaupapa Māori, Mātauranga Māori, and support Māori development.

Housing First and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) is New Zealand's founding document, setting out an agreement between the British Crown, and Iwi (Māori tribes of New Zealand).
- Three principles: Partnership, protection, and participation.
- Tino Rangatiratanga – sovereignty.

Whare Ōranga

Principles Framework for Māori Housing



Housing First in NZ

- The People's Project, Hamilton – 942 people homed.
- Auckland Collective – Lifewise and ACM, Affinity, VisionWest, LinkPeople, \$4.5m
- \$20.5m announced in 2017 budget for Housing First extension
- Wellington Wet House – harm reduction model

Evaluating Housing First in NZ

- Integrated Data Infrastructure evaluation
- Qualitative and TPP data, University of Waikato
- Transferability, Clare Aspinall
- Takatāpui/LGBTIQ+, Hera Cook and Brodie Fraser

What is the IDI?

- The Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) has most NZ government administrative data, linked. This includes health and hospitalisations, corrections, police, tax, welfare.
- Some NGOs are entering their data onto the IDI, including ACM and TPP.

Better decision making for better outcomes

OUR DATA

The People's Project data in partnership with local government services

Who

NHI
SWN
Police #

When

Date commenced
Date housed

Where

Housing type
Before and after

How

of visits
Wraparound support and services

Housing Outcomes

Client profile
Retention
Comparison - national and international
Safety

MATCHED
AND
ANONYMISED

IDI
(Integrated Data Infrastructure)

GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES

Datasets

Health

NMDS
(Hospital)
Mortality
Pharmac

MSD

Benefit
HNZ housing
Accommodation supplement
Training

Justice

Police (victims and offenders)
Courts
Corrections

IRD

Tax
Employment



Feedback to partner agencies

IDI evaluation

- The first 396 clients of the TPP will be looked at in the IDI, 2, 5 years and 10 years post-housed.
- The evaluation will look across a range of Well Being outcomes, including health, justice, education and income.
- Control groups will be the ACM clients, and possibly DCM clients.

Questions