

# Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan

## Phase One 2020-2023

**Homelessness in New Zealand is prevented where possible, or is rare, brief and non-recurring.**

This is the first time a comprehensive central government-led and cross-agency plan has been developed to prevent and reduce homelessness. The action plan uses a systems approach that works across traditional government agency and system boundaries, supported by regional and national leadership.

This plan has been developed through cross-agency collaboration and engagement with Iwi and Māori organisations, people with lived experience of homelessness, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and local authorities. Engagement also included targeted conversations with sector experts and nine workshops and hui with stakeholders around the country.

The action plan sets out a balanced and comprehensive package of actions to address homelessness with an increased focus on prevention, alongside supply, support and system enablers. Actions will build on and support work already underway around New Zealand and put in place essential changes to address gaps in responses to homelessness.

The action plan has **18 immediate actions** to be put in place in 2020, and a number of **longer-term actions** to be developed for implementation over 2020-2023. By taking the immediate actions, over **10,000** people at risk of or experiencing homelessness will be supported over three years.

### The guiding principles

#### **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

The government's role, as Treaty partner, is to partner with and support Māori to deliver solutions for Māori, and to empower local communities to achieve Māori housing and wellbeing outcomes.

#### **Whānau-centred and strengths-based**

Within the context of homelessness, a whānau-centred approach means addressing individual needs within the context of that individual's whānau, relationships, support networks, community and connection to place.

#### **Focus on stable homes and wellbeing**

Preventing and reducing homelessness involves looking past the short-term approach of providing an immediate crisis response, to providing long-term sustainable housing solutions.

#### **Kaupapa Māori approaches**

Kaupapa Māori approaches are embedded within this plan and throughout the delivery of actions. This means delivering actions in ways that demonstrate kaupapa Māori principles.

#### **Supporting and enabling local approaches**

The action plan will support local communities to address the homelessness issues they face, in ways that respond to their different needs and build on responses already in place.

#### **A joined-up approach across agencies and communities**

Addressing homelessness requires true partnerships and systems of support and housing to be functioning well in inclusive and equitable ways.

## PREVENTION



Individuals, families and whānau receive the support they need so that homelessness stops happening in the first place

- Partner with Māori, Iwi, hapū and marae to prevent homelessness.
- Redesign and expand Sustaining Tenancies.
- Expand housing support for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care.
- Improve transitions from acute mental health and addiction inpatient units.
- Support women who are leaving prison.
- Support returned overseas offenders who are homeless.

## SUPPLY



New Zealanders have a place to call home and the use of motels for emergency accommodation is reduced

- Urgently increase supply to reduce the use of emergency accommodation.
- Support Māori Community Housing Providers and other Māori and Iwi providers.

## SUPPORT



Individuals, families and whānau experiencing homelessness move quickly into stable accommodation and access wider social support to address needs

- Pilot a rapid rehousing approach.
- Expand support to all people in emergency housing.
- Introduce housing broker roles.
- Better prepare people for private rental.
- Assistance for families and whānau with children in emergency housing.

## SYSTEM ENABLERS



The system supports and enables our vision and together we can address homelessness

- Create a local innovation and partnership fund.
- Build capacity and capability of Māori providers.
- Enable and support kaupapa Māori approaches.
- Ongoing involvement of people with lived experience of homelessness.
- Improve evidence and data on homelessness.