



Briefing

Increasing accommodation and support for rangatahi/young people and next steps			
Date:	26 March 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	BRF20/21030883

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Housing	Note the contents of this paper Agree to forward this paper to the Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing)	2 April 2021
Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	Note the contents of this paper Agree to forward this paper to the Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing)	2 April 2021

Contact for discussion			
Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Jeremy Steele	Manager, Housing Needs and Responses	04 832 2471	s 9(2)(a) ✓

Other agencies consulted
N/A

Minister's office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Noted <input type="checkbox"/> Seen <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change <input type="checkbox"/> Not seen by Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to (specify) <hr/>	Comments
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Date returned to HUD:

Briefing

Increasing accommodation and support services for rangatahi/young people and next steps

For: Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Housing
Hon Marama Davidson, Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)

Date: 26 March 2021 **Security level:** In Confidence

Priority: Medium **Report number:** BRF20/21030883

Purpose

1. This paper updates you on the process to quickly increase the supply of rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing and support services and the steps to develop a package of actions ahead of reporting back to you in June 2021.

Recommended actions

2. It is recommended that you:
 1. **Note** work is underway to increase the supply of rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing *Noted*
 2. **Note** Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development will work with providers and key stakeholders to develop service specifications for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing to reflect best practice for working with this cohort including:
 - Longer period of support of up to 52 weeks
 - Greater intensity of support including access to 24/7 onsite support *Noted*
 3. **Note** this may result in higher costs for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing compared to standard transitional housing places *Noted*
 4. **Note** that the underspend in the transitional housing appropriation in 2020/21 provides some flexibility to deliver rangatahi/young people-focused places *Noted*
 5. **Note** agencies will develop a suite of additional actions through cross-agency work, engagement with the sector and learnings for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing to report back to you in June 2021 *Noted*

6. **Agree** to forward a copy to the Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing).

Agree/disagree

Jeremy Steele
Manager, Housing Needs and Responses

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Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Housing

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Hon Marama Davidson
Associate Minister of Housing

..... / /

Background

3. You received advice on 19 February on progress of key areas brought forward in response to COVID-19 and work to be progressed in 2021. You agreed that in the first half of 2021, agencies prioritise progressing key actions and advice that would address critical gaps including measures for rangatahi/young people, such as:
 - options for filling gaps in youth-appropriate accommodation and supports, and
 - a suite of additional actions [BRF20/21120811 refers].
4. Almost half of the people experiencing homelessness in New Zealand are under 25 years and 19 percent are under 15 years of age. There continues to be a lack of appropriate housing supports for rangatahi/young people. For example, there are potential safety issues with motels used for emergency housing, and a need for wrap-around supports tailored for rangatahi/young people.
5. Oranga Tamariki continues to increase supported housing places for eligible rangatahi/young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care or youth justice. However, there are limited housing and support options for rangatahi/young people who have not been in care.
6. Funding allocated in the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund will also support two new initiatives targeted at youth homelessness:
 - Rainbow Youth (Auckland) to create and deliver a toolkit for homelessness service providers to respond to the needs of the Rainbow community effectively and safely
 - One Double Five Whare Awhina (Whangārei) to develop a Youth Housing Plan for Whangārei taitamariki experiencing homelessness.
7. The next round of the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund will open in mid-2021. Future rounds of the fund will fund new innovative local proposals to prevent and reduce homelessness, including youth homelessness.
8. The Minister of Housing will receive advice shortly on progress toward delivering the next tranche of transitional housing.

Work is underway to increase the number of rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing places

9. Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) currently funds three transitional housing providers to deliver 27 places for rangatahi/ young people in Hamilton, Dunedin and Invercargill. HUD also funds Kāhui Tū Kaha to provide 12 Supported Housing for Youth places in Auckland. These services are funded within existing settings with some variations to standard contracts to reflect the specific needs of the people they support and the intensity of services that may be required.
10. Increasing the number of emergency and temporary accommodation places with support services for rangatahi/young people supported through transitional housing will help ensure we can better meet immediate needs of rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

HUD will develop specific service standards for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing

11. Work is underway to identify opportunities for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing within existing funding settings. As part of this work HUD plans to develop service specifications that align with the principles of the action plan and reflect best practice for accommodation and support for rangatahi/young people including:
 - **Longer period of support:** Transitional housing is intended to be provided for 12 weeks however in practice many people stay longer. Best practice accommodation and support for rangatahi/young people is provided for 6 to 12 months.

- **Greater intensity of support:** Rangatahi/young people need greater support to develop key life skills and maintain a home as they transition to adulthood. Best practice models of support give rangatahi/young people access to onsite 24/7 support.

12. Proposals for additional rangatahi/young people-focused places will be assessed to ensure that new services align with the principles of the action plan and will meet the needs of rangatahi/young people.

Supporting kaupapa Māori providers and their principles must be prioritised

13. Rangatahi Māori are disproportionately impacted by housing insecurity and homelessness. The action plan commits that all homelessness responses enable and support kaupapa Māori approaches. MAIHI and its kaupapa Māori principles must drive how we support and deliver accommodation and support for rangatahi/young people. Prioritising and supporting Māori and Iwi providers will be essential to improve housing outcomes for rangatahi/young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

HUD can use existing processes to target places for rangatahi/young people

14. HUD can procure places through existing processes and communicate to the providers that it is looking for places that specifically cater for rangatahi/young people. Once proposals are received it will likely take up to 12 weeks to assess proposals and finalise contracts.

15. Rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing may have higher costs compared to standard places. This is currently estimated to be s 9(2)(j) per year and will be further clarified as we finalise service specifications. At this cost, s 9(2)(j) s 9(2)(j) We will have a greater certainty of possible numbers once we begin the procurement process.

Delivering supply will be a major challenge

16. In the short term, delivering supply will be a major challenge to increase rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing places. HUD is aware of a number of proposals that have developed service models for accommodation and support for rangatahi/young people, however identifying appropriate supply continues to be a challenge. HUD will work with providers to identify appropriate supply opportunities. For more information on these proposals see Annex A.

17. In the short term it is likely that places will need to be delivered through a range of supply opportunities, s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Forecast underspend can support additional places through a range of supply types

18. Budget 2020 funded delivery of 2,000 transitional housing places. You have indicated that delivery through this funding is to focus on new builds to increase overall housing stock. If proposals for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing identify new build supply opportunities, they can be funded through existing settings. Where other supply opportunities are identified greater flexibility in funding will be needed.

19. HUD previously advised you it is projecting an underspend in the Transitional Housing multi-category appropriation. s 9(2)(g)(i) s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Agencies will continue to develop a suite of additional actions for June 2021

20. Agencies are continuing to progress work to respond to the needs of rangatahi/young people and identify opportunities to make existing services more accessible and responsive to the needs of rangatahi/young people.

Actions will be informed by engagement with key providers and rangatahi/young people

21. HUD will begin to engage in April with providers and rangatahi/young people to clarify key issues and opportunities to prevent and reduce youth homelessness from the perspective of providers and young people, and key actions they would like to see government take to support their work.
22. This engagement will include partnering with engagement that is already underway and planned by other agencies. This engagement will inform the development of service standards for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing as well as broader options to progress later in 2021.
23. In the first instance we will work with Homelessness Sector Services (Community Housing Aotearoa and Te Matapihi) and Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tamaki Youth Homelessness Collective. We will work with these groups to identify further opportunities to engage with other providers of housing services for rangatahi/young people and rangatahi/young people.

Development of options

24. Engagement, cross-agency work, and learnings from rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing will inform the development of a suite of options to further prevent and respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness. This will include identifying potential funding options.

25. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Risks

26. Delivering rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing places will be dependent on the capacity of appropriate providers to deliver this service, and viable and appropriate supply options.

Next steps

27. The Minister of Housing will receive advice on further action we can take to accelerate delivery of transitional housing by the end of March.
28. Indicative timeframes using existing procurement processes to bring on additional rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing are:
- Communications to sector **16 April**
 - Service specifications finalised **30 April**
 - First applications received by **31 May**
 - Contracts finalised with initial applications with available supply by **30 July**
29. We will update you as required with further information on the outcomes of initial engagement to develop service specifications for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing and an indication of the number of places that could be delivered in 2021.
30. You will receive further advice by June 2021 on options to further prevent and respond to youth homelessness. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Annexes

Annex A: Opportunities for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing

Annex B: Rangatahi/youth homelessness responses, key activities and timeframes for 2021

Annex A: Opportunities for rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing

HUD is aware of a number of potential proposals through applications to the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund and other channels. For example:

- s 9(2)(f)(iv), s 9(2)(j)
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Key activities and timeframes for 2021



Development of policy advice for Ministers

Initial advice on filling critical gaps in youth-appropriate accommodation and supports.

Advice on additional actions including update on progress, potential operational changes, options for new programmes for further development s 9(2)(f)(iv) and plans for further engagement and partnerships.

Further advice on additional actions including s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Engagement and partnerships with agencies, providers, Māori and Iwi, young people and others

Agencies, including HUD Oranga Tamariki, MSD, MYD, Ara Poutama, continue to work closely together on policy and operational changes

Engagement with providers and rangatahi/young people

Wider engagement to inform advice and development of actions

Ongoing engagement and partnerships to design and/or deliver actions

Development and implementation of youth specific services or funding

Oranga Tamariki continue to deliver supported housing places for rangatahi leaving care, increasing to 168 by 2023

Local Innovation and Partnership Fund first round successful applications begin including Whangārei Youth Housing Plan and toolkit by RainbowYOUTH to support providers to meet the needs of Rainbow communities

Begin procurement process for youth focused transitional housing

Local Innovation and Partnership Fund second round opens with opportunities for youth applications to apply

Suite of options identified to further respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness

Additional accommodation and support from Transitional Housing funding coming on board

Practice and process improvements, such as improved collaboration and coordination of agencies

Proposed key principles for this work

- Partner with and support Māori to deliver solutions for Māori, and empower local communities to achieve rangatahi housing and wellbeing outcomes.
- Youth and whānau-centred with the voice of young people informing actions, and supporting actions that address individual needs within the context of that individual's whānau, relationships, support networks, community and connection to place.
- Support and enable local approaches to address youth homelessness in ways that respond to their different needs and build on responses already in place.
- Joined-up approaches across agencies and communities so systems of support work well for young people and they do not fall through gaps in support.