



OIA21/22120376

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email on 9 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please provide copies of the briefings, updates, memos, aide memoires, or reports that were provided to ministers about the government's work to support rangatahi (young people) who experience homelessness since the start of 2001.

On 13 December 2021, you confirmed you were after papers for 2021. Fourteen documents are in scope of this request. Of these, four are already publicly available, one is withheld in full and the remaining seven documents are released with some redactions under the following sections of the OIA:

Section of the Act	Reason to withhold
9(2)(a)	to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
9(2)(ba)(i)	protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
9(2)(f)(iv)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
9(2)(g)(i)	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty
9(2)(j)	enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)
18(d)	that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

The above information is summarised in the attached document schedule.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Shaw', with a stylized, flowing script.

Anne Shaw
Deputy Chief Executive
Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships

Document schedule

Tracking number	Date	Title	Section of the Act applied
AMI20/21020445	11 February 2021	Youth homelessness: key information and initiatives	9(2)(a) 9(2)(j)
AMI20/21030466	5 March 2021	Release of the Children's Rights in the COVID-19 Response Report	18(d) (available at: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Proactive-Releases/Response-letter-DOIA2021060579.pdf)
M/EB20/21020113	25 March 2021	Hui with Minister Davidson regarding Youth Homelessness Manaaki Rangatahi	9(2)(a) 9(2)(ba)(i) 9(2)(g)(i)
BRF20/21030883	26 March 2021	Increasing accommodation and support for rangatahi/young people and next steps	18(d) (available at: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Proactive-Releases/15.-BRF2021030883-Increasing-accommodation-and-support-REDACTED.pdf)
	5 May 2021	Aotearoa/New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan – Second six-monthly progress report	18(d) (available at: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Addressing-homelessness/Second-six-monthly-public-progress-report-on-the-Homelessness-Action-Plan.pdf)
BRF20/21050976	9 June 2021	Update on immediate plan to improve support for rangatahi-youth experiencing homelessness	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
BRF20/21061010	30 July 2021	Report back on options to respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
	August 2021	Cabinet Paper: Improving the provision of emergency housing in Rotorua and potential expansion	18(d) (available at: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Proactive-Releases/PR21-010-Improving-the-Provision-of-Emergency-Housing-in-Rotorua-and-Potential-Expansion.pdf)
AMI21/22090662	29 September 2021	Update on supporting rangatahi (young people) experiencing homelessness	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
AMI21/22100670	7 October 2021	Facebook Live event with Manaaki Rangatahi	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(ba)(i)
BRF21/22101141	3 November 2021	Update on [9(2)(j)] rangatahi proposal	Withheld in full under 9(2)(j)
AMI21/22100694	11 November 2021	November update on supporting rangatahi (young people) experiencing homelessness	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
AMI21/22110724	25 November 2021	26 November meeting with Manaaki Rangatahi – follow up from Kawangatanga Korero Facebook live event	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(j) 9(2)(ba)(i)
BRF21/22121196	15 December 2021	Addressing rangatahi homelessness – update on mahi so far	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(j)



Aide-mémoire

Youth homelessness: key information and initiatives			
Date:	11 February 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	AMI20/21020445

Information for Minister(s)	
Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Housing Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	For noting For forwarding to Hon Priyanka Radhakrishnan Minister for Youth

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

Other agencies consulted
N/A

Minister's office to complete

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Noted<input type="checkbox"/> Seen<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes<input type="checkbox"/> Needs change<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 MHUD:



Aide-mémoire

Youth homelessness: key information and initiatives

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

Date: 11 February 2021 **Security level:** In Confidence

Priority: Medium **Report number:** AMI20/21020445

Purpose

1. This aide-mémoire provides you with information on youth homelessness, including key statistics, contributing factors and barriers, relevant government policy and next steps.

Rangatahi/young people account for a significant proportion of those experiencing homelessness

2. Rangatahi/young people experience high rates of homelessness, with nearly 50 percent of those experiencing homelessness being under 25 years of age.¹ There are high rates of Pacific peoples and Māori among this cohort. In the quarter ending June 2020, 1,800 people aged 16-24 accessed Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, up from 1,226 in the previous quarter (47 percent increase).
3. We know that homelessness affects some groups of rangatahi/young people more than others and different groups require different types of support. It is important that policy work considers the intersectionality between these different at-risk groups, including LGBTQI+ young people, rangatahi Māori, young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care, young single mothers, and young people with disabilities.
4. In addition, the negative social and economic impacts of COVID-19 could increase rental pressure and tenancy loss, accessing of accommodation support, and people in overcrowded situations or inappropriate housing for multi-family living situations. In turn, we would expect these factors to exacerbate youth homelessness.

There are a range of factors that can lead to homelessness and poor outcomes for rangatahi/young people

5. For rangatahi/young people, homelessness can be especially harmful, have longer-term impacts on wellbeing, and require tailored responses that meet their developmental needs. Youth homelessness can be caused by a diverse range of experiences and preceded by trauma, poverty, abuse, domestic violence and relationship breakdowns at home. Contributing factors include:
 - **Family breakdown and experiences of abuse and family violence:** these are the key factors that lead to homelessness for rangatahi/young people. Other reasons include exposure to trauma, leaving care of government services, learning and physical disabilities and experience in the youth justice or state care system.

¹Amore, K., Viggers, H., and Chapman, P (2020). Severe housing deprivation in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2018. University of Otago. Retrieved from: [Severe-Housing-Deprivation-2018-Estimate-Report.pdf \(hud.govt.nz\)](https://www.hud.govt.nz/severe-housing-deprivation-2018-estimate-report.pdf).

- **Systemic factors can lead to homelessness or poor outcomes:** wider system settings that shape and reinforce an at-risk situation for rangatahi/young people include a lack of access to income support, poverty, lack of adequate housing supply, displacement and disconnection from whānau and whenua, a lack of adequate (culturally relevant and place-based) supports and legislative/regulatory settings.
- **A lack of access to the right supports at the right time can lead to poor outcomes:** when the right supports are not provided or accessed, it can lead to rangatahi/young people responding in ways that put them at greater risk of poor outcomes, social disconnection and homelessness (e.g. withdrawing from education and engaging in harmful behaviours and/or harmful social connections).

Rangatahi/young people face barriers to accessing housing and support

6. Barriers include:

- **Difficulty accessing income and housing supports:** rangatahi/young people can struggle to have income, credit or rental track records, making securing rental accommodation challenging. They have also reported challenges with lengthy processes and not having the right documentation for applications
- **Lack of access to different types of affordable housing:** rangatahi/young people are often priced out of private rentals and discriminated against, or face barriers to accessing public housing, transitional housing, and EH-SNG accommodation due to their age.
- **Discrimination:** rangatahi/young people have reported experiences of discrimination due to their age, disability, gender and sexuality
- **Lack of skills to live independently:** rangatahi/young people can lack skills such as budgeting, money management, housework and cooking (particularly when under the age of 18), making maintaining a home difficult.

Responding to youth homelessness is a key priority for the government

7. The Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan (HAP) includes actions that will support rangatahi/young people and their families, and has an overall vision that *Homelessness is prevented where possible or is rare, brief, and non-recurring*.
8. HAP has 18 immediate actions that are either in development, underway or in place, backed by over \$300 million of funding, and a further 18 longer-term actions to be developed for implementation over 2020-2023. A number of the immediate actions will directly support rangatahi/young people and their families including:
 - **Expand housing support for people leaving Oranga Tamariki care:** supported accommodation placements will be extended to eligible rangatahi/young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care or youth justice to support a more gradual transition into adulthood.
 - **Rangatahi/young people as a priority group under HAP:** in response to COVID-19, six of the longer term actions under HAP were brought forward. This includes an action to provide better housing outcomes for groups at high-risk of experiencing homelessness, with an initial focus on rangatahi/young people, and Pacific Peoples. Advice on next steps for the six accelerated actions will be provided to you in February. As part of the rangatahi/young people work, officials regularly engage with Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tamaki (Youth Homelessness Collective).
 - **The Local Innovation and Partnership Fund (the Fund):** the Fund is one of HAP's immediate actions, and makes \$16.6 million available over three years to support local initiatives to respond to and prevent homelessness. Potential benefits to priority groups, including rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness, were considered when assessing applications for funding from round one. Officials are currently negotiating agreements with successful applicants, and will provide you with an update in March.

HUD is also involved in wider work that could have an impact on youth homelessness

9. Initiatives include:

- **The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy):** housing is recognised as a key enabler of child wellbeing in the Strategy under the outcome, *Children and young people have what they need – Children live in stable housing that is affordable, warm and dry.* The Strategy identifies commitments across the housing portfolios to improve housing affordability, quality and security, and includes eight initiatives led or co-led by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga–Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These initiatives will improve housing affordability, quality and stability, and are expected to improve wellbeing for children and their families.
- **Supported accommodation for youth:** the aim of this service is to provide young people with a stable and safe living environment until they are ready for independent living. HUD currently funds three transitional housing providers to deliver 27 places for rangatahi/young people in Hamilton and Dunedin and Invercargill. HUD also funds Kāhui Tū Kaha to provide 12 places in Auckland.
- **The Youth Hub Trust Te Hurihanga o Rangatahi (the Trust):** the Trust aims to create a safe haven for rangatahi/young people needing support between 10 and 25 years of age.

s 9(2)(j)

Next steps

10. Officials will provide you with advice on next steps for the six accelerated actions under HAP in February, and continue to progress initiatives under HAP and across government. This advice will propose next steps for responding to and preventing youth homelessness.



Minister Davidson's meeting with Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki, 30 March 2021			
Date:	25 March 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	M/EB20/21020113

Security level:	In Confidence
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Report number:	M/EB20/21020113
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Information for Minister(s)	
Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister for Housing (Homelessness)	For noting

For noting

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

1st contact

✓

Other agencies consulted
N/A

Minister's office to complete

- ### Comments

New Zealand Government

Aide-mémoire

Meeting: Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki Youth Homelessness Collective

For: Hon Marama Davidson, Associate Minister for Housing (Homelessness)
Date: 25 March 2021
Priority: Medium

Security level: In Confidence
Report number: M/EB20/21020113

Purpose

1. This aide-mémoire provides you with information to support your meeting with the Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki Youth Homelessness Collective (Manaaki Rangatahi) Steering Group on 30 March 2021.

Expected attendees

2. The following representatives from Manaaki Rangatahi will be in attendance:
 - Bianca Johanson, Youth Strategy and Development Coordinator, Lifewise
 - Ken Kerehoma, Pou Manukura – Cultural Lead, Lifewise
 - Aaron Hendry, Youth Housing Team Leader, Lifewise
 - Peter Shimwell, Community Services Manager, Lifewise
 - Bill Peace, Operations and Relationships Manager, STRIVE Community Trust
 - Neihana Gordon-Stables, Homelessness Support Worker, RainbowYOUTH
 - Brook Turner, Head of Service Development and Partnerships, VisionWest
 - Nicola Bowden, Senior Practitioner, Auckland City Mission
 - Kerry Tautogia, Head of Social Services, Quality Education Services
3. Jeremy Steele (Manager, Housing Needs and Responses) from Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will also attend.

About Manaaki Rangatahi

4. Manaaki Rangatahi is a collective of youth housing organisations and support services. You are meeting with the Steering Group, which includes VOYCE Whakaronga Mai, Auckland City Mission, Lifewise, STRIVE Community Trust, RainbowYOUTH and VisionWest. It was established in 2018 as a way to consolidate work across organisations and end youth homelessness in Aotearoa.
5. Manaaki Rangatahi has indicated that they would like to discuss:
 - The current state of youth homelessness
 - Manaaki Rangatahi's priorities and solutions around youth homelessness
 - How you can assist Manaaki Rangatahi in achieving their priorities
 - Manaaki Rangatahi's future funding and role across Aotearoa

Key insights on youth homelessness

Rangatahi/young people account for a significant proportion of those experiencing homelessness

6. Almost half of the people experiencing homelessness in Aotearoa are under 25 years and 19 percent are under 15 years of age. There are high rates of Māori and Pacific peoples among this cohort – around a third of under 25 year olds experiencing homelessness are Māori and around a quarter are Pacific peoples. In the quarter ending June 2020, 1,800 people aged 16-24 accessed Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, up from 1,226 in the previous quarter (a 47 percent increase). When experienced at a young age, homelessness can be especially harmful and have long-term consequences for wellbeing and housing outcomes.

A range of factors can lead to homelessness and poor outcomes for rangatahi/young people

7. Contributing factors include:
- **Family breakdown and experiences of abuse and family violence**, as well as exposure to trauma, leaving care of government services, learning and physical disabilities and experience in the youth justice or state care system. Māori are disproportionately represented in this sphere.
 - **Systemic factors**, such as a lack of access to income support, poverty, lack of adequate housing supply, displacement and disconnection from whānau and whenua, a lack of adequate (culturally relevant and place based) supports and legislative/regulatory settings.
 - **A lack of access to the right supports at the right time**, leading to rangatahi/young people responding in ways that put them at greater risk of poor outcomes, social disconnection and homelessness (eg withdrawing from education and engaging in harmful behaviours and/or harmful social connections).

Rangatahi/young people face barriers to accessing housing and support

8. Barriers faced by rangatahi/young people include:
- **Difficulty accessing income and housing supports** – rangatahi/young people often do not have income, credit or rental track records, making securing rental accommodation challenging. They have also reported challenges with lengthy processes and not having the right documentation for applications.
 - **Lack of access to different types of affordable housing**, as a result of being priced out of private rentals and discriminated against, or facing barriers to accessing public housing, transitional housing, and EH-SNG accommodation due to their age.
 - **Discrimination** due to their age, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality and marital status.
 - **Lack of skills to live independently**, such as budgeting, money management, housework and cooking (particularly when under the age of 18), making maintaining a home difficult.

Key concerns of Manaaki Rangatahi

9. Manaaki Rangatahi has highlighted a range of issues they are particularly concerned about which are focused around:
- Resources for accommodation for young people who are experiencing homelessness
 - Improving data and evidence on youth homelessness
 - A specific regional and national strategy for youth homelessness.

Resources and accommodation

10. Rangatahi/young people are underserved by existing services. Manaaki Rangatahi has previously emphasised that:
 - There is a lack of adequate housing supply for rangatahi/young people
 - Emergency housing is not an appropriate or safe housing response for rangatahi/young people
 - Providers of services for rangatahi/young people are under pressure and are finding it increasingly difficult to find housing and support.
11. Following the initial COVID-19 response, government agencies have been working to progress development of a number of longer-term actions in the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan (HAP). One of these actions is to develop further responses for at-risk groups, with an initial focus on rangatahi/young people [BRF20/21120811 refers].
12. You will receive advice on increasing accommodation and support services for rangatahi/young people shortly, and advice on a suite of additional actions to further prevent and respond to youth homelessness in June 2021.
13. Officials have communicated to Manaaki Rangatahi that their input and insights have been taken on board and informed this work, and intend to work with Manaaki Rangatahi on the next steps of this work.

Improving data and evidence

14. Manaaki Rangatahi has previously communicated that there are a lack of data on young people experiencing homelessness, making it difficult to understand the scale of the problem and track their outcomes.
15. The HAP recognises that there is a need for better data and evidence on homelessness and includes an action to improve evidence and data. This action is underway and includes improving data and evidence on specific cohorts affected by homelessness.
16. There also needs to be kaupapa Māori-led research to understand the issues facing rangatahi Māori. Te Maihara o Te Whare Māori: Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation (MAIHI) [CAB-20-MIN-0229.02 refers] sets out a kaupapa Māori framework and will guide the implementation of all actions in the HAP.

National youth homelessness strategy

17. Manaaki Rangatahi advocates for a national youth homelessness strategy. HUD will continue to look at developing practical actions specifically focused on young people s 9(2)(g)(i)

Manaaki Rangatahi role and funding

18. Manaaki Rangatahi is funded by the Vodafone Foundation. This funding is set to expire in mid-2021, and Manaaki Rangatahi has indicated there is no option to extend this funding. They are currently exploring further funding opportunities.
19. Manaaki Rangatahi plans to raise this issue with you in the meeting. s 9(2)(g)(i) We have provided you with talking points to respond to this issue.

Future working relationship with the Minister and other Government ministries

20. Officials from HUD are in regular contact with Manaaki Rangatahi, and attend their monthly meetings to share updates on the HAP. Officials also ensure that insights from these meetings are fed into policy work on the HAP.

21. Officials value the insights that Manaaki Rangatahi have provided through this relationship. They are willing to continue working with Manaaki Rangatahi, in particular on developing the suite of additional actions that will be presented to Ministers in June 2021.

Additional issues Manaaki Rangatahi may raise with you

s 9(2)(ba)(i)

23. There was \$4.15 million available to distribute in Round One of the Fund and HUD received a higher number of applications than the current funding pool could support. Rangatahi/young people were a key cohort that were considered for funding in this round.
24. Officials have indicated to Manaaki Rangatahi that the lack of supported accommodation places for young people is a key concern, and we will look to engage with them on this in March. Note that advice on increasing youth-focused supported accommodation was provided to Ministers on 25 March 2021 [BRF20/21030883 refers].
25. Manaaki Rangatahi has been advocating for supported accommodation places, including emergency housing, for rangatahi/young people s 9(2)(ba)(i)

Expanding Manaaki Rangatahi to a national youth homelessness collective

26. Manaaki Rangatahi has also indicated they wish to expand the collective across the country, and are currently connecting with providers in the youth homelessness space in regions outside Auckland. As part of this, Manaaki Rangatahi recently attended a hui in Whāngarei to support the design of a youth housing initiative that was funded under the LIPF. This initiative aims to develop a Youth Housing Plan for Whāngarei that is co-designed and led by rangatahi/young people and focuses on preventing, rather than managing, homelessness. It will provide a key avenue for learning and potential replication across regions or on a national scale.

Annex One: Talking points

Introductory

- Thank you for all the work you do in advocating for rangatahi/young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness and ensuring their voices are heard
- Your insights are valuable and key to improving outcomes for young people
- I know that rangatahi/young people are disproportionately affected by homelessness, and that homelessness for youth can be especially harmful and have long-term consequences for wellbeing and housing outcomes
- Homelessness affects some groups of rangatahi/young people more than others and it is important to consider the relationships between these different at-risk groups, including rangatahi Māori, LGBTQI+ young people, young people leaving Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children care, young single mothers, and disabled young people
- I acknowledge that current housing services and support do not meet the needs of youth and that youth face many barriers in accessing them

Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan

- Supporting rangatahi/young people is a priority issue for Government, which is why the focus in the Homelessness Action Plan on developing responses for youth was accelerated following COVID-19
- We (Housing Ministers) have committed to developing further responses to prevent and respond to youth homelessness, with an immediate focus on filling critical gaps in youth-appropriate accommodation and supports
- Officials will work with you as this focus area progresses

Local Innovation and Partnership Fund

- s 9(2)(ba)(i)
- As you know the fund was over subscribed and only \$4.15 million was available in the first round
- Thank you for the support that you have offered successful applicants to ensure the best outcomes for rangatahi/young people

Role and Funding

- HUD will continue to identify actions and funding opportunities for initiatives focused on rangatahi/young people
- Local Innovation and Partnership Fund may have some funding opportunities however it is financially constrained, and any initiatives will need to go through the application process



Briefing

Update on immediate plan to improve support for rangatahi/youth experiencing homelessness			
Date:	9 June 2021	Security level:	In confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	BRF20/21050976

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Housing	Note the contents of this paper	16 June 2021
Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	Note the contents of this paper	16 June 2021

Contact for discussion			
Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Anne Shaw	Deputy Chief Executive, Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Bronwyn Hollingsworth	Kaiaki, Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships	04 862 2592	

Other agencies consulted
N/A

Minister's office to complete

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



Briefing

Update on immediate plan to improve support for rangatahi/youth experiencing homelessness

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

Date: 9 June 2021 **Security level:** In confidence

Priority: Medium **Report number:** BRF20/21050976

Purpose

1. This briefing updates you on Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) immediate plan to improve support for rangatahi/youth experiencing homelessness and seeks agreement on our approach to progressing supply for this cohort.

Recommended actions

2. It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** that HUD currently funds four providers to deliver 46 places for rangatahi/young people across Aotearoa New Zealand and has engaged with 11 providers who have expressed interest in bringing on additional supply and services for rangatahi/young people. *Noted*
2. s 9(2)(f)(iv) *Noted*
3. **Note** that we can fund rangatahi/youth focused Transitional Housing within current settings. *Noted*
4. **Note** that early conversations with providers suggest that accommodation with shared facilities is likely to be the most appropriate supply-type for rangatahi/youth as this improves their service delivery and therefore the sustainable outcomes for rangatahi/youth they support. *Noted*
5. **Note** that while shared-facility projects are not HUD's preferred supply-type, these are currently approved by HUD on a case-by-case basis for small groups of up to around ten places, provided we are comfortable they will improve outcomes for vulnerable cohorts, for example the recently opened Wellington Homeless Women's Trust upgrade. *Noted*
6. **Agree** that HUD will continue the current approach for approving shared-facility projects for rangatahi/youth focused Transitional Housing, with an increased size of twenty places to enable providers to deliver at pace for this vulnerable cohort. *Agree / Disagree*
7. **Note** that we will keep you updated on these projects through the monthly Transitional Housing Pipeline and Progress reporting. *Noted*

Anne Shaw
**DCE Housing Supply, Response and
Partnership**
..... / /

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Housing
..... / /


Hon Marama Davidson
Associate Minister of Housing
..... / /

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Background

3. Almost half of the people experiencing homelessness in New Zealand are under 25 years old and 19 percent are under 15 years of age. There continues to be a lack of targeted housing supports for rangatahi/young people.
4. Youth homelessness has been a focus of the WAI 2750 – Housing Policy and Services Inquiry, with witnesses who work closely with young people heard in recent weeks, including representatives from Lifewise Trust and Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki Makaurau. Witnesses have focused on the overall shortage of dedicated accommodation options and have described that young people often do not have confidence to seek housing support.
5. HUD is already providing some targeted supply and support for young people/rangatahi. HUD currently funds four providers to deliver 46 places for rangatahi/young people across Aotearoa New Zealand¹. These services are funded within existing settings with some variations to service standards to reflect the specific needs of the young people they support and the intensity of services that may be required.
6. On 26 March 2021 you received advice about quickly increasing the supply of rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing [BRF20/21030883 refers]. This indicated that HUD would engage with the sector to deliver additional rangatahi/young people-focused transitional housing places by June 2021.

Approach to increasing rangatahi/youth focused transitional housing

7. A broader approach to youth homelessness is being developed as a long-term action under the Homelessness Action Plan, and you will receive further advice by June 2021 on options to further prevent and respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness. However, there is a need to improve our immediate support for this cohort now.
8. To do so, we are taking a flexible, cohort-led approach to quickly increase rangatahi/youth focused transitional housing. We are working closely with experienced providers to understand what housing and support service models they think will deliver best outcomes for youth in their region. We are also working in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Oranga Tamariki (OT) who offer experience working with rangatahi/youth.
9. Funding is available to deliver additional rangatahi/youth places within existing appropriations. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

10. Rangatahi/youth are a diverse cohort and as such, a range of service options should be made available to meet their varied needs. Rangatahi/youth focused Transitional Housing will be delivered for 16 to 25 year olds and may be targeted for rangatahi/youth who are:
 - Māori
 - Pacific Peoples
 - Disabled

¹ This is made up of three transitional housing providers to deliver 34 places for rangatahi/ young people – these are Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa in Hamilton (15 places), Methodist Mission Southern in Dunedin and Invercargill (12 places), The Lifewise Trust in Auckland (7 places). HUD funds Kāhui Tū Kaha for 12 Supported Housing for Youth places in Auckland.

- LGBTQI+
- Young parents
- Leaving the care of Oranga Tamariki

11. Rangatahi/youth will be provided with a safe and stable living environment that is modelled on existing Transitional Housing services and provides additional features that reflect best practice for this cohort. This will help rangatahi/youth address the underlying cause of their homelessness and can support them to transition into independent living.
12. Additional features will include a longer period of support for 6 to 12 months, greater intensity of wraparound support and that young people would have access to onsite 24/7 support [BRF20/21030883 refers]. Depending on individual needs, support could include pathways into skills training, education, employment and wellbeing.
13. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
14. We are encouraging providers to take a Te Maihi o te Whare Māori (MAIHI) approach. Prioritising and supporting Māori and Iwi providers will be essential to improve housing outcomes for rangatahi/young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
15. We have developed recommended service standards, which are high-level and enable providers to advise HUD on their proposed service delivery and content (Annex A). We are also considering additional reporting we can seek from providers. This will be used to provide a deeper evidence base as the broader approach to youth homelessness is developed.

Progress so far

16. HUD has engaged with 11 providers who are active with the rangatahi/youth cohort to test their interest and identify appropriate supply opportunities. Responses have been positive and the providers we have spoken with are keen to increase their support for this cohort.
17. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
18. Feedback from providers confirms that the delivery of supply continues to be a major challenge. Over the past 12 months our focus has been on delivering quality, new build transitional housing to deliver the targets in the Public Housing Plan 2021-24.
19. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
20. Providers are indicating that for the rangatahi/youth cohort they prefer accommodation which promotes communal living, primarily through shared kitchen and living facilities. Shared facilities improve providers' ability to deliver youth focused wrap-around support, therefore improving rangatahi/youth outcomes. This is consistent with existing rangatahi/youth transitional housing, which is also delivered using shared facilities.

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

22.

23. We recognise that shared-facility projects are not the preferred supply-type. HUD currently assesses shared-facility projects proposals on a case-by-case basis for small groups of up to around ten places where we are comfortable they will improve outcomes for vulnerable cohorts. We propose to continue this approach for rangatahi/youth focused Transitional Housing with an increased size of twenty places to enable providers to deliver at pace for this vulnerable cohort.

24. HUD will keep you updated on progress through the monthly Transitional Housing Pipeline and Progress reporting. Any places contracted for youth will be counted towards our 2,000 places target outlined in the Public Housing Plan 2021-24.

This work will contribute to wider activity

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

26. HUD is in the early stages of planning a Transitional Housing hui as part of ongoing engagement with the sector, and particularly to discuss the development of a Code of Practice for Transitional Housing. Providers will have valuable insights to share as a result of this work and other activity with rangatahi/youth, for example lessons from recently funded youth-focused Local Innovation and Partnership Fund (LIPF)

applications from RainbowYouth² and One Double Five Whare Awhina³. This forum will provide more evidence as the broader approach to youth homelessness is developed.

Risks

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

Next steps

28. HUD will continue to engage with providers to improve supply and support options for rangatahi/youth.
29. You will receive the next transitional housing dashboard and pipeline report by 10 June 2021 which outlines HUD and Kāinga Ora's progress toward delivering 2 000 additional places under the Public Housing Plan 2021-24.

Annexes

Annex A: Guidelines on Specifications: Rangatahi/Youth-focused Transitional Housing places

² This work will build capacity of the housing and homelessness sector across the wider Auckland region to enable an effective and safe response to the needs of rainbow communities.

³ This work will involve the development of a Whangārei youth housing plan and project using a Housing First for Youth philosophy.

Annex A: **Guidelines on Specifications: Rangatahi/Youth-focused Transitional Housing places**

Aims of the Service

The aim of the service will be to provide accommodation for rangatahi/young people to help them avoid homelessness. The service will provide the rangatahi/young people with a safe and stable living environment for up to 12 months and deliver the wraparound support required to help them address the cause of their Homelessness. This could include pathways into training, education, employment, wellbeing and long-term sustainable housing.

Target Group

The target group, and those eligible for the service, will be aged within 16 to 25 years old (for example, could support ages 16-19 or 21-24). The service may be targeted for rangatahi/youth who are:

- Disabled Tamariki
- Māori
- Pacific Peoples
- LGBTQI+
- Leaving the care of Oranga
- Young parents

Service delivery and Content

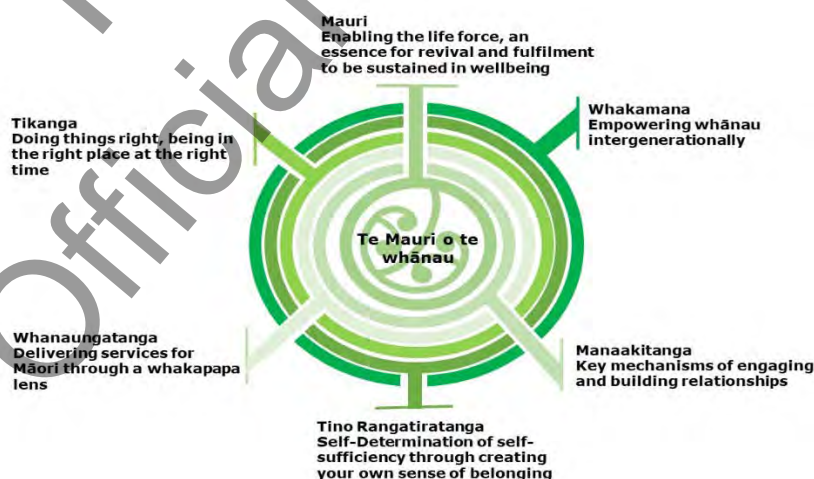
The Provider will:

- Provide appropriate accommodation for the agreed number of rangatahi/young people for the duration of their need;
- Ensure that the service includes an adult presence available to the young people through 24/7 onsite support, mentoring and supporting the rangatahi/young person towards independence (e.g. model and encourage the development of basic living skills within a shared living environment) and assist the rangatahi/young person with accessing appropriate social and health support services. The intensity of support provided should be greater than general Transitional Housing programmes. This could include additional assistance with accessing education, employment or other services to enable rangatahi to become self-managing;
- Maintain strong networks with youth social and health service agencies;
- Provide a longer period of support of up to 52 weeks, and review the rangatahi/young person's ability to move to independent accommodation every quarter and
- Maintain strong networks with youth social and health service agencies to contribute to the rangatahi/young person achieving independent living.

Outcomes and approach

Providers are encouraged to link to the principles Te Maihi o te Whare Māori (MAIHI) and/or Whānau Ora.

MAIHI principles are:





Date:	30 July 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	BRF20/21061010

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Housing		
Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)		

Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Anne Shaw	DCE, Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships	04 830 6946 s 9(2)(a)	
Jeremy Steele	Manager, Housing Needs and Responses	04 832 2471 s 9(2)(a)	✓

This paper was developed with the Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections, Ministry of Health, Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Not seen by Minister
- ☐ Overtaken by events
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Referred to (specify)

Comments

Date returned to HUD:



Briefing

Report back on options to respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness

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

Date: 30 July 2021

Security level: In Confidence

Priority: Medium

Report number: BRF20/21061010

Purpose

1. This briefing reports back on options to further prevent and respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Executive summary

1. Developing responses for at-risk cohorts is a longer-term action in the Homelessness Action Plan. In response to the emerging impacts of COVID-19, Cabinet directed officials to accelerate the development of responses for rangatahi/young people.
2. Rangatahi/young people struggle to access safe, adequate, and appropriate support services and housing across the housing system, when they need it. Tailored responses are required to meet the specific needs of rangatahi/young people and address the unique drivers that put them at risk of homelessness.
3. Initiatives funded through the Homelessness Action Plan that support rangatahi/young people are underway including increasing supported accommodation for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care and youth justice settings, and supporting rangatahi/youth-focused initiatives through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund. Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is also increasing the number of rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing places within existing funding settings.
4. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
5. Proposed options will be supported by longer-term work, including reviews of Housing Support Products, Housing First s 9(2)(f)(iv), and the development of longer-term actions through the Homelessness Action Plan, including further early intervention and prevention responses, and ensuring that kaupapa Māori principles are applied to all responses.

Recommended actions

2. It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** that officials were directed in February 2021 to report back on options to further prevent and respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness [BRF20/21120811 refers]

Noted

2. **Note** that Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga is increasing rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing within existing funding settings and looking at opportunities to fund rangatahi/youth-focused research as part of the Homelessness Action Plan data and evidence action

Noted

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

4.

5.



Jeremy Steele
Manager, Housing Needs and Responses

30, 7, 21
..... / /

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Housing

..... / /

Hon Marama Davidson
Associate Minister of Housing
(Homelessness)

..... / /

Background

3. In response to the emerging impacts of COVID-19, in July 2020 Cabinet noted officials would bring forward the development of further responses for cohorts at risk of homelessness, particularly for rangatahi/young people. On 19 February 2021 [BRF20/21120811 refers] you received advice that work would be progressed on options for filling critical gaps in rangatahi/youth-appropriate accommodation and a suite of additional options.
4. On 9 June 2021, you received advice on progress to quickly increase the supply of rangatahi/youth-focused accommodation through rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing [BRF20/21050976 refers] s 9(2)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED]
5. There are strong linkages across the needs of rangatahi/young people and other longer-term actions within the Homelessness Action Plan, which will be important to consider as we progress options.

Rangatahi/young people experience higher rates of homelessness than the general population

6. A range of work is underway across government to address housing need and housing system issues that will reduce pressure on rangatahi/young people and their whānau. Agencies also continue to address broader drivers of homelessness, for example, through work on the welfare system, employment, family and sexual violence, and mental health and addiction. However, there remains a need to respond to immediate and specific needs of rangatahi/young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
7. According to the 2018 Census, 15-24 years olds experience the highest rates of severe housing deprivation compared to any other age group and make up 20.7 per cent of all severely housing deprived people across Aotearoa. This group was predominately living in severely crowded dwellings (10,152), followed by uninhabitable housing (9,108), temporary accommodation (1,459), and 324 were without shelter.¹
8. In the quarter ending June 2021, 1,500 people aged 16-24 accessed Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants.
9. Some groups of rangatahi/young people are at an even greater risk of homelessness, including rangatahi Māori and young Pacific people, LGBTQIA+ rangatahi/young people, disabled rangatahi/young people, young parents, under-18-year-olds, and those leaving Oranga Tamariki care and youth justice settings. There is considerable intersectionality across these groups and those who identify with multiple groups are likely to experience increased disadvantage.

Rangatahi/young people experience unique pathways into homelessness

10. Homelessness is driven by the interplay of structural factors, system failures and individual circumstances. Rangatahi/young people also face specific barriers and challenges alongside the general drivers of homelessness such as a lack of age-appropriate housing services. These drivers can have a more acute impact on rangatahi/young people as they are less likely to be financially independent or have networks and knowledge to navigate services or support.

¹ Amore, K., Viggers, H., Howden Chapman, P. (2021). *Severe housing deprivation in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2018: June 2021 update*. Wellington: Te Tūāpapa Kura Kainga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. p. 34.

11. Furthermore, rangatahi/young people's experience of homelessness cannot be considered in isolation from the circumstances of their whānau, such as whānau and intergenerational poverty and trauma, and the lack of affordable housing options.
12. Key issues for rangatahi/young people with housing needs include:
 - **Very limited housing support during key transition points** such as leaving school and home, and transitioning out of state care or the justice system.
 - **Difficulty accessing the private market:** rangatahi/young people are more likely to be on lower incomes and under-18-year-olds face legal barriers to signing a tenancy. Rangatahi/young people also experience age-based discrimination, compounded by other factors like ethnicity, gender or disability.
 - **Difficulty accessing existing housing services and supports:** rangatahi/young people have trouble navigating multiple access points to services, lengthy processes, and often struggle to have the right documentation for applications.
 - **Lack of housing supports targeted to the needs of rangatahi/young people:** general supports and services do not always meet the needs of rangatahi/young people and providers say it is increasingly difficult to find youth-specific housing and supports to meet the level of demand.
 - **Lack of support to develop the life skills to manage adult life and maintain housing:** rangatahi/young people can lack the skills required to maintain a home and live independently, such as housework, cooking and budgeting.

Prioritising and supporting Māori-led responses is essential

13. Rangatahi Māori are disproportionately impacted by housing insecurity and homelessness. Te Maihi o te Whare Māori – the Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation (MAIHI) framework for action must drive how we design, procure, and engage with communities to deliver actions. Development of the Māori Housing Strategy is underway and rangatahi Māori experiences of homelessness have been a focus in recent consultation. Engagement findings will inform the development of options to respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness.
14. Issues raised throughout the Wai 2750 inquiry have informed this advice and findings from the inquiry will inform future policy development.
15. Claimants and witnesses in support of claimants in the Wai 2750 inquiry have emphasised:
 - the need for early intervention to support rangatahi and their whānau before homelessness becomes a problem
 - the lack of appropriate, safe and stable housing services for rangatahi
 - barriers to accessing private rentals particularly for rangatahi under 18
 - the need to support iwi and Māori-led responses to provide rangatahi and whānau-centred support

Progress to date on addressing rangatahi/youth homelessness

16. Initiatives funded through the Homelessness Action Plan that support rangatahi/young people are underway. Oranga Tamariki has continued to increase supported housing places for rangatahi/young people leaving care and youth justice settings. Seventy-seven places funded through the Homelessness Action Plan are in place as at 30 June 2021. There will be 168 placements funded through the Homelessness Action Plan by 2023.
17. Funding allocated through the first round of the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund will support two new rangatahi/youth-focused initiatives. The second round of funding will continue to support initiatives for cohorts more likely to experience homelessness including

rangatahi/young people. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

18. To respond to urgent gaps in safe and appropriate accommodation for rangatahi/young people, HUD is increasing the number of youth-focused transitional housing places. This includes changes to service specifications such as a longer period of support for 6 to 12 months, greater intensity of wraparound support and 24/7 access to support. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
19. HUD is identifying opportunities to target funding allocated in the Homelessness Action Plan to improve data and evidence. Part of this work will likely include development of a research funding mechanism to help fill identified gaps on homelessness research, s 9(2)(f)(iv)
20. Broader agency supports provide critical points of contact which can identify a housing need. Further information outlining these supports is provided in Annex A.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

21. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
22. Agency supports provide critical points of contact that can identify where rangatahi/young people and their whānau are at risk of homelessness. For further information on these supports, Annex A refers. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

23.

Supply

24. Despite current initiatives, there will continue to be a shortage of places and gaps between the different models of housing support. Organisations that work with rangatahi/young people have reported increased demand for their services and turning people away due to lack of places. There are also few intensive models of care for rangatahi/young people experiencing multiple and complex challenges such as mental health and addiction needs. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Supported Accommodation (Oranga Tamariki)	Youth-focused Transitional Housing (HUD)	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing service77 places increasing to 168 by 2023Low to high needsOnly for eligible young people with care or youth justice experienceFunding allocated to continue to increase places	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing services 9(2)(f)(iv)Low to medium needsRange of cohorts including those with care or youth justice experiences 9(2)(f)(iv)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Support

25. The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) Youth Services support rangatahi/young people receiving a Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, or not in education, training, or employment.² Rangatahi/young people accessing this service are supported by Youth Coaches who can help with identifying and applying for housing, accessing financial support, linking to education and training, and mentoring and practical support.
26. The Homelessness Action Plan funded general housing supports to help people successfully apply for private rentals (Ready to Rent), mitigate landlord concerns about 'higher-risk' tenancies (Housing Brokers), and help people gain the knowledge and skills required to

² The Youth Payment can be accessed by 16-17 year olds who cannot live with their parents or guardians, and the Young Parent Payment by 16-19 year olds who are the main caregiver for a child. NEET service (Not in Education, Employment and Training) is available to 16-17 year olds who are not in education, training or employment. There are approximately 5,500 young people working with 280 Youth Coaches with 50 contracted providers across the country.

sustain accommodation (Sustaining Tenancies). For a list of services in place, Annex A refers.

27. General housing supports can be accessed by rangatahi/young people. However, there is likely to be significant variation in the extent to which general housing supports address the specific barriers faced by rangatahi/young people such as signing a tenancy for under 18-year-olds.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

System

29. Preventing and reducing rangatahi/youth homelessness requires a joined-up system of support across government that is connected and visible to rangatahi/young people.
30. In the immediate term, supporting joined-up local initiatives will be key to create communities of support for rangatahi/young people and their whānau at critical intervention points.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

³ s 9(2)(f)(iv)

There are key linkages with longer-term work

31. Longer-term actions in the Homelessness Action Plan must be responsive to the needs of cohorts recognised at greater risk of homelessness including rangatahi/young people and their whānau. Longer-term actions to be developed include further early intervention and prevention measures, enhancing referral and information processes between government agencies and providers, exploring access to shared tenancies in public housing, and ensuring that kaupapa Māori principles are applied to all responses through MAIHI.
32. The 18-month review of the Homelessness Action Plan will be published by the end of 2021. The outcomes of the review will inform next steps in the development of actions and future phases of the Homelessness Action Plan.
33. Other longer-term work is underway across government that will support the needs of rangatahi/young people and their whānau:
 - s 9(2)(f)(iv)
 - MSD and HUD are undertaking a review of Housing Support Products, including rental arrears, and will provide a final report back to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development in September 2021.
 - A multi-year evaluation of Housing First and a review of Rapid Rehousing is currently underway, with an initial report expected in September 2021. Findings from the review and evaluation will help inform how these programmes can better meet the needs of different cohorts accessing the services
 - HUD with the Department of Internal Affairs will explore digital solutions that can help rangatahi/young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness find appropriate housing and support. This could lead to a working service if this is determined to be an appropriate response.

Consultation

34. This paper was developed with Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Youth Development, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Ministry of Corrections, Ministry of Health and Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities.

Next steps

35. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
36. Ministers will continue to receive progress updates on immediate work to increase rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing through the monthly transitional housing pipeline and progress report.
37. We will report back on longer-term Homelessness Action Plan actions that will contribute to improved outcomes for rangatahi/young people as required.

Annexes

Annex A: Summary of current initiatives and key gaps

Annex B: Drivers of homelessness and key agency roles

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Official Information Act 1982

Annex A: What is currently in place, system gaps and responses



HAP Pillar	What is currently in place	System gaps	Ongoing work that will support this
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition support service for eligible young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care and youth justice settings (Oranga Tamariki) Broader non-housing services that support building strong and safe whānau including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family violence services, sexual harm crisis support services Oranga Tamariki prevention and early intervention, to increase wellbeing and reduce harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support services difficult to access and navigate Demand for existing services exceeds availability Lack of supported transitions at key life stages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer-term actions in the Homelessness Action Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing the way that agencies work and partner with providers enhancing assessment processes and referral and information processes ensuring that kaupapa Māori approaches are applied to all responses through MAIHI further earlier intervention and prevention measures, including exploring legislative changes
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported housing for rangatahi/young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care and youth justice settings Increasing the number of rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing places Increasing supply of public housing and transitional housing will have positive flow-on impacts for rangatahi and their whānau 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited iwi and Māori-led approaches of housing and wraparound support Supported accommodation options are targeted to the general population and do not adequately address rangatahi/young people's needs Few intensive models of care for rangatahi/young people experiencing multiple and complex challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to increase supply of public and transitional housing Evaluation of Housing First Improved provision of emergency housing model in Rotorua s 9(2)(f)(iv)
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSD Youth Services support to young people receiving Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, or not in education, training or employment Services for the general population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready to Rent Housing Brokers Sustaining Tenancies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing services not targeted at needs of rangatahi/young people Barriers to accessing tenancies for young people under 18 Age-based discrimination to access tenancies Minimal support through process to access/apply for private rental housing, communicate with landlords 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Housing Support Products Explore the development of a digital service for young people to access youth-focused housing and support services
System Enablers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying opportunities to support initiatives to improve data and evidence on rangatahi/young people's experiences of homelessness (HUD) Local Innovation and Partnership Fund supported two rangatahi/youth-focused initiatives in round one. Round two will open in the third quarter of 2021 Investment allocated through the He Taupua fund to support the implementation of MAIHI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of data on the scale and nature of rangatahi/young people's experiences of homelessness Coordinated locally led and Māori and iwi-led responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer-term actions in the Homelessness Action Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhancing the way that agencies work and partner with providers enhancing assessment processes and referral and information processes ensuring that kaupapa Māori approaches are applied to all responses 18-month review of the Homelessness Action Plan Development of the Māori Housing Strategy



The drivers of rangatahi/youth homelessness are multifaceted

In addition to these factors, rangatahi/young people experience specific barriers and drivers that differ from the adult population.

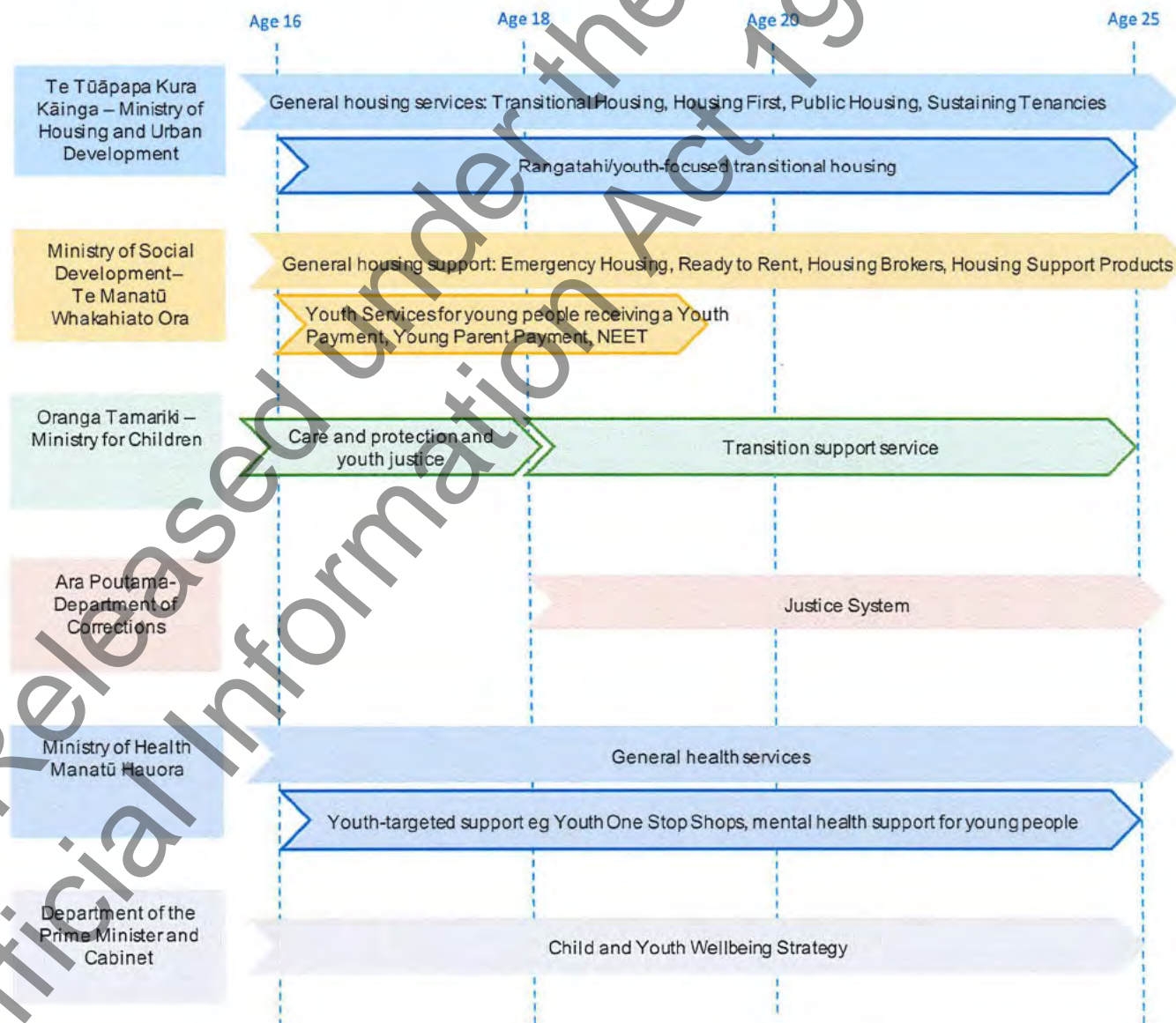
Structural drivers (outside of individuals' and families' control and long established) such as discrimination in the private rental market, poverty, lack of appropriate and affordable housing options for rangatahi

System failures (where gaps in services mean people do not get support at the right time), limited housing support during key transition points, supports available not meeting needs of rangatahi

Individual pressures (relating to individuals and families) family breakdown, family violence, addiction and mental health issues and physical health issues



Addressing rangatahi/youth homelessness requires a cross-agency response





Date returned to HUD:



Aide-memoire

Update on supporting rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness

For: Hon Marama Davidson, Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)
CC: Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Housing
Date: 29 September 2021
Security level: In Confidence
Priority: Medium
Report number: AMI21/22090662

Purpose

1. This aide-memoire updates you on progress on the short-term work underway at Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga to support rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness.

Background

2. As you know, there is a need to improve our immediate support for rangatahi, and HUD has been working to quickly increase dedicated transitional housing supply and support options for young people. On 9 June you received advice about our plan for this work, which indicated that HUD would take a flexible, cohort-led approach and that initial engagement with providers was underway [BRF20/21050976 refers].
3. [Redacted] s 9(2)(f)(iv)
4. Developing responses for at-risk cohorts is a longer-term action in the Homelessness Action Plan. The 18-month review of the Homelessness Action Plan will be completed by the end of 2021 and the outcomes of the review will inform next steps in the development of actions for the Homelessness Action Plan in 2022-23.

The immediate response continues to progress youth-focused Transitional Housing

[Redacted] s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

7. We provided immediate support for rangatahi in response to the COVID-19 restrictions.
s 9(2)(f)(iv)

8. HUD continues to engage with sector experts such as the Manaaki Rangatahi Collective to ensure we maintain contact with and support for other rangatahi who received assistance during COVID-19 alert levels three and four.

Provider interest continues to grow and there are a number of additional opportunities coming up

9. There are now more than 15 providers keen to deliver youth-focused Transitional Housing, as well as some new and innovative models in development that we intend to support. An example of this is the Youth Hub under construction in Christchurch, which will include co-located services and facilities alongside transitional housing. The places we are currently aware of span the full country, from Kaitia to Dunedin, and deliver a range of supply types.
10. An overview of the additional opportunities we are aware of, which numbers more than 40, is provided as Annex B. We will continue to work with partners to progress these, however note that these projects are at varying stages and may not all eventuate into new supply.
11. We expect the number of youth-focused transitional housing places to grow over time. HUD's refreshed Invitation to Partner for Transitional Housing will be published before the end of 2021 and will invite providers to submit Transitional Housing proposals specifically for young people. We are also continuing to engage with our colleagues at MSD and Oranga Tamariki to identify future opportunities.

This immediate response will contribute to the long-term approach for supporting rangatahi

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

13. We continue to engage with our key partners, including Homelessness Sector Services (HSS) and Manaaki Rangatahi, to understand rangatahi need and to discuss what responses are required to best respond to that need. We are currently working with HSS on what a wider engagement approach could look like, with a particular focus on engaging with iwi and Māori providers.
s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next steps

14. As contracts for youth-focused transitional housing properties are finalised, we will advise you and Minister Woods on any potential opportunities for announcements. Progress will continue to be reported through the monthly Transitional Housing Pipeline and Progress report.
15. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Annexes

17. Annex A: Status update on youth-focused Transitional Housing places reported in June briefing
18. Annex B: Overview of additional opportunities

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**Annex A: Status update on youth-focused Transitional Housing places
reported in June briefing [BRF20/21050976]**

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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Official Information Act 1982

Annex B: Overview of additional opportunities

Please note these opportunities will be delivered in addition to the places outlined at Annex A.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982



Aide-memoire

Kawangatanga Korero Facebook Live event with Manaaki Rangatahi

Date:	7 October 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	AMI21/22100670

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	For information
------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------

Contact for discussion

Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Fleur Keys	Acting Manager, Housing Needs and Responses	s 9(2)(a)	✓

Other agencies consulted

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Minister's office to complete

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><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:



Aide-memoire

Kawangatanga Korero Facebook Live event with Manaaki Rangatahi

For: Hon Marama Davidson, Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)
Date: 7 October
Security level: In Confidence
Priority: Medium
Report number: AMI21/22100670

Purpose of event

1. This aide-mémoire provides you with information and talking points to support your participation on a panel at 'Kawangatanga Korero' a Facebook Live event with Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki Youth Homelessness Collective (Manaaki Rangatahi). This is one of a series of events that Manaaki Rangatahi Collective is running to mark World Homelessness Day on Sunday 10 October.
2. Manaaki Rangatahi collective members and the audience will ask questions to a panel on preventing and ending youth homelessness in Aotearoa.

Event details

3. The Facebook live event will take place at 4pm, Friday 8 October.
4. Bianca Johanson, Lifewise is the key contact for this event.

Expected attendees

5. The event will be hosted by Tamatha Paul, Wellington City Council.
6. The following people will be on the panel with you:
 - Debbie Ngarewa Packer – Māori Party
 - Efeso Collins – Auckland Council
 - Chloe Swarbrick – Green Party
 - Nicola Willis – National Party
7. Manaaki Rangatahi collective members and members of the public will also be able to attend and participate in the event.

Media

8. This is a Facebook Live event.

Key issues

9. Manaaki Rangatahi is a collective of youth housing organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau and support services, which includes VOYCE Whakaronga Mai, Auckland City Mission, Lifewise, STRIVE Community Trust, RainbowYOUTH and VisionWest. You met Manaaki Rangatahi steering group members in March 2021 to discuss their priorities and how you can support the organisation.
10. Manaaki Rangatahi has highlighted a range of issues they are particularly concerned about and currently has a petition calling for immediate and urgent action in the following areas:

- resources for accommodation for young people who are experiencing homelessness
- improving data and evidence on youth homelessness
- a specific regional and national strategy for youth homelessness.

Resources and accommodation

11. Rangatahi/young people are underserved by existing services. Manaaki Rangatahi member organisations have reported increased demand for their services and that they are turning people away due to a lack of places. They have also emphasised that Emergency Housing is not an appropriate or safe housing response for rangatahi/young people.
12. Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been working to quickly increase dedicated transitional housing supply and support options for young people. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
13. In response to the COVID-19 restrictions, HUD provided immediate support for rangatahi. We funded Lifewise for support services in Auckland across two spaces that were identified with MSD as appropriate Emergency Housing. We continue to work with Lifewise to potentially progress these places as youth transitional housing, as well as to seek further housing opportunities for rangatahi.
14. We are developing further options to prevent and respond to rangatahi/youth homelessness. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Improving Data and evidence

15. Manaaki Rangatahi has previously communicated that there is a lack of data on young people experiencing homelessness, making it difficult to understand the scale of the problem and track young people's experiences.
16. HUD is identifying opportunities to target funding allocated in the Homelessness Action Plan to improve data and evidence s 9(2)(f)(iv)

National youth homelessness strategy

17. Manaaki Rangatahi advocates for a national youth homelessness strategy. While HUD does not have a specific strategy targeted to rangatahi/young people, they are a priority group within the Homelessness Action Plan and we recognise that they have distinct needs. There is ongoing activity to identify and respond to the varying needs of rangatahi, recognising that this is a diverse cohort. As noted, this work has been informed by ongoing discussions with sector experts, including the Manaaki Rangatahi Collective.
18. The 18-month review of the Homelessness Action Plan will inform priority focus areas for the next phase of implementation, and these will include a focus on solutions for rangatahi/young people.

Additional issues

19. Collective members have also advocated for legislation to prevent rangatahi from exiting government care into homelessness, for example from Oranga Tamariki care, youth justice, and inpatient health care.
20. Legislative options to prevent homelessness are a focus area in the Homelessness Action Plan, within the longer-term action to develop further earlier intervention and prevention measures. This work is early in development and does not currently focus on specific cohorts of people experiencing homelessness.

Context

21. HUD has long term work programmes that set the direction for addressing housing issues in Aotearoa, including the government policy statement on Housing and Urban Development and MAIHI Ka Ora, the National Māori Housing Strategy.
22. These long-term plans have been developed in parallel and they are strongly connected through the Te Maihi o te Whare Māori – The Māori Housing Innovation (MAIHI) Framework for Action.

Risks and sensitivities

23. Rangatahi/youth focused transitional housing places are still in development and contracts with specific providers have not yet been finalised.
24.

s 9(2)(ba)(i)
25. We are continuing to work with Manaaki Rangatahi collective members to expand supported housing options for young people through transitional housing, and longer-term policy options. HUD and MSD are currently working with Lifewise to provide emergency accommodation in Auckland as part of the recent COVID-19 response.

Annex A: Talking points

Introduction

- Thank you for all the work you do in advocating for rangatahi/young people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness and ensuring their voices are heard
- COVID-19 has highlighted and exacerbated the issues of homelessness amongst our rangatahi. I want to acknowledge Lifewise's mahi during this lockdown to provide safe accommodation and support for young people in Auckland

Rangatahi/young people experience high rates of homelessness

- Rangatahi are disproportionately affected by homelessness, and homelessness can be especially harmful and have long-term consequences for wellbeing and housing outcomes
 - According to census 2018, Rangatahi aged 15-24 make up 20.7 per cent of all housing deprived people across Aotearoa
- Homelessness affects some groups of rangatahi/young people more than others. It is important to consider the needs and relationships between these different at-risk groups, including rangatahi Māori, LGBTQI+ young people, young people leaving Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children care, young single mothers, and disabled young people
- Rangatahi/young people under 18 face specific barriers to accessing housing and housing support:
 - There are known issues with emergency housing as a suitable and safe option for young people and there are legal barriers to signing a tenancy
- I acknowledge that current housing services and support often do not meet the diverse needs of rangatahi, and that rangatahi face many barriers to accessing them
- Rangatahi/young people's experience of homelessness cannot be considered in isolation from the circumstances of their whānau, such as whānau and intergenerational poverty and trauma and the lack of affordable housing options

Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan

- I am committed to developing further responses to prevent and respond to youth homelessness, with an immediate focus on filling critical gaps in youth-appropriate accommodation and supports

- Aotearoa's housing challenges have been decades in the making and can't be fixed overnight. Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working across all government, with providers, and with iwi and Māori partners to take action.
- HUD has long term strategies in place that set the direction to help realise this government's vision for the future of housing in Aotearoa, including the government policy statement on Housing and Urban Development and MAIHI Ka Ora, the Māori housing strategy.
- Prioritising and supporting Māori-led responses is vital to achieve better outcomes for rangatahi Māori. A kaupapa Māori approach to homelessness means responding not just to the physical realities of homelessness, but the cultural, emotional, and spiritual disconnections from kāinga and whenua
- HUD is working with experienced providers to increase transitional housing places for young people so they have a safe and stable environment that best meets their needs
- HUD and MSD have supported Lifewise's mahi during this lockdown to ensure rangatahi have somewhere safe to stay in Tāmaki Makaurau
- Wider activity is taking place to reduce pressure on rangatahi/young people and their whānau, including:
 - expanding housing support for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care or youth justice facilities
 - funding new initiatives through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund that will focus on responding to rangatahi/youth homelessness in Whangarei, and supporting rainbow rangatahi/youth experiencing homelessness

Data and evidence

- There is a lack of data on rangatahi homelessness including research on the lived experience of rangatahi homelessness in Aotearoa. The Homelessness Action Plan recognises that improving data and evidence is a key priority

National homelessness youth strategy

- The Homelessness Action Plan identifies rangatahi/young people as a priority group and this is reflected in ongoing activity to identify and respond to the specific housing-related needs of this group
- The experiences of those working closely with rangatahi/young people provide vital insights to inform the work of government. I am pleased that Manaaki Rangatahi has worked with officials to ensure that proposals are well-grounded and respond to the lived experiences of homelessness
- The 18 month review of the Homelessness Action Plan is underway and will provide an opportunity to reflect on what is working and what is not to make changes where needed and work towards future phases of the action plan



Aide-memoire

November update on supporting rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness			
Date:	11 November 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	AMI21/22100694

Information for Minister(s)	
Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	For noting
CC: Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Housing	For information

Contact for discussion				
Name	Position	Telephone		1 st contact
Anne Shaw	Deputy Chief Executive, Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships		s 9(2)(a)	✓
Bronwyn Hollingsworth	Kaiaki, Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships	04 862 2592		

Other agencies consulted

Minister's office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Noted <input type="checkbox"/> Seen <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to (specify) 	Comments
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Date returned to HUD:



Aide-memoire

November update on supporting rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness

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

CC: Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Housing

Date: 11 November 2021

Security level: In Confidence

Priority: Medium

Report number: AMI21/22100694

Purpose

1. This aide-memoire updates you on progress on the short-term work underway at Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness.

Background

2. HUD has been working to quickly increase dedicated transitional housing supply and support options for young people. § 9(2)(f)(iv)

3. This immediate work continues to contribute to the longer-term policy approach for supporting rangatahi/young people that is in development. § 9(2)(f)(iv)

We are continuing to progress other youth-focused Transitional Housing opportunities

§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

4

- 5 Recent changes in COVID-19 alert levels continue to have an impact on providers' abilities to progress these places. This is impacting wider delivery of Transitional Housing, which you were briefed on in September [AMI21/22090656 refers].

- 6 We are continuing to provide immediate support for rangatahi in response to the COVID-19 restrictions § 9(2)(f)(iv)

7

§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

More opportunities are emerging as we continue to engage with providers

- 8 As this work progresses we continue to be made aware of new opportunities for youth-focused Transitional Housing. HUD is engaging with providers and other government agencies to share information on new opportunities, § 9(2)(f)(iv)

9

We will continue to work with partners to progress these, however please note that these projects are at varying stages and may not all eventuate into new supply.

- 10 The Transitional Housing Invitation to Partner, which seeks new and existing providers who we are already working with to deliver Transitional Housing accommodation and support services for Rangatahi, went live on 3 November. A first panel assessment of new and existing providers applying to work with this cohort is expected to take place this month. We expect the number of youth-focused transitional housing places to grow over time and are also continuing to engage with MSD and Oranga Tamariki to identify future opportunities.

This immediate response will continue to contribute to the long-term approach for supporting rangatahi

11 § 9(2)(f)(iv)

12

- 13 These actions will be complemented by other work programmes that seek to improve housing outcomes for rangatahi/young people, including the review of § 9(2)(f)(iv) and Housing Support Products, and place-based responses to urgent housing need.

- 14 We are continuing to work with Homelessness Sector Services on a sector engagement approach, particularly with iwi and Māori organisations, to better understand the needs of rangatahi and what responses are required to respond to these needs.

Next steps

15. As contracts for youth-focused transitional housing are finalised, we will advise you on any potential opportunities for announcements.

16. § 9(2)(f)(iv)

Annexes

17. Annex A: Status update on youth-focused Transitional Housing places reported in June briefing
18. Annex B: Overview of additional opportunities

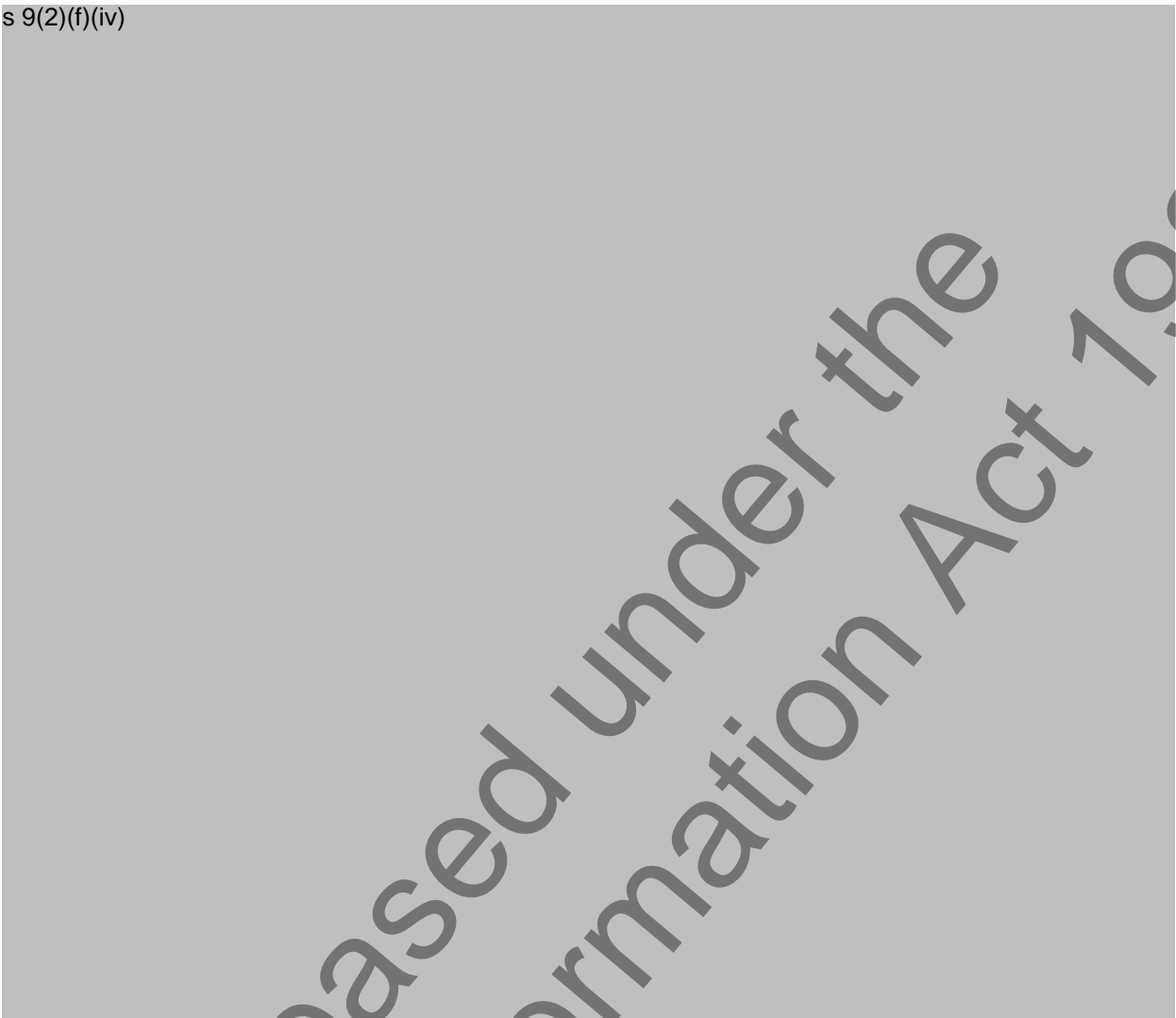
Annex A: Status update on youth-focused Transitional Housing places reported in June briefing [BRF20/21050976]

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Annex B: Overview of additional opportunities

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Released under the
Official Information Act 1982



Aide-memoire

26 November meeting with Manaaki Rangatahi – follow up from Kawangatanga Korero Facebook live event

Date:	25 November	Security level:	Budget - Sensitive
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	AMI21/22110724

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	For information
------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------

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

Minister's office to complete

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Not seen by Minister
- ☐ Overtaken by events
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Referred to (specify)

Comments

Date returned to HUD:



Aide-memoire

26 November meeting with Manaaki Rangatahi – follow up from Kawangatanga Korero Facebook live event

For: Hon Marama Davidson, Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)
Date: 25 November 2021 **Security level:** Budget - Sensitive
Priority: Medium **Report number:** AMI21/22110724

Purpose of meeting

1. This aide-mémoire provides you with information to support your meeting with Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki Youth Homelessness Collective (Manaaki Rangatahi).
2. The purpose of this meeting is to continue the discussion on some of the issues raised at the 'Kawangatanga Korero' Facebook live event on Friday 8 October. You were a panel member at this event, which was organised by Manaaki Rangatahi to mark World Homelessness Day.

Event details

3. This Zoom meeting will take place this Friday 26 November, 11am-12pm.
4. Manaaki Rangatahi is a collective of youth housing organisations and support services in Tāmaki Makaurau, which includes VOYCE Whakarongā Mai, Auckland City Mission, Lifewise, STRIVE Community Trust, Rainbow YOUTH and VisionWest.
5. The key contact for this meeting is Bianca Johanson, Youth Strategy & Development Co-ordinator at Lifewise.
6. There are no supporting documents provided by Manaaki Rangatahi for this korero. However, Bianca Johanson has highlighted the following issues for possible discussion:
 - *How do we prevent and end youth homelessness in Aotearoa?* - For example, working together to create legislation similar to the United Kingdom and Ireland, where no rangatahi can be exited from government care into homelessness.
 - *The creation and support of kaupapa Māori/rangatahi led emergency housing/transitional and social housing for rangatahi* – options may include tiny houses with whānau and support for whānau to move to a bigger home to accommodate rangatahi living with them?
 - *Funding for supported youth housing across Aotearoa* – ensuring that funding can support whānau and staff working with rangatahi who require intensive support within a high complex needs environment
 - *Rangahau – Research* – the need for large-scale research that looks at the size and scope of the youth homelessness issue in Tāmaki and beyond.

Expected attendees

7. The following people have confirmed they will attend this meeting:
 - Bianca Johanson, Manaaki Rangatahi (Lifewise)
 - Peter Shimwell, Manaaki Rangatahi (Lifewise)
 - Hon Poto Williams – in capacity of Associate Minister for Children

- Debbie Ngarewa-Packer – Māori Party
 - Chlöe Swarbrick – Green Party
8. Nicola Willis – National Party Housing spokesperson – is yet to confirm her attendance.
 9. Officials from Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will also attend – Bronwyn Hollingsworth, Andrew Leach and Fleur Keys.

Media

10. No media will be attending.

Talking points

11. We anticipate that the discussion will be wide-ranging and informal in nature. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

12. Key talking points to support this meeting are attached at Annex A.

Background to key issues

Strategies to prevent and end rangatahi/youth homelessness

13. Manaaki Rangatahi advocates for a national rangatahi/youth homelessness strategy. While HUD does not have a specific strategy targeted to rangatahi/youth, they are a priority group within the Homelessness Action Plan. We recognise rangatahi/young people are a diverse cohort with distinct needs that require targeted responses and there is ongoing work to address this. This work has been informed by ongoing discussions with sector experts, including Manaaki Rangatahi.
14. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
15. We will continue working with relevant agencies to identify further opportunities to prevent and reduce rangatahi/youth homelessness. This will involve taking a strategic approach that is guided by the Homelessness Action Plan and considers potential alignment with other current and longer-term work programmes, s 9(2)(f)(iv). We will also continue engaging with our sector partners, including Manaaki Rangatahi, to better understand the needs of rangatahi/young people and inform any future responses.

Legislation to prevent any rangatahi/young person being exited into homelessness

16. Legislative options to prevent homelessness are a focus area in the Homelessness Action Plan, within the longer-term action to develop further earlier intervention and prevention measures. This work is early in development and does not currently focus on specific cohorts of people experiencing homelessness. However, issues for particular groups, like rangatahi/young people, are likely to be highlighted within this work.

Rangatahi/youth-focused emergency and transitional housing

17. Rangatahi/young people are underserved by existing accommodation services and Manaaki Rangatahi member organisations have reported being unable to meet demand due to a lack of places. They have also emphasised that emergency housing is not an appropriate or safe housing response for rangatahi/young people.
18. HUD has been working to quickly increase the number of dedicated transitional housing places for rangatahi/young people so they can have immediate access to warm, safe and dry

accommodation with rangatahi/youth appropriate supports. s 9(2)(j)

19. This work is being guided by Te Maihi o te Whare Māori – The Māori Housing Innovation (MAIHI) Framework for Action to support the delivery of kaupapa Māori services. Prioritising and supporting Māori-led responses is vital to achieve better outcomes for rangatahi Māori by responding not just to the physical realities of homelessness, but the cultural, emotional, and spiritual disconnections from kāinga and whenua.

20. s 9(2)(j)

Rangatahi/youth-specific supported housing within a high and complex needs environment

21. Manaaki Rangatahi would like to see adequate funding for supported rangatahi/youth housing across Aotearoa so that whānau and staff can work with rangatahi/young people who require intensive support within a high and complex needs environment.

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

Research – improving data and evidence on rangatahi homelessness

23. Manaaki Rangatahi has previously communicated there is a lack of data on rangatahi/young people experiencing homelessness, making it difficult to understand the scale of the problem and track their experiences.
24. Manaaki Rangatahi, along with Unitec New Zealand Ltd, has sourced funding to start undertaking its own research into rangatahi/youth homelessness. The first part of the research includes examining and reviewing relevant academic and policy literature concerning rangatahi/youth homelessness to identify critical gaps and analysis. The second part involves developing a Project Proposal Outline which highlights the need for further research on the size and scope of rangatahi/youth homelessness in Tamaki Makaurau and beyond. Manaaki Rangatahi are likely to raise the issue of further funding with you.
25. HUD is identifying opportunities to target funding allocated in the Homelessness Action Plan to improve data and evidence. Part of this work will likely include the development of a research funding mechanism to help fill identified gaps on homelessness research, including rangatahi/youth homelessness.

Risks and sensitivities

26. Rangatahi/youth-focused transitional housing places are still in development and contracts with specific providers have not yet been finalised. Providers interested in delivering dedicated rangatahi/youth services or initiatives have been asked, via GETS, to register an Invitation to Partner. This was released on GETS in early November.

27. s 9(2)(ba)(i)

HUD received a higher number of applications than the funding pool could support. Applications are now open for round two with up to \$6 million available to support local initiatives that prevent homelessness.

28. We are continuing to work with Manaaki Rangatahi collective members to expand supported housing options for rangatahi/young people through transitional housing, and longer-term policy options. HUD and MSD are currently working with Lifewise to provide emergency accommodation in Auckland as part of the recent COVID-19 response.

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Official Information Act 1982

Annex A: Talking points

- I welcome the opportunity to get together for this important korero on how best to support our rangatahi who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.
- COVID-19 has sharpened our focus on individuals and whānau experiencing homelessness in Aotearoa, including the often complex needs of rangatahi.
- I acknowledge the work done by Manaaki Rangatahi to advocate for rangatahi. I know that my officials have been working closely with you on a range of initiatives and I thank you for giving your time so freely.
- I am particularly grateful for the action that has been taken in the context of COVID-19 to provide appropriate emergency housing for rangatahi in Tāmaki.

Preventing rangatahi homelessness

- The factors contributing to rangatahi homeless are wide-ranging and complex. There is no single solution – multiple action needs to be taken on multiple fronts.
- The Homelessness Action Plan recognises that rangatahi/young people are a diverse cohort with distinct needs that require targeted responses and there is ongoing work to address this.
- The Homelessness Action Plan provides a vehicle for identifying and reporting on cross-agency activity that is vital to address complex and interconnected issues spanning the housing, health, education, justice and social sectors.
- Legislative options to prevent homelessness are a focus area in the Homelessness Action Plan, within the longer-term action to develop further earlier intervention and prevention measures. I anticipate that rangatahi will be considered as part of this work.

Rangatahi/youth-focused emergency and transitional housing

- Rangatahi/young people are underserved by existing accommodation services – including emergency and transitional housing.
- HUD has been working to quickly increase the number of dedicated transitional housing places for rangatahi/young people so they can have immediate access to warm, safe and dry accommodation with rangatahi/youth appropriate supports.

Research

- HUD is identifying opportunities to target funding allocated in the Homelessness Action Plan to improve data and evidence. Part of this work will likely include the development of a research funding mechanism to help fill identified gaps on homelessness research, including rangatahi/youth homelessness.



Briefing

Addressing rangatahi homelessness – update on mahi so far and direction for 2022			
Date:	15 December 2021	Security level:	In Confidence
Priority:	Medium	Report number:	BRF21/22121196

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Marama Davidson Associate Minister of Housing (Homelessness)	For noting	28 Jan 2022

Contact for discussion				
Name	Position	Telephone		1 st contact
Anne Shaw	DCE, Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships	04 830 6946	s 9(2)(a)	
Jeremy Steele	Manager, Housing Needs and Responses	04 832 2471	s 9(2)(a)	✓

Other agencies consulted
No other agencies were consulted.

Minister's office to complete

	Comments
<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)	

Date returned to HUD:

Briefing

Addressing rangatahi homelessness - update on mahi so far and direction for 2022

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

CC: Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Housing

Date: 15 December 2021

Security level: In Confidence

Priority: Medium

Report number: BRF21/22121196

Purpose

1. This briefing updates you on our work to fill immediate gaps in the homelessness response for rangatahi¹ to date and signals the proposed focus for work in 2022.
2. It includes progress on the short-term work underway at Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to increase transitional housing for rangatahi.

Executive summary

3. Rangatahi experience higher rates of homelessness than other cohorts and require targeted responses to meet their needs and address their unique drivers of homelessness. We have a good understanding of these drivers and other key issues, which have been highlighted by the sector, evidence submitted to the Waitangi Tribunal's Kaupapa Inquiry into Māori Housing Policy and Services (Wai 2750), and other government agencies.
4. There have been calls from the sector for further action to prevent and reduce homelessness for rangatahi. This has included the Manaaki Rangatahi ki Tāmaki Youth Homelessness Collective (Manaaki Rangatahi) advocating for a specific youth homelessness strategy.
5. We have recognised the need for further action to address rangatahi homelessness and have prioritised this work as part of the response to COVID-19. This year we have progressed several initiatives that will provide direct support for rangatahi who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This included taking immediate action to fill critical gaps in rangatahi-appropriate accommodation s 9(2)(f)(iv)

6.

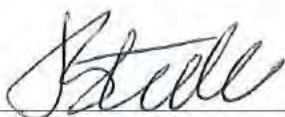
7.

¹ 'Rangatahi' is used to refer to all young people in Aotearoa aged 15 to 24 years of age.

Recommended actions

8. It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** that the sector is concerned about the high rates of homelessness for rangatahi and is calling for more targeted action and funding to address this Noted
2. **Note** that officials have recognised the need for further action and have prioritised this work as part of the response to COVID-19 Noted
3. **Note** progress on quickly increasing the supply of dedicated transitional housing for rangatahi Noted
4. s 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted] Noted
5. [redacted] Noted
6. [redacted] Noted



Jeremy Steele
Manager, Housing Needs and
Responses

15/12/21
...../...../.....

Hon Marama Davidson
Associate Minister of Housing
(Homelessness)

...../...../.....

We understand the key issues for rangatahi at risk of or experiencing homelessness

9. Engagement with the sector, evidence submitted in the Waitangi Tribunal Kaupapa Inquiry into Māori Housing Policy and Services (Wai 2750 Kaupapa Inquiry), and our cross-sector rangatahi homelessness working group have informed our understanding of the key issues impacting rangatahi. Issues include:
 - rangatahi experience higher rates of homelessness than other cohorts, and experience unique challenges on top of the general drivers of homelessness (e.g. whānau breakdown is a common driver of rangatahi homelessness).
 - some groups of rangatahi are at increased risk of homelessness, including rangatahi who are: Māori, Pacific, LGBTQIA+, young parents, disabled, and leaving Oranga Tamariki care and justice settings. Rangatahi who identify with multiple groups are likely to experience increased disadvantage.
 - rangatahi have difficulty accessing different types of affordable housing. They are often priced out of private rentals and discriminated against due to their age, disability, gender and sexuality.
 - rangatahi have difficulty navigating the existing services and supports e.g. accessing income and housing supports. They have also reported challenges with lengthy processes and not having the right documentation for applications.
 - there are not enough youth-specific accommodation and supports to meet the specific needs of rangatahi.
 - rangatahi have difficulty transitioning to adulthood which makes maintaining a tenancy difficult. They need support to develop skills in budgeting, money management, housework and cooking (particularly when under the age of 18).
 - the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 have negatively impacted some rangatahi through increased rental pressure and tenancy loss, difficulty accessing accommodation support, and living in overcrowded or inappropriate housing.
10. There have been calls from the sector for further action to prevent and reduce homelessness for rangatahi. This has included Manaaki Rangatahi advocating for a specific youth homelessness strategy.
11. The sector has also highlighted there is a lack of data on homelessness generally, and specifically on youth homelessness. Manaaki Rangatahi is calling for funding to be allocated to research the size, scope, complexities and scale of youth homelessness.
12. We have recognised the need for further action to address rangatahi homelessness and have prioritised this work as part of the response to COVID-19. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

In 2021 we progressed immediate work to support rangatahi at risk of or experiencing homelessness

13. This year we have progressed several initiatives that will provide direct support for rangatahi who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This included taking immediate action to fill critical gaps in rangatahi-appropriate accommodation s 9(2)(f)(iv)
A list of key actions are provided below:

- s 9(2)(j)

s 9(2)(j)

- **Quickly progressing the delivery of rangatahi-focused transitional housing places:**

- In November we informed you that work to progress s 9(2)(f)(iv) for rangatahi-focused transitional housing had been slowed by COVID-19 [AMI21/22100694 refers]. We are continuing to work with providers to bring on these places and some progress has been made in the past month, s 9(2)(j)
- There are also additional opportunities we expect to be tenanted soon, s 9(2)(j)
- We are also bringing the existing targeted supply and support for rangatahi into line with the new transitional housing for rangatahi contracts as and when is appropriate. s 9(2)(j)

This change provides access to more support for rangatahi, as well as consistency with other services, for example updating service delivery guidelines so that providers are encouraged to link to the principles of Te Maihi o te Whare Māori – Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation (MAIHI) framework.

- s 9(2)(f)(iv)

- **Exploring digital solutions to rangatahi homelessness:** HUD is working with the Department of Internal Affairs to explore digital solutions that will help rangatahi find appropriate housing and support. We are developing potential prototypes that will be tested with rangatahi and the sector to provide us with valuable insights and lead to a working service, if this is determined to be an appropriate response.

14. We have also continued delivering immediate actions from the Action Plan that will have a direct impact on rangatahi at risk of or experiencing homelessness:

- **Continuing to expand housing support for rangatahi leaving Oranga Tamariki care or youth justice (Oranga Tamariki led):** As of August 2021, Oranga Tamariki has delivered 77 placements and up to 30 additional places are due to be delivered in the coming months. This action is on track to meet its target of providing an additional 168 placements by 2024.
- **Funded specific initiatives for rangatahi through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund (LIPF) (HUD led):** Out of the seven initiatives funded in round one of the LIPF, two were specifically targeted at addressing rangatahi homelessness. RainbowYouth (Auckland) was funded 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) was funded to develop a Youth Housing Plan for Whangārei taitamariki experiencing homelessness.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

18. It is critical that all our work is driven by and aligns with the vision, guiding principles and framework set out in the Action Plan, and MAHI framework. There are a number of other government frameworks and strategies we will also need to align with, including the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, s 9(2)(f)(iv), the Youth Plan, Te Aorerekura (the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence), and the Disability Action Plan.
19. Engaging with the sector will be essential to this work programme going forward. HUD has established relationships with many housing and youth providers that we can draw on, such as Manaaki Rangatahi and Homelessness Sector Services. The most recent COVID-19 outbreak has impacted on our ability to undertake engagement with the sector, however we anticipate that we will be able to undertake face-to-face engagement in 2022.
20. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Consultation

21. No other agencies were consulted on this paper.

Next steps

22. You will continue to receive progress updates on work to increase rangatahi-focused transitional housing through the monthly transitional housing pipeline and progress report.
23. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Annexes

24. Annex A provides an overview of current initiatives and related work across the four pillars of the Action Plan.

Annex A: Overview of current, expected, and related work

	Work undertaken in 2021*	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	
<i>Prevention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to expand housing support for eligible rangatahi leaving Oranga Tamariki care or youth justice 		
<i>Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring digital solutions to address rangatahi homelessness 		
<i>Supply</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and progressing the delivery of rangatahi-focused transitional housing places 		
<i>System enablers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding rangatahi-focused initiatives through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve our data and evidence on rangatahi homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 9(2)(f)(iv) Round two of the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund

* We will continue progressing this work in 2022.