

Social Housing Reform Programme Public Engagement February–March 2015

Wellington – 12 March 2015

New Zealand Government

# What today is about

- Public engagement
  - We'll discuss overall objectives, and describe the new social housing system, how you can participate, and next steps
- April-May: Regional consultation on specific transactions
  - This is where we will be talking to you about your rights and interests

# Social housing reforms – our objectives

- 1. Ensure people who need housing support can access it and receive social services that meet their needs.
- 2. Ensure that social housing is of the right size and configuration, and in the right areas, for those households which need it.
- 3. Help social housing tenants to independence, as appropriate.
- 4. Encourage and develop more diverse ownership of social housing, with more innovation and responsiveness to tenants and communities.
- 5. Help increase the supply of affordable housing, especially in Auckland.

# Current situation – tenants

- Around 62,000 social housing places funded through income-related rent subsidies (\$209/week)
- 6,000 social housing tenant placements/year
- 5,000 on register for social housing
  - Two thirds are in Auckland
  - One quarter are currently in a social house, but want a transfer
- Plus 290,000 accommodation supplements (\$78/week)



# Current situation – housing

- Housing New Zealand owns 65,000 houses, and leases another 3,000
  - 3,300 have tenants paying market rent
  - 2,300 are vacant (70% of which are unfit for use)
  - More than 1,000 Community Group Housing properties (don't receive IRR)
  - Remainder receive IRR
- 5,000 houses owned by Community Housing Providers
  - Currently 131 receive IRRS subsidies and growing

# How social housing providers are paid



MSD contracts with community housing providers and Housing NZ

# How to register as a community housing provider

- Any social or affordable rental housing provider may apply for registration
- An evaluation panel will assess applicants for eligibility, suitability and risk
- Registered CHPs are eligible for income related rent subsidy
- 38 CHPs already registered



# Current situation – tenants (Wellington)



- One-person household
- One parent with child(ren)
- Couple with child(ren)
- Couple only
- Household of related people
- One parent with child(ren) and other person(s)
- Couple with child(ren) and other person(s)
- Household of unrelated people
- Other multi-person household
- Couple only and other person(s)
- Household of related and unrelated people

Source: Data on HNZC stock: http://www.socialhousing.govt.nz/

# Current situation – housing

 Around one third of stock of Housing New Zealand is the wrong type...



# Current situation – housing

#### ... or in the wrong place



#### How transactions will work for tenants



#### **Process for CHPs**



# Opportunities for community providers

- 1,000-2,000 Housing New Zealand houses to be sold over the next year, with further sales if successful
- Open to community housing providers and consortia including community housing providers
  - Competitive tender we're looking for best value
- Opportunities for redevelopment but must not reduce social housing supply
- MSD will increase IRRS purchases to 65,000 by 2018
  - We need 3,000 more houses in right place, right configuration
  - Looking for innovation, niche targeting in housing/wraparound services for better tenant outcomes.

### Matters for iwi and hapū

- The Government and Housing NZ are working to ensure your rights and interests are understood and managed appropriately
- Where rights of first refusal apply, we will discuss this with you locally

### **Transaction types**

- Housing New Zealand business-as-usual sales (500 last year)
- Social housing transactions through the Treasury (1,000-2,000 over the next year)
- Large one-off transactions e.g. Tamaki, Hobsonville

#### The approach on social-housing transactions

- Selecting the first transactions
  - Areas where demand is stable, and housing providers are keen to expand or start up
  - Range of potential transaction sizes from five to 600 depending on circumstances
- Timing
  - Selection late March-early April, regional consultation in April-May
- Information
  - We're committed to full information disclosure

#### Next steps

- February-March: public engagement on social housing transactions
- Late March-early April: selection of specific transactions
- April: Information release about MSD's social housing purchasing intentions
- April-May: regional consultation on specific transactions
  this is where we talk to you about your rights and interests

#### Next steps

- July: market sounding testing regional interest
- **September:** Expressions of interest
- Late 2015-mid 2016: request for proposals→preferred bidders identified
- November 2015: Cabinet review of progress and next steps announced

#### Our bottom lines – we will ensure...

- 1. There will be more social housing places in New Zealand particularly in Auckland and Christchurch.
- 2. HNZC will continue to be by far the biggest owner of social housing in New Zealand and in a year's time it is envisaged that it will provide around 64,000 properties.
- 3. Properties will be sold only if this results in better services for tenants and fair and reasonable value for taxpayers.
- 4. Tenants in properties that are sold will continue to be housed for the duration of their need.
- 5. The government will spend more on IRRS and will ensure that HNZC has enough capital to build new social housing and to redevelop its existing properties. 19

#### If you are interested in getting involved...

 For further information socialhousing.govt.nz

 If you have any questions in the meantime, you can email <u>info@socialhousing.govt.nz</u>

