

At Home

News for Accessible Properties Tenants

March 2019

New standards to make New Zealand homes warmer and drier

At the end of last month, the Government announced new standards to make sure rental properties are warmer, drier and healthier for New Zealanders.

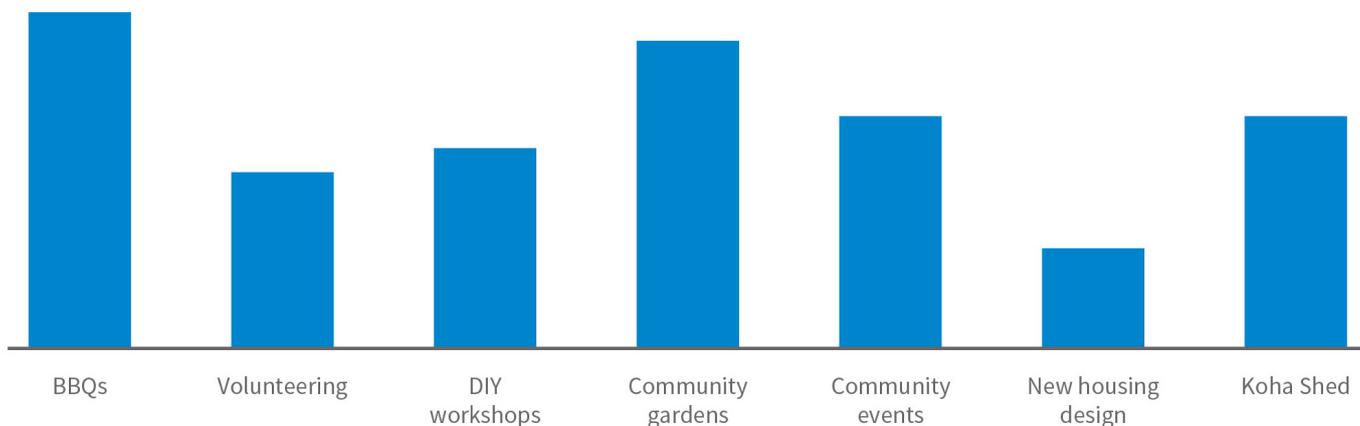
This means, before 1 July 2023 all of our properties must meet the new minimum requirements for heating, insulation, ventilation, moisture, drainage and draught stopping in residential rental properties.

We look forward to bringing all Accessible Properties homes up to this standard and ensuring people have warm, dry places to live.



Creating a community where you can belong and thrive

What type of activities might you be interested to participate in?



Accessible Properties want to play an active role in creating communities where tenants can 'belong and thrive'.

To gain a better understanding of how we can do this, we recently undertook a targeted survey of Pukehinahina (Gate Pa) residents. We wanted to know about the sense of community experienced by tenants, the issues they face and their level of interest in being involved with Accessible Properties' activity in the community.

Firstly, we would like to thank all who provided feedback. Of the 149 tenants contacted to complete the survey, more than 65% of you responded.



We are encouraged by the survey responses and it is great to have a better understanding of your

preferred communication methods and community activities you enjoy being part of.

Building our skills to work better with you and your family

Four Accessible Properties Tenancy Managers from Bay of Plenty are developing their skills to better work alongside tenants and their family/whānau.

Fiona De Bono, Judi Little, Lynn Prentice and Ereti Williams are taking part in a Careerforce programme for Apprenticeship in Social and Community Services.

This 12-14 month programme is being trialled with 10 Tenancy Managers from the area. It aims to give participants the tools and strategies they need to take a people-centred approach to their work, promoting the health and wellbeing of their tenants.



Bay of Plenty Tenancy Managers taking part in the Careerforce pilot.

Tenant story: A safe place to call home

Alex loves her home.

You'll often find the living room stocked with yarn, and Alex working away at her latest project. Having her own space means Alex can embrace her artistic side, creating knitted dolls.

"I've been knitting as long as I can remember," says Alex. "I like to have fun with it, in December I make Christmas themed dolls – I even made a Santa Claus outfit to hang on the washing line."

A change of circumstances 4 years ago meant moving away from her support system. Her IDEA Service Manager, Karli Langton, got in touch with Accessible Properties to find Alex a suitable place to live.

Accessible Properties had a unit available and although it would mean living on her own, it was the perfect fit for Alex.

"When Alex moved in it was a big change from being around people to being on her own," says Karli. "Alex has really grown since being there."

A warm welcome from the local police and fire service helped get Alex settled in and feel a sense of support and community very quickly.

"When I first moved in, the community police and fire brigade stopped in to introduce themselves," says Alex. "They police still stop by regularly to check in and say hello."

It's not only the local authorities making Alex feel welcome, she is also close with her neighbours and they all make an effort to look out for one another. Alex says, this support has had a big impact in making her unit feel like home, "I feel safe here."



Alex likes to embrace her artistic side by creating knitted dolls.

➔ Tips for tenants

Cleaning your home

Winter is on its way meaning you will be spending more time inside your home. Now is a good time to clean away the dust and dirt that's accumulated over the summer months.

- Wash and disinfect your rubbish bins and toilet brush holders. Instead of using harsh chemicals, you can use a 50/50 mixture of water and white vinegar, or 2-3 cups of washing soda crystals mixed with water.
- Clean your oven. Instead of using harsh chemicals, you can use a combination of baking soda and water.
- Wipe down blinds and wash curtains.
- If you are able, pull out furniture to vacuum under and behind.
- If you are able, vacuum upholstered furniture, beds and flip mattresses.
- Wipe down windowsills and doorframes to remove dust.