

# At Home

News for Accessible Properties Tenants

February 2016

## Accessible Properties welcomes new tenants in Hamilton

**Accessible Properties, New Zealand's largest non-government social housing provider, would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Hamilton tenants.**

In December, Hamilton City Council accepted a proposal by Accessible Properties to purchase 344 homes currently tenanted to people in their retirement. As part of this proposal, tenants will be able to remain in their homes.

Accessible Properties will now take over the running of these properties, including property management services. Accessible Properties are experts in social housing, and currently manage 1250 properties throughout New Zealand.

"We have a long history of supporting people who need good fit for purpose housing and we look forward to being able to extend that to more people in Hamilton," says Accessible Properties' General Manager



Doreen and Kenneth Curtis, who will become Accessible Properties tenants in March.

Andrew Wilson. "We want to make sure they have good quality affordable housing and access to any other support they may need."

*"We are also committed to modernising and improving the newly acquired homes."*

Accessible Properties and its parent company IHC has been involved with social housing in Hamilton since 1954 with the

opening of Christopher House. It manages more than a hundred homes in Waikato, including 28 newly built homes.

Hamilton is one of five cities Accessible Properties has chosen to focus on for providing social housing for affordable rental by households. The others are Auckland, Wellington, Tauranga and Christchurch.



## Help available after holiday rush

The holiday period can be a busy and stressful time, and can lead to financial strain. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, you may be able to get some extra assistance from Work and Income to help you through this time. The options that may be available to you include an advance, a recoverable assistance payment (which needs to be paid back) or a special needs grant.

If you have school-aged children and are caring for children that are not your own, i.e. a grandchild, there is an additional financial grant that may be available to you.

To find out more, get in touch with Work and Income on **0800 559 009** or at **[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)**

# Vacancies

We currently have no vacancies in any of our properties.

The following properties will become available this year:

## Waimahia Inlet, Weymouth

Available early to mid 2016  
2 x 2 Bedrooms

## Glenn Innes, Auckland

Available early to mid 2016  
2 x 1 Bedroom  
3 x 2 Bedroom

## Linwood, Christchurch

Available mid 2016  
4 x 2 Bedroom  
1 x 1 Bedroom

If you wish to apply for any of these properties, please complete an application form by visiting our website [www.accessibleproperties.co.nz](http://www.accessibleproperties.co.nz) and following the 'Available to Rent' link.

We are still accepting applications for our existing homes, and will advise in writing if you are eligible and let you know the status of your application.

Due to high demand for properties, you may wish to consider applying for a Housing Assessment through your local Work and Income office. You can get in touch with Work and Income by phoning 0800 559 009.



## Accessible Properties partners with Government for more social housing in Auckland

Accessible Properties is pleased to be part of a new agreement that will increase the number of social housing homes available in South and West Auckland.

Accessible Properties is one of five organisations selected to provide the homes. It will supply up to 58 new and up to 300 lease and sub-lease homes. All tenants will be able to apply for the supplemented Income Related Rents Subsidies (IRRS).

"We are delighted to have had our proposal accepted and to be part of this initiative," says Accessible Properties' General Manager Andrew Wilson. "We know people on low incomes in Auckland are desperate for good quality housing. That's why the city is one of our priority areas and this is one of a number of ways that we are adding to the stock in Auckland."

Accessible Properties is a registered Community Housing Provider that has completed 157 new housing units in the past two years, partly funded by Social Housing Fund grants. A further 34 will be completed in the next few months. Forty-one of those homes are in Auckland, with 16 more underway.

"We are a charitable organisation that has been in community housing for more than 60 years – we have a long history of providing good quality housing and coordinating support for people with disabilities and on low incomes," says Andrew Wilson.

"We look forward to seeing more people settled in good housing that works for them."

## Who should you contact?

There are certain situations where your first point of contact should be Accessible Properties, and others where you should get in touch with the Ministry of Social Development. In some cases, you can contact either.

You should contact Accessible Properties if you need a repair, have a leaky tap, have a broken window latch, your oven is not working, you are having a dispute with your neighbour, or if you need information about your tenancy agreement or bond.

You should contact the Ministry of Social Development if you have a change in income or if you need information about income related rent, an assessment, a tenancy review, or your benefit.

You can contact either Accessible Properties or the Ministry of Social Development if you are applying for a house, have changed your contact details, have had a change in the people living in your household, have a new partner, have a new baby, have other family members staying with you, have an absence from your home or are having problems paying rent.

You can get in touch with Accessible Properties by phoning 0800 862 769, or email [info@accessibleproperties.co.nz](mailto:info@accessibleproperties.co.nz). You can get in touch with the Ministry of Social Development by phoning 0800 559 009, or visit [www.msdc.govt.nz](http://www.msdc.govt.nz)

## Who do you call?

Call for free, confidential help:

Bond information: 0800 737 666

Tenancy advice: 0800 836 262

Budgeting advice: 0508 283 438

Legal help: [communitylaw.org.nz](http://communitylaw.org.nz)

Citizens Advice Bureau: 0800 367 222

### Emergency repairs

Monday – Friday after 5pm

Weekends and public holidays

0800 223 359

### Talk to us

We want to hear your feedback. If you want to talk to us about your tenancy, or have a comment about an Accessible Properties staff member, please email [info@accessibleproperties.co.nz](mailto:info@accessibleproperties.co.nz) or write to: General Manager, Accessible Properties, PO Box 1974, Wellington 6140.