

At Home



Accessible Properties
For thriving communities

News for Accessible Properties Tenants

May 2019

Accessible Properties support IDEA Services with purpose designed homes

Accessible Properties and IDEA Services have worked together on a number of new homes, upgraded to suit people we support in Thames, Mosgiel and Christchurch.

Peter Molony, Property Manager in Christchurch, says the purpose designed homes are born out of the existing accommodation reviews Accessible Properties does on an annual basis.

Recently Accessible Properties has created five purpose designed homes; one in Thames, two in Mosgiel (Dunedin) and two in Christchurch with another in planning phase.

After three years of looking, Accessible Properties found a suitable home to adapt in Thames for tenants with accessibility needs. The four-bedroom home has been upgraded to have accessible bathrooms and an additional bedroom and bathroom added for sleepover staff.

The homes in Mosgiel and two of the homes in Christchurch, are on adjoining sections. This is to both create efficiency for IDEA Services, and to create opportunities for community and connection for tenants.

In Christchurch, Accessible Properties was looking to replace houses that had been damaged in the Christchurch earthquake.

“We chose a subdivision that had flat land, a good health centre, supermarket shopping and accessibility to public transport,” says Peter.

It's also around five minutes from the office, making it convenient for IDEA Services staff as well.



Accessible Properties Tenant Survey

You have received a survey alongside this edition of At Home. This survey is for you to provide feedback about Accessible Properties and the home you live in. It's also an opportunity for you to update us about feedback you provided with last year's survey.

Please send your completed survey in the freepost return envelope before Friday 7 June 2019.

If you have not received a copy of the Accessible Properties tenant survey, please free call 0800 862 769.

NEED TO TALK?

1737

**free call or text
any time**

Need to talk?

If you're feeling depressed, anxious or need advice about mental health or addiction issues, you can speak to trained counsellors by calling or texting **1737** anytime.

1737 is a free and completely confidential service, funded by the Ministry of Health. The helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You can learn more about **1737** by visiting 1737.org.nz.

Prompt and sincere service leads to greater opportunities

Accessible Properties Tenant Manager, Ereti Williams, and Training and Employment Co-Ordinator, Georgina Willers, received a big thank you from a tenant recently.

The pair were praised for their prompt and sincere service.

Ereti has provided support by way of providing updates on what is going on in the community during and after the

change of tenancy provider from Housing NZ to Accessible Properties. The tenant says, "After all these years of nothing being done, Ereti has given me a bit of light at the end of the tunnel."

Georgina's friendly and supportive approach has supported the tenant to broaden their employment and training opportunities. "I sat unhappy in my part time employment," says the tenant.

"When I was offered Georgina's service I thought, what a great idea."

We love hearing your feedback; what we are doing well and what we could do better. So, let us know your thoughts by filling out the survey we've sent along with this edition of At Home.

▶ Tips for tenants

With the days getting shorter and the nights getting colder, keeping your home warm may take a little more effort. Here are some handy hints for helping keep your home warm this winter:

Check your curtains

Curtains are important for stopping heat escaping from your home and keeping the cool air out.

You can make sure they're working efficiently by:

- checking they're hung as close to the window as possible
- checking they're wide enough to overlap the window frames at the side
- checking they're long enough to cover the window at the bottom – it's even better if they reach all the way to the floor.

Use a fan with your oil heater

Using a fan can significantly reduce heat loss. If your heater doesn't have a fan, buy a cheap desk fan. Using it pointed at the heater can improve the flow of heat around your home - the heater can be set lower, but the room is warmer as the heat moves better through your home.

Floor snakes

Floor snakes are great for stopping drafts and trapping heat in your home. Place them against the cracks under doors to help keep rooms toasty.

Cook with your oven

Making a hearty, home cooked meal using your oven will not only produce a warm meal for your insides, but the heat generated in the kitchen can flow through your home adding extra warmth.



Ventilation is a key part of a healthy home.

Ventilate your home

Ventilation is a key part of a healthy home. It helps your home's air quality and removes excess moisture.

You can encourage ventilation by:

- opening windows or doors at least an hour per day to replace damp or stale indoor air with fresh outdoor air
- opening windows or doors after turning off heating
- turning on your bathroom fan or opening the window while having a shower and for ten minutes afterward to clear moist air
- turning on your extractor fan while cooking, especially if boiling water.