



## Minutes of the Christchurch Housing Forum

September 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

Attendance: Steve Orms CCC; Bob Hardie CCC; Joanna Corbett CCC; Anni Watkin YCD; Andrea Mulder CERA; Alison Bourn Te Punawaitanga Ki Otautahi Trust; James Hadlee CCC Paul Cottam CCC Marg Mathesan, Stevie Bull, People First NZ Inc; Warren Cresswell; Lisa Burdes Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce; Simon Atkinson; Vincie Billante, Christine Haywood Red Cross; Paul McMahon SJOG Waipuna; Sue Bagshaw Korowai You Well-being Trust; Nicola Mauchline Salvation Army Hornby; Ian McChesney Community Energy Action; Anna Langley Te Puna Oraka; Craig Bellis Olivia Bovey People first; Edmund De Grelle Brazier; John Peet Sustainable Otautahi ChCh Engineers for Social Responsibility; Katherine Peet Network Waitangi; Kimm Willems Canterbury Property Investgors; Michelle Fendon-Lee CPIA & Ruby Housing; Glen Livingstone CCC; Paul Davies MBIE; Donna Velenski Idea Services; Debra Vincent, Mahina Ina Kauai Otautahi Womens Refuge; Shayne Landell , Jarrod Rendle MBIE; Kim McMahon; Joyce Stokell Deaf Aotearoa; Margaret McDonald, Richard Tankersley & David Rutherford Human Rights Commission; Craig Jarvis Green Architecture Limited; Martin Luff, Danny Squires Space Craft Systems Wikihouse NZ; Lauren Merritt Ministry of Awesome; Sandra Murphy CPIT; Gary Watts SIGJAWS; Angela Taylor CPITI Patty Nieuwenhuize TPA / CPIT; Kirstin Waters CPIT Lorraine Murry Comcare; Verity Halkett Environment Canterbury; Sahra Ahmed Piki Te Ora Medical Centre; Dawn Clark Presbyterian Centre; Robin Tinga NZ Spinal Trust; Helen Murphy PARS; Lyn Voice Salisbury Street Foundation; Donna Ellen Pegasus Health; Sam Duff CCC, Joh Thomson CCC, David Bailey CCC, Claire Milne CCC ; Zeina P Hussein Resettlements Support; Wayne Raid Pegasus Health; Nicky Wagner MP; Benjamin Morris People First; Karen Clark – Reas Estate Sector; Jay Sepie CCC; Brook Robertson Social Work Student; Rebecca Grooby Presbyterian Support; Annie Smith Christchurch Methodist Mission; (And once again a number did not sign the attendance register).

Meeting was opened by Richard Tankersley – Human Rights Commission

Welcome by Richard Tankersley Human Rights Commission:

On behalf of the Housing Forum and on behalf of the Runaka ki Otautahi it is my pleasure to open the forum and in particular acknowledge invited speakers – David Rutherford the Chief Human Rights Commissioner; Natalie Baird Senior Law Lecturer at the University of Canterbury and Lauren Merritt who is the new CEO of the Ministry of Awesome.

Acknowledgement of special guests.

Karakia said by Richard Tankersley

Helen Gatonyi – Felicitated the meeting

Presentation David Rutherford – Chief Human Rights Commissioner:

The Chief Commissioner introduced Richard Tankersley in his role in the Human Rights Commission advising he will take the lead on homelessness and tenants in Christchurch.

The Chief Human Rights Commissioner's presentation can be found at:

<http://www.hrc.co.nz/2014/09/18/chief-commissioner-david-rutherfords-speech-to-tenants-protection-association-christchurch/>

### **Natalie Baird – Law Department University of Canterbury**

Submission process – reflections on using international human rights mechanisms to advocate around the right to housing. UPR Universal Periodic Review Process.

The process started with keen students who wanted to do something around the human rights impact of the earthquake. Submission was made to the United Nations under the UPR. Six students embarked on a consultation process, consulted with grassroots orgs, NGO's to get view on what the key human rights impacts were.

The international process is tightly regulated (we were allowed to write 10 pages) – we chose a holistic approach – focus therefore on five key themes. Housing; Democracy in Canterbury; Health; Education; Migrants. Our Report made 50 recommendations over given areas and was endorsed by 26 community organisations. 54 Submissions were received from across NZ. These had to be summarised in Geneva into 10 pages. I would suggest that NZ community organisations next time around need to be more strategic about collaborating and putting in joint submission so we in NZ are prioritising what the key issues are rather than leaving it for someone in Geneva to select that.

Our submission sent June last year. In January this year NZ Govt. officials (headed by Judith Collins) went to Geneva to take part in an interactive dialogue. This is available online

<http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Foreign-Relations/1-Global-Issues/Human-Rights/Universal-Periodic-Review/index.php#update>

Outcome report recommendation: 155 recommendations across a range of human right issues 3 relate to Christchurch and Recovery phase. 3 of our 50 were picked up. It is interesting to see what the international community picked up on

Germany - Speed up the rebuilding and compensation process in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Trinidad & Tobago - NZ should consider policies of gender mainstreaming, adequacy of housing access to building for people disability in post recovery

Algeria – facilitate the realisation of economic social and cultural rights through the areas affected by the earthquake.

Three of the 155 recommendations – NZ reflects on all these recommendations and then gives a formal response whether it accepts – May June this year. NZ Government accepted those three, with one qualification “speed up recovery process within scope of the government”.  
Good news three recommendations about Christchurch. Downside is the weakness of the language.

In a debriefing with students we looked at the usefulness as tool. Firstly we needed to be realistic about outcomes. Although this involved 3mths work with students and lecturer. Secondly International mechanisms add an extra little bit of pressure, not only a call from within NZ there is actually a call from outside New Zealand as well. Overall it is a useful advocacy strategy.

The key thing about international mechanisms - The reality is that human rights are realised at home, what happens internationally – bring recommendations back and make sure that something happens. The Human Rights Commission is using UPR recommendations to help inform the action plan for human rights. Good because housing will have a significant priority.

Secondly, domestically challenges around housing, it is not recognised as a Right in our Bill of Rights Act covers civil and political rights only. In 1990 when the Bill of Rights Act was enacted the draft did have in it five or six provisions on economic social and cultural rights and these were taken out. Developments since the earthquake show we now have momentum, let’s have a conversation about putting these rights into the Bill of Rights Acts. Constitutional Advisory Panel when it reported last year picked up on this and notes that a number of submitters’ to that body requested that the Bill of Rights Act be amended to include social cultural and economic rights .

Not clear what the next government will do with the report from the Constitutional Advisory Panel but it’s referred from the Panel there should be a continuing conversation around the Bill of Rights Act. I would encourage people to think about the right to housing among the other social cultural and economic rights.

*Question and answer period – 10-15 minutes: (Limited recording) Discourse and discussions.*

### **Ministry of Awesome – Lauren Merritt – Chief Awesome Officer**

We are not a real government ministry – yet! Work with people ideas, events, start-up businesses, and social enterprises whatever it is, ideas people have that they want to develop create to improve Christchurch in general. Our Mission Vibrant creative activated world filled with people who are inspired to follow their passion and supported to do so

We bring people together,

- 1: Weekly entrepreneurship at BNZ Epic on Tuesdays Coffee & Jam Pitch to others. Education slot – as well recently for example - Arkina foundation – social enterprise.
- 2: Supporting ordinary people doing extraordinary things. - Ministry of Awesome has high level connections to support needs. Can make introductions.
- 3: Structure and support – in depth ways

Keeping with that we are a facilitation process. When invited to the housing forum –I have taken the opportunity to connect people who are interested passionate creative about housing, and who are expanding current thinking.

(Here Lauren introduces her guests – if you wish more information about this please contact <http://www.ministryofawesome.com/>)

Craig Jarvis – Green Architecture Ltd & Danny Squires & Martin Luff: WikiHouse NZ and Space Craft Social Housing - passionate about social housing, it doesn't work now- continue to build how we do there is no solution – not cheaper better. I live in a 20sqm box solar panel 2 kids. Poor in category – rich in head.

Redefine what the home is to find solutions to that problem!

What is a sustainable home – it is not a thing it is not a box – It can sustain life mentally physically socially financially. Question - How do you live in your home? Are you ticking all those boxes? Privacy can create isolation. Privacy – isolation- Solution, create villages create community.

House you are living in now - Technology now create buildings that heat themselves collect own water healthy and make you feel good for being in that space. Housing has a huge impact outside the home. If you turn the power off what have you got – shelter box. In Christchurch we can build housing that has no heating and can stay at 20degrees all year.

Low income and disability – into basic house, change attitude toward what the home is. Make it smaller, efficient to build mass produced in a factory. Can no longer do what we do in house building, it doesn't stack up. Costs going up – building that does not perform. Be scientific, specific design quality buildings that improve the lives of the people in it. Produce their own electricity.

Occupant of the home needs to invest energy passion in the home, you need to be involved in that home in some way – from a psychological way into that home – legislate to keep everyone off the site – need to be involved take ownership.

Huge amount of research been done problems and solutions, still building houses like we did in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century not as good as we were building in 15<sup>th</sup> Century. How do we involve people to deliver high value outcomes? Huge untouched resource in our communities – people deliver their own solutions world class solutions. We have the tools to deliver that solution.

When communities co-author solutions, they can tackle anything. High performance housing for everyone – adaptable design feature to help people co-author their own home.

Affordability – about zero running costs, capacity to self-repair, what you need when you need it. Social enterprise is organisation it is not about commerce or charitable not government but many social enterprises are delivering on key policy objectives – self-sustaining. This sector around the world producing huge innovation that's not being produced from commercial and government

Ordinary people with no skills training co-author solutions in partnership with appropriate expertise – not victims of process – part of the process – tools expertise within the communities engaging providing to each stage inception, concept development production, assembly post-occupancy. Measuring performance ongoing.

Looks like communities truly worth living in, solution that is possible to deliver everything we need not our solution but “our” solution.

For more detailed information on Green Architecture please contact Craig Jarvis  
[craig@greenarchitecture.co.nz](mailto:craig@greenarchitecture.co.nz) Danny Squires [wikihouse@spacecraft.co.nz](mailto:wikihouse@spacecraft.co.nz)  
Lauren Merritt <http://www.ministryofawesome.com/>

Helen Gatonyi – closed the forum at 2pm

If you wish to contact the planners you can do so by ringing 03 3791122 or  
[projectsupport@tpa.org.nz](mailto:projectsupport@tpa.org.nz)

**Notices :**

Richard Tankersley – Human Rights Commission. As part of the commission team here I am building a reference group to cover the issues of homelessness and those in the rental sector. People interested in being part of the reference group, particularly on working together, collaborating on these issues please contact me at the Human Rights Commission 03 3792015.

Katherine Peet: CERA – Report – Community In Mind.

<http://cera.govt.nz/sites/default/files/common/community-in-mind-strategy-for-rebuilding-health-and-wellbeing-in-greater-christchurch.pdf> Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 at Te Puna Wānaka - Christchurch Polytec Wharenui . Opportunity for the NGO Sector to have a say on this report.

