



## Housing Forum Minutes Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Present:** Glen Buckner Salvation Army; Rex Gibson, Jane Song ChCh Migrant Centre; Peter Freeman Mike Greer Homes; Beth Elias & Laura Melville Kate Wilkinson MP; Jo Harbridge, Don Norton MBIE; Betty Shore; Frazer Benson HNZC; Claire Waghorn-lees ChCh Green Party MP's; Geoff Butler Cooperative Sections; Mat O'Connor Catholic Diocese Earthquake Recovery; Gerald Edmonds ACC; Josiah Banbury University of Canterbury; Amanda Cook, Angela Talbot Work and Income; Shane McInroe; Adele Tikao Te Tai Tonga Otautahi; Ashleigh Stewart The Press; Matt Gale CDHB Hillmorton Hospital; Yunko Yaman CDHB; Rebecca Kirner Glowbug; Alms Burgess Rowley Resource Centre; Karin Brounty Avebury House; Brandon Harrē Psyc Nurse; Shar Davis Salvation Army; Lynette Bennetts, Kate Elvy, Jeff Jones; Jill Halliburton Salvation Army Hope Centre; Warren Cresswell, Steve Bull People First; Julie MacDonald CDHB Older Persons Health; Simon Atkinson; Jaimita de Jongh Community Energy Action; Anna Langley Te Puna Oraka – Shirley Hub; Trev Cattermole CCC; Sandy Brinsdon CDHB; Charlie Goodwin Mainland Capital; Tim Weir Delta Trust WikihouseNZ; Fran Edmonds Mental Health Division CDHB; Gary Watts SigJaws Trust; Denise Huisman Christchurch Resettlement Services; Matt Dooley; Sam Elder; Jess Fiebrg; Glen Dobson Stepping Stone Trust; Evan Smith Eastern Vision; Pauline Cotter CCC; Nora Ellword, Fionna Chapman Pacific Trust Canterbury; Richie Stanley PTC; Ken Dawson; Ali Woodruff MHAPS; Verity Halkelt Environment Canterbury; Paul Cottam CCC; Claire Bittens Bromley Community Centre Lisa Coulter, Di Harwood TPA; Maureen Mundy Methodist Mission (Planner); Joanna Corbett CCC (Planner); Shelly Walker Family and Community Pegasis Health; Patrick Doyle Canty Dist Health Board;

A large number of those present did not sign the register.

**Guests:** Alan Johnson – Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit. Tony Moore Christchurch City Council. Tony Brazier Brazier Property.

**Facilitator:** Helen Gatonyi – Tenants Protection Association

**Karakia:** Glen Buckner Salvation Army

### **Updates: Christchurch City Council – Warrant of Fitness Inspection Tool**

Tony Moore outlined the work CCC is doing with the Warrant of Fitness Working group.

This group is looking at a Warrant of Fitness that is being piloted by a number of Councils across the country and the Otago Medical School.

Pilot testing has begun on the (inspection tool). In Canterbury we are looking at 10 social housing units, and 15 private rentals (partners for selection of private rentals are Braziers, Harcourt's and TPA).

Relatively low level warrant looking at:

- Water function
- Windows
- Safety - Smoke detectors; trips & falls – stairs/step risers, banisters, and paths etc.; wiring up to date; fire exits.
- Comfort – insulation, heat, warm dry & sound not external damage.

It is a visual assessment takes 30/40 minutes. Ensuring our rental houses are fit for rental. The report on the pilot would be out sometime in March.

Tony Brazier commented on this Warrant of Fitness, believes it “won't work”, it is too easy to fail, Warrant of Fitness should catch landlords at the bottom of the rental market those “bleeding the property to death”. Warrant should have smaller criteria and be compulsory.

Alan Johnson Salvation Army Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit presented the State of the Nation Report 2014 “Striking a Better Balance”. The link to the report

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/sites/default/files/uploads/20140211SONStriking%20a%20Better%20Balance%20-%20Final%20Web.pdf>

Helen Gatonyi closed the forum with the call for us heed Alan's challenge and be more involved in changing the "stats on poverty, abuse and neglect.

**Follow-up Post forum:**

We received an email from Amanda Cook at MSD, as part of her role and ensuring that we all work together and share resources she had provided a link about Social Housing changes.

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/index.html>

The next housing forum will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Details will follow via email. Updates can be found on the website [www.christchurchhousingforum.org.nz](http://www.christchurchhousingforum.org.nz)