



2012 World Indigenous Housing Conference

Community Housing Aotearoa sends its best wishes to the World Indigenous Housing Conference, and its organisers the Vancouver-based Aboriginal Housing Management Association, for a successful event.

To mark this landmark event we have collected together some thoughts (whakaaro) to share from our wider network.

He aha te mea nui ki te āo, Mākū e kii atu he tangata, he tangata, he tangata

It is a human right to have access to quality food, water and housing. As “Tangata whenua”, as indigenous peoples of this land, as privileged guardians of our beautiful culture, knowledge and history, we have a responsibility to our next generation to provide them with the necessary tools and skills with which to ensure that our people will prosper. A very important tool for raising a strong child, is a quality home.

Rueben Taipari Porter, Tumanako Trust

Given our location in the south of Aotearoa, cold and damp housing is a significant issue for our people. Coupled with the health effects of poor air quality, insulated housing and clean heating have become an important focus. Through the Hokonui Health and Social Services Trust we have partnered with Te Puni Kokiri and Meridian Energy in ‘Project Ora’ to provide assistance with housing retrofits for insulation and heating in Te Waipounamu.

Terry Nicholas, Hokonui Runanga

In terms of housing solutions I know we are making a real difference. Be that the two Maori homes we save from mortgagee sales each month, or the work we put into tenancy mediation or into repairing substandard housing, or being there to represented people who are evicted and find themselves homeless. It all counts.

Ricky Houghton, He Korowai Trust

Tongariro te Maunga

Taupō te Moana

Parewahawaha te Marae

Ngāti Tūwharetoa , Ngāti Raukawa ngā Iwi

Mahia Windertaku ingoa.

I am the Maori Midwifery Advisor at Auckland District Health Board. Part of my role includes carrying a case load of vulnerable, at risk pregnant women, predominantly though not exclusively Maori. Some of these women live and work on the streets of Auckland, and not only struggle with accommodation but often with drug and alcohol use also. I visit women on the streets, or where ever suits them with no expectation that they will have to go to clinics where they may feel judged. My role is to offer them the same care as women who are housed with full assistance from other agencies to ensure Mother and baby have suitable accommodation at time of birth.

**Mahia Winder, Midwife Advisor Maori
Tamaki Ward, Auckland City Hospital**