

## Key messages: Contracted emergency housing places with Emerge Aotearoa

- More support is being made available to help ensure vulnerable people and families in Auckland can access emergency housing when they most need it.
- Starting on 14 March 2016 extra emergency housing for up to 30 people including families or individuals at any one time will be available for up to 12 weeks through specialist community housing provider Emerge Aotearoa.
- The first 17 places will be available in mid-March with the other 13 available from mid-May. People will be housed in properties ranging from one and two bedroom units to three and four bedroom houses.
- From 14 March, vacancies for Emerge properties are available in Mangere, Onehunga and Lynfield. Other locations will be confirmed as more properties become available.
- This will provide up to an extra 120 emergency housing places each year for the most vulnerable people and families in Auckland who have no other accommodation available to them.
- This short-term service will run for two years, costing \$2 million, with people housed in warm, dry properties in West, Central and South Auckland.
- While being housed, individuals and families will work alongside support workers who will help them to have access to other social support services they may need such as mental health, addiction and GP services.
- Emerge Aotearoa will also work with our clients to create individualised support plans aimed at developing the necessary skills to help them move into sustainable housing.
- The support continues for people when they leave the emergency housing provided, with Emerge Aotearoa working with them for up to 12 weeks to help them settle into their new property.
- People can be referred to the service if they are either on the social housing register or if they have been assessed by Work and Income as having an emergency housing need. Anyone applying directly to Emerge will be referred directly to Work and Income so their need for emergency housing can be assessed. Once in the service people will pay a 'rent contribution' up to, but no more, than 25% of their income.
- This short term housing response is similar to the one operating in Christchurch where vulnerable individuals and families are supported in emergency accommodation. Since March 2015, 61 families and 34 individuals (as at 01/02/16) have been through the Christchurch short-term emergency housing service. Of these 81 applicants (people and families) have been housed.

- Through the social housing reform programme, work is underway to help grow the number of social housing places in Auckland over the longer term which will help ease pressure on the emergency housing sector. Recently it was confirmed an extra 508 social housing places will be available in Auckland over the next one-to-two years.
- Emergency housing pressures are not confined to Auckland, but the pressures the city faces are particularly acute and anecdotal evidence is that pressure is growing.
- While short-term emergency housing services are focused on Auckland and Christchurch, the needs of regional centres are being considered as part of on-going work into the funding of the emergency housing sector.
- An additional \$500,000 was granted last year to 16 emergency housing providers across New Zealand, eight of which deliver services in Auckland, to help manage demand while a review of the sector was undertaken.
- An announcement is expected in the coming months on a proposed funding model for the emergency housing sector which is expected to be implemented in September 2016.