



Budget 2018 - Housing First for homelessness

The Government is strengthening and expanding the Housing First programme as the primary response to chronic homelessness.

The Government will invest \$63.4 million to house and support more than 1,450 of New Zealand's most vulnerable homeless people and families through the Housing First programme over the next four years.

Budget 2018 will:

- boost funding for ongoing services for more than 900 households in the Housing First programme in Auckland, Christchurch, Tauranga, Wellington and Lower Hutt - \$20.5 million
- expand Housing First services to a further 550 households in other regions - \$42.9 million.

What is Housing First?

Housing First is a programme to house and support people who have been homeless for a long time or who are homeless and face multiple and complex issues.

Housing First recognises it is much easier for people to address issues, such as poor physical or mental health, substance abuse and unemployment, once they are housed.



More than
1,450

Housing First services
for more than 1,450
households
– \$63.4 million

The approach is simple: provide housing quickly then offer tailored support for as long as it's needed to help people stay housed and lead better lives.

Housing First aims to end homelessness for people, not just manage it. The goal is that homelessness should be brief, rare and non-recurring.

How do we know it works?

Housing First is based on extensive international evidence, where it has proven to be highly effective in supporting people who are chronically homeless to stay housed and improve their lives.

Housing First has operated in Hamilton since 2014 and has been piloted in Auckland by a collective of providers since March 2017. By 31 March 2018, the Auckland Housing First programme had housed 215 households in both public and private housing.

The Ministry of Social Development is working with providers to expand Housing First to Tauranga, Christchurch, Wellington and other high-need regions.

Working together to end homelessness

Homelessness is a complex issue that no single organisation can end alone. It needs a collective effort across services, organisations and communities.

- **The Ministry of Social Development** funds providers to deliver Housing First services and pays rent subsidies for tenants.
- **Housing First providers** reach out to homeless people, find houses, manage tenancies and properties, offer long-term social support and connect with other frontline services.
- **Private landlords, iwi and community housing providers and Housing New Zealand** provide houses.

- **Frontline services** - health, mental health, income support, police, education, probation, iwi and community social services - support and work with people in Housing First.
- **Local councils** provide vital support and may also boost funding.
- **Communities and whānau** create social connections and opportunities such as learning and employment.

For more information on Housing First visit www.msd.govt.nz/housingfirst

Journey from homelessness to stable housing

