

Social Housing



**Easy Read
Information**

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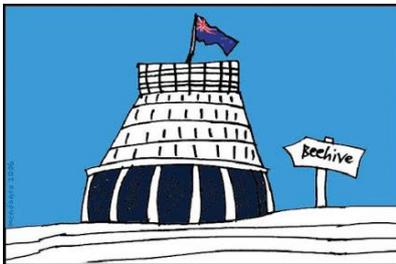
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What is social housing?



Social housing means houses that are:

- rented out by Housing New Zealand
- rented out by a housing provider that can get an **income-related rent subsidy**.



An **income-related rent subsidy** is when the Government pays for part of the rent.



If you live in social housing you may pay an **income-related rent**.



Income-related rent is based on the amount of the money:

- you get
- your partner gets if you have one
- anyone else living with you gets.



We need to know about the other people living in your home because it may change how much rent each of you need to pay.

To tell us if any of your information changes:

call Work and Income 0800 559 009

or

if you are 65 or over call Senior Services 0800 552 002

Who can get social housing?



Social housing is for people who cannot find anywhere to live.



To get social housing you need to:

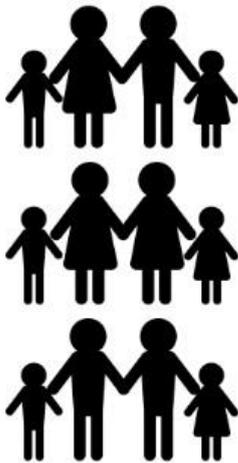
- live in New Zealand
- be a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident in New Zealand
- be 16 years old or over
- have under a set amount of money and things you own – like a boat or a car.





Sometimes you can get social housing when:

- you are getting a main benefit and have been a permanent resident for less than 2 years
- you are not a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.



If you have a partner we will need to look at their information as part of your application.



You may need to show us that you have been looking for a house to live in but have not been able to find one.

How to apply for social housing



First we need to talk to you about your housing needs.

Call us on one of these numbers:

- Work and Income
0800 559 009
- If you are 65 or over call
Senior Services on
0800 552 002



We will look at the best way to help you.



If you need social housing we will make a time to have an **assessment interview** with you.

Assessment interview



An Assessment Interview is a meeting between you and staff from the Ministry of Social Development.

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It will take about 1 hour.



You can bring a support person to the meeting with you.



We will talk about:

- what kind of house you need
- why you need social housing.



If you cannot come to the meeting we may be able to talk to you on the phone.

What do I need to bring to the meeting?



We may ask you to bring:



- proof of who you are, like your:

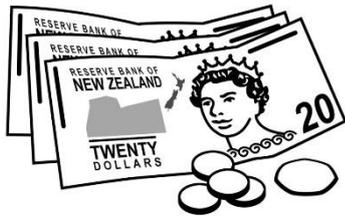
- birth certificate



- passport



- driver license.



- proof of how much money you got in the last year



- proof of what you own and how much it is worth



- birth certificates for each child in your care



- the same details for other people that you live with



- proof that you have looked for a place to live and have not found a house that is right for you.

While you are waiting for a house



How fast you get a house through social housing will depend on:

- how quickly a house becomes available
- the type and size of house you need
- how many other people need social housing.



While you are waiting for social housing you:

- need to keep looking for somewhere to live – we can help you with this

- can come to a seminar about where to look for a house and what choices you have



- must tell us straight away about any changes in you or your partner's lives.

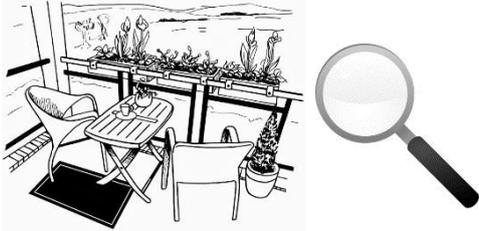


We will:

- give your information to housing providers
- check if you can still get social housing if there are changes in your or your partner's lives
- let you know about other housing options.



When a house becomes available a housing provider will contact you and:



- ask you to look at the house



- ask you to sign a tenancy agreement if you want to rent the house



- become your landlord.

Keep in touch with us



You must tell us straight away about any changes in you or your partner's lives.



Some examples of changes you need to tell us about are:

- your address
- your phone number
- how much money you get or have
- who you are living with.





If you do not let us know, you may not:

- get the housing that is right for you
- be able to get social housing at all.



We may want to talk to you about your situation.

It is important that you answer our calls or letters.



If we cannot get in touch with you, we may think you do not need social housing and stop your application.

What other help is there?



If you cannot get social housing, we may be able to help you in other ways.

You can:



- get advice on how to find somewhere to live
- get advice on other housing options
- look at the Ministry of Social Development housing website:



www.housing.msd.govt.nz

More information



If you want more information and:

- you are under 65 call **0800 559 009**
- you are 65 or over call Senior Services on **0800 552 002**
- you are a student call Study Link on **0800 88 99 00**
- you are with Youth Service ask your Youth Service provider.





You can also look at the Ministry of Social Development housing website:

www.housing.msd.govt.nz



**If you are Deaf you can
contact us on:**



- Deaf Link free-fax
0800 621 621
- telephone typewriter (TTY)



- text
0800 111 113
- text
029 286 7170



- email:
MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz



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