

# Nāku

NEWSLETTER FOR NEW ZEALAND TENANTS ISSUE 8 MARCH 2025

# Home *in* Place

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## TENANT STORY

# Saman's story of hope and home

# Kia Ora

## A warm welcome to the first edition of Nāku for 2025.

This month, we're sharing Saman's inspiring journey from war-torn Iran to building a new life with hope and opportunity at Home in Place.

To celebrate Easter, we're running a Colouring Competition—get creative for a chance to win great prizes!

We also have an important staff update: Bec is now managing rent, so feel free to reach out for any support.

Plus, check out key reminders on fire safety, online scams, and our pets policy, along with updates on community programs like Grow a Star, which helps young people achieve their dreams with financial support.

Thank you for being part of our community, and as always, if you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can continue to build a safe, supportive, and thriving community for all.

Ngā mihi,

**Larissa**

CEO Home in Place (New Zealand)



## TENANT SPOTLIGHT Saman



*"I know what it's like to be without a home, and I feel deeply for those who still face that struggle."*

Saman was born in Tehran, Iran, in December 1991, during a time of great political and social turmoil. Growing up in a family marked by contrasting backgrounds—his mother from a wealthy family, his father from a poor, educated background—he experienced a childhood filled with both love and tension. The war-torn country, once vibrant, had fallen into disarray, and Saman felt trapped in a system of fear and conflict.

"When I was a child, Iran felt like a tiger—strong and proud—but now, it's like a scared cat, stuck in fear and destruction," Saman reflects.

Seeking a better future, he left Iran, eventually arriving in New Zealand as a refugee.

The transition to New Zealand was challenging. Saman spent nearly a year in a refugee camp, struggling with homesickness, isolation, and the difficulty of adjusting to a new language and culture.

"I was locked away in a room with one window, feeling like a prisoner. But I had a social worker who helped me navigate the system and protect my rights," he recalls.

Saman's life changed dramatically when he moved into a Home in Place apartment. The affordable, secure housing provided him with the stability he had been searching for.

**READ MORE OF SAMAN'S STORY AT [HOMEINPLACENZ.ORG](https://homeinplacenz.org)**



**READ MORE OF  
SAMAN'S STORY**

## Fire safety reminder for all tenants

To ensure everyone's safety, please keep common areas, hallways, and walkways clear. Storing items in these spaces creates a fire hazard and can block emergency exits. Our staff will be conducting regular walkthroughs to check for any risks.

Additionally, smoke alarms must remain unobstructed and functional at all times. Covering or tampering with them is a serious safety risk and may breach your tenancy agreement, potentially leading to lease termination.

**Let's work together to keep our homes safe. Thank you for your cooperation.**



# New Rotorua housing development

Home in Place recently showed Rotorua Lakes Council staff around an upcoming affordable housing development that will **provide secure, lower-cost rentals for essential workers struggling to find housing** in the region.

The wider development consists of 58 homes, with 28 designated as affordable rental properties. The project is being led by Home in Place and delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Watchman Capital through the Affordable Housing Fund. This marks an exciting milestone as the first set of properties purchased by Home in Place New Zealand.

Home in Place CEO Larissa Bridge shared the importance of housing solutions tailored to those who serve the community.

**READ MORE AT [HOMEINPLACENZ.ORG](https://homeinplacenz.org)**



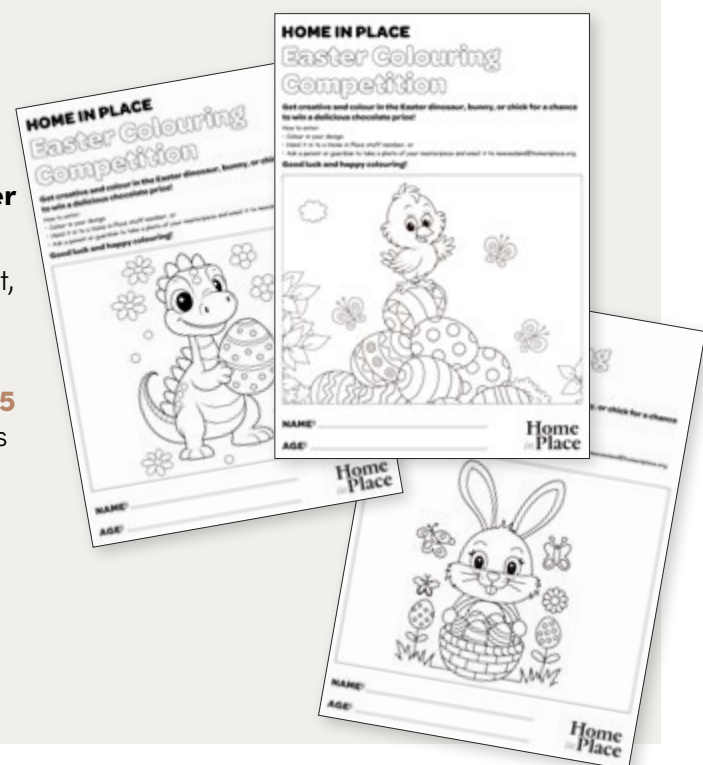
## Easter Colouring Fun

**We love any excuse to have a bit of fun with our tenants, so we've decided to get in the spirit this easter with a Colouring Competition!**

We invite all our tenants, both young and young at heart, to get creative and join in the fun.

Simply download the colouring sheet from our website <https://homeinplacenz.org/easter-colouring-fun-2025> or pick up a copy from a staff member (regional tenants can email us if they need one posted!), and let your imagination run wild.

There are prizes to be won, and we'll be showcasing some of the best artwork in the next newsletter. The competition is open until 14 April, so grab your crayons, markers, or paints, and get colouring!



## Pets Policy

**We'd like to remind all tenants that pets are not allowed in any of our properties.**

This is a clear term of your tenancy agreement, and keeping a pet in your home is considered a breach of lease. Violating this rule can result in serious consequences, including the termination of your tenancy.

We understand that pets can be an important part of your life, but we ask that all tenants comply with this policy to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone in the community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team for further clarification. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Financial support available for tamariki to achieve their goals

**At Home in Place, we're excited to offer free financial support through our youth charity, Grow a Star.**

Grow a Star is a unique mentoring and scholarship program designed to help young people access the financial resources they need to pursue their academic, sporting, or artistic dreams. By offering free scholarships, the program removes the barriers that often hold back talented young people from reaching their full potential.

Created by Home in Place, this program is the first of its kind designed and run by a community housing provider. It helps young people gain the confidence and financial support they need to follow their passions and set themselves up for success in the future.

**Do you have a young person in your life who could benefit from free funding to help achieve their dreams?**

If so, we want to hear from you! Learn more about how to apply for Grow a Star or how you can support the program at <https://homeinplacenz.org/grow-a-star-scholarships>.

## Respect goes both ways

We want to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of mutual respect in our community.

Recently, there has been an increase in disrespectful behaviour towards our staff, and we want to emphasise that treating others with kindness and respect is essential to maintaining a positive environment for everyone. Our staff work hard to ensure that your needs are met and it is important that we all show courtesy in our interactions.

Disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated, and we ask that all tenants keep in mind the values of cooperation and respect as we work together to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Let's focus on having a community where all people are treated with dignity.

## Stay safe online

Scammers are getting smarter, but you can stay ahead by knowing what to watch for.

**Verify Unexpected Contacts** Banks and reputable companies won't ask for sensitive info out of the blue.

**Avoid Suspicious Links** If a message urges you to click a link, go to the official site instead.

**Protect Personal Information** Never share passwords or financial details unless you're certain of the recipient.

**Beware of Pressure Tactics** Scammers create urgency to rush you into action. Pause and verify.

**Use Strong Security** Set unique passwords, enable two-factor authentication, and keep devices updated.

**Seek a Second Opinion** If something feels off, ask someone you trust before acting.

If you suspect a scam, report it. Staying informed is your best defence. Stay alert and stay safe!

## Stay in Touch

CALL 0800 124 663 E [NEWZEALAND@HOMEINPLACE.ORG](mailto:NEWZEALAND@HOMEINPLACE.ORG) W [WWW.HOMEINPLACENZ.ORG](http://WWW.HOMEINPLACENZ.ORG)



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