

# 4 THINGS YOU CAN DO BEFORE THIS YEAR'S ELECTION

1. Identify people in your area with housing problems. Ask political candidates what they are going to do to fix these people's situations.
2. Arrange a meeting where people hear local housing specialists or activists.
3. Meet with your local parliamentary candidates and tell them about your concerns.
4. Read up on the problems of homelessness and poor housing.

And then (if you're eligible to do so) ... VOTE!

## FURTHER READING

The Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit has published a number of reports focused on housing. Read online at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/reports](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/reports)

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: [www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)



*'While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.'*

LUKE 2:6-7

*'We are not going to have people living in slums while there are workmen capable of building decent houses. We have visions of a new age, an age where people will have beauty as well as space and convenience in and about their home.'*

PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL JOSEPH SAVAGE, 1936

## WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

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**Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

# ELECTION

## SERIES 2017

### Make your vote count

# HOUSING



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# HOMELESSNESS AND POOR HOUSING

**New Zealand has a housing problem that desperately needs attention. The Salvation Army sees the impacts of this every day. Impacts include:**

- people needing food assistance because they are paying upwards of 70% of their weekly income on housing
- people shifting frequently because they can't manage rental payments
- people in crisis and even dangerous situations who cannot get a State house/social housing
- children who are missing out on proper healthcare or require remedial education because their families move so often
- families living in local parks in their cars
- people living in overcrowded accommodation (for instance, three families in one house)
- people living in badly maintained housing or housing that is damaging their health
- people living in badly maintained and expensive boarding houses.

## THE PROBLEM

There is no statutory responsibility to ensure all citizens are adequately housed.

There are more homeless households requiring emergency housing than emergency places to house them.

New Zealand has not built enough State and social houses to meet present need.

State housing in New Zealand is often poorly maintained and in the wrong places.

Current social housing policy does not allow for the number of households that will need social housing for the whole of their lives.

Insufficient effort is being made to encourage and ensure institutional investment in the New Zealand housing rental market.

Many households have little chance of home ownership, with home ownership in areas like Auckland requiring an annual income of at least \$80,000.

There is no support for community organisations who are offering home ownership options to people on the margins of affordability.

## THE FIX

### OVERALL

Establishment of a Housing Commission responsible for the planning and implementation of a National Building Programme that will ensure New Zealand has sufficient quality emergency, social, rental and ownership homes within the next ten years to 2027.

### EMERGENCY HOUSING

A commitment to providing sufficient emergency housing for all those not able to be housed in permanent housing.

### SOCIAL HOUSING

A national social housing building programme, which builds sufficient social housing to provide for all households needing this provision by 2027.

### RENTAL HOUSING

A major review of current tenancy law so that New Zealand has modern legislation to protect the rights of tenants and landlord investors.

### OWNERSHIP HOUSING

The Housing Commission manages a national building programme that over a ten-year period provides all the affordable housing New Zealand requires.