

## 8. CONFERENCE REPORT – AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE 2001 AND MEETING WITH BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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| <b>Officer responsible</b><br>Property Manager | <b>Author</b><br>Rob Dally DDI 371-1501, Kevin Bennett, Cr Alister James and Canon David Morrell |
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The purpose of this report is to share learning points from a social housing perspective, gained from a recent visit to Australia. A full report on the visit is attached.

### INTRODUCTION

Councillor Alister James, Rob Dally, (Property Manager), Kevin Bennett (Housing Team Leader) accompanied by Canon David Morrell (City Missioner) visited Australia in October to:

- Talk to and learn from the Brisbane City Council with regard to the issue of homelessness.
- Attend the Australian National Housing Conference 2001.
- Participate in the launch of the Australasian Housing Institute.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian visit provided the opportunity to reflect on where the Christchurch City Council is going in terms of its policy/delivery of social housing outcomes.

It was clear that Christchurch is “ahead” in terms of Council delivered housing, as few cities in Australia actively own or manage social housing. However, it is most interesting to note that the Brisbane City Council is about to invest in a partnership with the State Government with the express objective of delivering affordable inner city housing across all age groups. This will be their first venture into housing.

The significant learning points from the visit were:

- That affordable housing is the glue in building sustainable communities.
- That affordable housing outcomes have a significant and positive affect on health, employment, education and justice outcomes. Think housing – think communities.
- That partnerships are the way of the future.
- That appropriate interventions to deal with homelessness are “paid for” through improved health/social/justice outcomes.
- That affordable housing is an integral component of sustainable economic activity.
- That the Christchurch City Council would well be advised to seek partnerships which will facilitate “ageing in place”.
- That the Christchurch City Council would well be advised to seek ways in which its housing tenants can participate at a higher level in their tenancy arrangements – a partnership with tenants.
- That the Christchurch City Council should lobby central government on a number of issues including:
  - The need for a National Housing Policy (to cater for the rapidly changing demographics and social structure of New Zealand).
  - The opportunities to be achieved through holistic housing partnerships.
  - The active promotion of “smart” housing.
  - The need to ensure that New Zealanders do not have a housing affordability crises as reported to be affecting Australians.
  - The importance of building communities.
  - The importance to “renew/rebuild” communities.
- That partnerships are the way of the future.

### Chairman’s

**Recommendation:** That this report be referred to the Housing Subcommittee for consideration.