


3. HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS



The Housing Subcommittee was advised that the Property Manager had been invited to attend a focus group meeting of local authorities and Housing New Zealand Corporation representatives to discuss housing partnerships. Part of this focus is the Government's keenness for Councils to maintain their roles in social housing and to also enhance and grow that role.

Clearly the Government purchase of the Auckland City Council social housing portfolio does several things:

- It confirms that local authorities are struggling to maintain their housing portfolios in terms of sustainability.
- It sets a precedent of assistance to local authorities.
- It sets a new benchmark of income related rents (25% of income) for tenants who were previously local authority tenants.
- It raises the question of why other local authority tenants should not enjoy income related rents.
- It flags an opportunity for innovative partnerships.
- It must make local authorities question why they subsidise rents when the Government has selectively (at this time) done this in Auckland.

The Subcommittee **decided** that the Property Manager recommend to Local Government New Zealand next week that a housing conference unique to New Zealand be hosted in Christchurch.