



Media release
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Mission welcomes greater protections for Boarding House tenants.

Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act extending protections to those living in Boarding Houses have been welcomed by staff at the Auckland City Mission.

‘Many Mission clients have few options other than Boarding House accommodation,’ said City Missioner Diane Robertson. ‘In the past, we have seen clients evicted from Boarding Houses with no warning whatsoever - leaving in the morning to go about their daily business and returning mid-afternoon to be confronted by the landlord informing them their tenancy has been terminated and that they are required to remove their belongings immediately. As dramatic as it sounds, it’s not an uncommon occurrence,’ she continued.

‘In addition, the legal requirement to formally file bonds will be a definite benefit. Unlike standard rentals, Boarding Houses were not previously required to lodge tenant bonds with the Tenancy Tribunal. We have seen many instances where clients have lost their bond in a quick and often stressful eviction with no process for dispute.’

‘The inclusion of Boarding Houses in the Residential Tenancies Act provisions will give our clients the capacity to argue their case against unfair eviction, give them a longer time period to prepare for their next dwelling and in turn hopefully reduce the number of rough sleepers in Auckland. The extension of this law is a positive change for a very vulnerable sector of our community,’ Ms Robertson said.

ENDS

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Auckland City Mission – Background

Established in 1920, the Auckland City Mission provides unique and specialised health and social services to marginalised Aucklanders, helping them to move forward. The Mission offers hope to families and individuals who may be experiencing a temporary set-back or a long-term problem that needs expert attention.

Whether it's a specific issue that has lead people to the Mission, the effects of the continuing poverty cycle, or a culmination of many problems, the Missions social workers are there to help guide people through the steps to change.

Auckland City Mission Services:

Homeless Services:

- Support and advocacy for rough sleepers.
- Drop-In service 365 days per year
- Socialisation and community integration activities
- Assistance with housing, and liaison with other agencies.
- Participation in Homeless Action Plan addressing long-term issues of homelessness

Crisis and Community Care:

- Emergency food parcels, clothing, household items, bedding
- Assistance with housing and accessing benefits and governmental support
- Advocacy.
- Liaison with governmental and non-governmental agencies
- Support for elderly in the community, especially those diagnosed with Diogenes Syndrome.

Medical Services:

- Full low-cost General Practice with free health care to those under 18 years of age.
- Registered PHO.

Addiction services:

- 10 bed residential detoxification service
- Community addiction support pre- and post- detoxification

Distribution Services:

- Bulk food collection, storage and distribution to 60 community food-banks across the greater region
- Collection and re-distribution of household items, bedding and clothing.
- New Beginnings Shops, providing quality low-cost second-hand goods to the public.

Mission in the City:

- Resource consent has been granted to the Auckland City Mission for the re-development of their Hobson Street site. Mission in the City will transform the currently depressed Hobson Street landscape into a vibrant community, providing support and accommodation to Auckland's homeless and to solo-parents completing tertiary studies from all over the country. The project will include community spaces and retail outlets along with re-developed Mission social, detoxification and medical services.