

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 28 June 2016

### **Local school students visit new Housing New Zealand homes**

An Auckland school, which played a part in the development of a new social housing complex in Otahuhu, has seen the completed project for themselves.

Towards the end of last year Fairburn Primary School students named a new street in a Housing New Zealand redevelopment located close to the school. Housing New Zealand invited the school to participate as it wanted to ensure the road's name held significance for the Otahuhu community.

Huihui Lane was chosen by the Local Board and means 'to gather/meet'.

Recently Minister for Social Housing Paula Bennett, teachers, students and Local Board members visited the finished development to see inside the 18 brand new homes built by Housing New Zealand on the Ronaki Road and Petrie Street site in Otahuhu.

Previously five, old state homes around 60 years old were on the site. In their place are 18 new 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes. After the walk through, teachers and students were equally complimentary about what they had seen.

Fairburn School Principal Frances Nelson said 'it's been really good – they've really enjoyed it, and these new homes are a real improvement on many of the other rental properties in Otahuhu'.

Teacher Zara Jackson also really enjoyed the experience.

"The local community and the children have been able to put back into the housing in the area and have been excited to drive past and see the progress all the way through".

Pupils were impressed, with one saying he might be a construction worker and will be ready and know what to do with other students wishing they could live in one of the new homes.

Community Development Manager Karen Allen says the building of these new homes by Housing New Zealand has been a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

"Right from the beginning the school was extremely supportive of being part of this project and in particular the thought they put into the meaning of the new street name".

“We were also pleased to have the support of the local board and to be able to have everyone back to see the finished homes was a great experience for everyone”.

“This development has been an important project for Housing New Zealand and for the local community and we are absolutely delighted with the end result”.

**Image below:**

*Teachers, pupils and local Board Members out the front of the new Housing New Zealand homes in Huihui Lane, Otahuhu*



**Other information**

- 18 new homes - 8 are two bedroom, 2 are three bedroom, 6 are four bedroom and 2 are five bedroom.
- Built and designed to modern standards and feature double glazing, insulation and modern materials and fittings inside and out.
- Across the road another Housing New Zealand redevelopment is underway in Clements Street where three old outdated 1950's houses will be replaced with 10 new homes due for completion in early 2017.

**For more information:** contact [media@hnzc.co.nz](mailto:media@hnzc.co.nz) or 04 439 3590

