



THE HIVE: HOUSING ENGAGEMENT.

OCTOBER 2021

We asked young people in our Instagram community, and at Festival for the Future, to share their current experience of home, and hopes and fears for their home in the future.

Here's what we heard.

680

total responses
from young
people.

94

written responses
at Festival for
the Future

114

emoji responses
at Festival for
the Future

472

Instagram
Story responses

From the hundreds of responses rangatahi gave us, six themes have emerged:

1. Most of the things young people want are simply their basic human right to adequate housing.
2. Housing equity matters to young people.
3. Young people want affordable, stable, long-term rental housing.
4. Many young people have given up on ever owning their own house.
5. The homes young people dream of often look different to the quarter acre dream of their parents and grandparents.
6. Young people crave safety and stability, and home is a vital source of that.

WHAT WE HEARD: HOME RIGHT NOW

Youth19 research tells us home is a tough place for 29% of young people in Aotearoa. What we heard from young people in both our online and offline engagement reflects that. When we asked young people at Festival for the Future to describe home, these are the four words that came up over and over again: **cold, expensive, cramped, damp**. And when we asked our Instagram community to give us a snapshot of home right now, this is what they told us:

63%

Describe home as **spacious**

55%

Describe home as **warm**

68%

Describe home as **expensive**

37%

Describe home as **cramped**

45%

Describe home as **chilly**

32%

Describe home as **affordable**

WHAT WE HEARD: YOUNG PEOPLE'S HOPES

When we asked young people to tell us their housing hopes, they didn't ask for big stuff, just their basic human right to adequate housing - they want homes that are secure, habitable, accessible and affordable.

"That I can one day own a clean and affordable home."

"To feel warm and cold when I want."

"Affordable home with reasonable space."

"I'll be able to live in a nice place that is warm, dry, safe, and has sunlight."

"Being able to live somewhere close to all the people I love"

"An affordable home with a safe and peaceful environment."

And young people weren't just hoping for those things for themselves. They want everyone in Aotearoa to have those housing needs met, no matter who they are.

"Everyone has the opportunity to feel safe, looked after, and at home in Aotearoa."

"The return of confiscated / stolen land to its rightful owners."

"Healthy and stable housing for all of Aotearoa, not just the wealthy citizens"

"Social housing, community, safety."

"A world where basic human needs like housing aren't a privilege"

"Equity for all"

"There are too many self-centered people preventing housing change for all."

WHAT WE HEARD: YOUNG PEOPLE'S FEARS

When it comes to rental housing, young people's fears are focused on affordability and long-term stability. They also expressed a desire to see long-term rental agreements become more commonplace, and see tenancy laws focus more on the needs of renters.

- "I'm scared about constant rent increases"
- "I fear ending up in a dunnens flat for the rest of my life"
- "Lots of rules and restrictions"
- "Paying rent will leave me financially unstable."
- "Tenancy conditions, landlords, rental obligations will never change."
- "Landlord takes advantage of us and doesn't follow tenancy laws"

When it comes to housing ownership, young people's biggest fear is affordability. Many young people feel that home ownership is already out of reach to their generation, and fear they'll be renting their whole lives.

- "I'll spend the rest of my life paying off a shitty house that doesn't fit my needs"
- "House prices continue to grow and mortgages become out of a reach."
- "Governed by the silver generation."
- "I want affordable housing, not renting for the rest of my life"
- "I'll never be a home owner"
- "Because I haven't bought a house yet my kids will be homeless and disadvantaged."
- "I won't be able to own a home when I'm older"
- "Income falling, house prices rising."
- "Scared we won't be able to afford our own homes."

WHAT WE HEARD: FUTURE OF HOUSING

The homes young people dream of living in in the future look different to the quarter acre dream of their parents and grandparents.

“Housing adjusts to the needs of new home buyers, and becomes smaller and more affordable.”

“I hope for full marae.”

“Glass tree whare with manu and awa and moana.”

And when so many young people are craving stability and safety, a long-term home is a really important source of both.

“I want everyone to have a safe home, not threatened by the extreme weather that climate change brings.”

“Flatting can be lonely and you never feel settled.”

“Not being able to have a house = not being able to have stability in life.”

“I worry about having to move to different areas to afford a house”

NEXT STEPS: WIDER ENGAGEMENT

This report shares our interim findings, and will help to shape and inform a final piece of engagement over the coming months. This final engagement seeks to add additional depth to our understanding of young people's hopes, fears, concerns and aspirations about housing - and what it means to them, their whānau and their futures.

In preparation for this mahi we've begun to build relationships with organisations who will help us reach young people who might not be part of The Hive's Instagram community - young people in temporary housing, and young people in rural communities without access to the Internet for example.