



HIKURANGI ENTERPRISES LTD

BUILDING WARM, DRY WHARE FOR EAST COAST WHĀNAU

Rather than waiting for the government to solve the housing crisis affecting hundreds of whānau in the Gisborne area, Hikurangi Enterprises Ltd has begun its own house-building programme, known as Whare Ora.

Taking advantage of a change in building regulations in 2020 which made it possible to build standalone dwellings of up to 30sqm without building consent, this community partner has started building whare awhina

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(sleepouts) for whānau who already own a home but are experiencing severe overcrowding.

The Whare Ora programme also builds whare aroha, standalone minor dwellings with kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Both types of whare are fully insulated with double-glazed aluminium windows and are sold at cost to whānau who can afford them – currently for between \$52,000 and \$78,000.

Hikurangi Enterprises executive director Panapa Ehau says the next step is a rent-to-own scheme to provide housing for whānau who do not have access to the finance needed to buy even a very low-cost home.

“Banks won’t touch many of the people who really need housing, and they don’t have the cash to buy housing because they live week to week.”



He hopes that eventually the Whare Ora model will spread to other parts of the country.

For the whānau who have been able to afford a whare, the impact has been life-changing.

“You can instantly create an impact for whānau living in a cold house. Their wellbeing goes up, kids go to school more, whānau can keep going to work and they are not getting bronchitis.”

Hikurangi Enterprises Ltd is a charitable company that was set up in 2016 to harness the strengths of local people to create better educational, cultural and employment opportunities on the remote East Coast of the North Island. It wants whānau to be able to live well and sustainably off the land and the sea, and to exercise guardianship over their natural resources.



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