

A blue bus is shown from a side-front perspective. It has three windows with horizontal blinds. The license plate on the front right reads '6803T'.

Marginally
Grounded

Pathways in and out of
temporary housing in
NZ camping grounds

Chrissy Severinsen
PHA Conference

how did you come to live in a camping ground?

- Rich biographical stories showed links between spaces, places within which they live, their health and opportunities
- Pathways approach (Clapham) emphasises dynamic nature of housing experiences and it's interrelatedness with other aspects of household life

What is the cause of camping ground residence?

What are contributing social



Residents focused on socio-political and economic factors which shape access to housing, and their social exclusion

access to mainstream housing

*"We don't have a waiting list,
but when one leaves it usually fills within the week"*

- demand for camping ground housing
- pathways in associated with lack of options



"It's not a quick road to a camp, but it's a hard one"

attempts to find cheaper accommodation

- low cost, accessible housing
- simplicity of costs and flexibility
- system barriers and discrimination



DO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NZ HOUSING STOCK (age, size, tenure composition) GIVE INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTHY HOUSING

disruption, dysfunction & downward social mobility

Disruption and dysfunction in social networks, particularly familial, precipitated movement into camping grounds for several residents. There are key interrelationships between one's movement through housing and significant life events and situations.



Resident

I'm living in a caravan park, and I love it. I don't have to worry about my ex-husband tracking me down. He's a loopy fucker, real loopy ... I mean he was violent ... And of course ever since he got out of prison, it's been like, "When I track you down, I'm going to get you". It's not so much that I'm on the run, it's that I prefer him not knowing where I am

Those young fullas down in the cabins are there 'cos it's cheap ... They're single fathers, or divorced fathers now. Some of them get psychologically very battered from the divorce and how they're treated, and the kids, and access concerns. They got pretty beaten down in all respects and it takes them a while just to recover and start planning and deciding what the hell they are going to do with their lives

In some parts of the country there actually isn't any formal emergency accommodation ... that's where you get workers contacting camping grounds to see if they can find a bed for this person. Often they may not have the support of extended family, or the resources of the family are stretched to capacity anyway So people find themselves in situations where they've got very few choices

Service provider

Owner



access and exclusion

”

They find it hard to find a place to stay. People won't have them.

”

- Camping grounds as the only choice
- Shortages in housing market, competitive environment
- Ex-prisoners, mental health consumers, single men particularly vulnerable
- Marginalised groups much



”

It seems to be very difficult for workers to really assist people who have come out of prison. You're often facing barriers from prospective landlords, flatmates, and others who may know the background of that person and not want to take them on.

”

So where do they go?

pathways to temporary dwellings

lack of options
reliance on camping grounds
barriers to mainstream and state
housing
camping grounds as emergency accommodation

Socially-structured pathways into temporary housing,
an expression of social exclusion

pathways out

" I won't be going anywhere now. I'll go out of here in a casket "

- limited potential
- pathways in coupled with pathways out
- recurring cycles
- forced relocation - eviction, development



*" Normally they have no money by the time they get there ...
There's nowhere for them to go afterwards either,
'cos you know, there's nothing else.
Apart from a trip to the police station,
or a trip to the hospital again, or back to prison "*

*" See how it is here, it's already been booked out for December 1st.
So it's going to be hard, we're cutting it close. Oh, it's going to be tight, but we usually manage.
Still got a couple of weeks, should be able to sort it out by then "*

permanent residents in temporary housing

- camping grounds fulfill a housing need in NZ
- these pathways, and camping ground residence itself, are more exclusionary than other forms of housing
- local and national expressions of social exclusion
- ongoing lack of control and impaired rights through structure of housing market

not simply a housing problem, but a wider social and political issue

- Camping ground residents located outside legal regulations, within local definitions of homelessness
- The adequacy of housing provision in NZ for marginalised groups is questionable
- Address housing as a means to reduce social exclusion, poverty, inequalities
- Access to secure and stable housing must be regulated and provided for at local and central government through actions such as: increasing supply of affordable housing, investment in low cost housing and emergency