

Policy for the provision of Accessible Housing and Lifemark Accreditation in QLCHT Developments - 4.3

Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust
September 2010
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Background

Accessible Housing is a term used to describe the construction or modification of housing to enable independent living for persons with disabilities, and is facilitated by adopting universal design standards. Since 2015, QLCHT has endeavoured to provide a small number of Accessible Homes within its developments where feasible.

Currently around 4% of QLCHTs total housing portfolio is Accessible Housing.

It is considered appropriate that QLCHT set a firm target of new builds developed by it to be Accessible Housing.

In September 2010 QLCHT agreed to adopt the Lifemark¹ lifetime design principles, and pursue accreditation for prototype houses within new developments to the extent feasible, having regard to single-level older persons and family type housing, and multi-level housing.

While no QLCHT homes have yet attained accreditation, the Lifemark principles and universal design are discussed with designers and applied to QLCHT developments where practical and viable.

The Government's Public Housing entity, Kāinga Ora, has set a goal of ensuring 15% of the new homes it is building across the country meet universal design standards, and the rest meet as many as possible.

Policy Adopted

10% of the new homes built by QLCHT are Accessible Housing.

Adopt the Lifemark lifetime design principles, and pursue accreditation for prototype houses within new developments to the extent feasible, having regard to single-level older persons and family type housing, and multi-level housing.

¹ Lifemark is an independent assessment of a building plan, accompanied by the Lifemark seal of approval (issued once constructed) which provides confirmation that a home has been designed & built in accordance with the five Lifetime Design Principles – being usability, adaptability, accessibility, inclusion and lifetime value.