



THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL
Te kaunihera o ngā roto o Rotorua

Civic Centre
1061 Haupapa Street
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046
New Zealand

Please Quote: 01-28-021\03
Doc No: RDC-1226354

15 February 2022

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister of Social Development and Employment
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email: c.sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz
Cc: Monty Morrison monty.morrison@gmail.com
Hon Poto Williams, Minister of Police p.williams@ministers.govt.nz
Debbie Power c/o Justina.gear002@msd.govt.nz
Mike Bryant mike.bryant001@msd.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister

Further to letter from Mayor Chadwick and Monty Morrison (sent 24.11.21) regarding emergency housing challenges in Rotorua

I am writing regarding the letter sent from myself and Te Arawa Kaumatua Monty Morrison (24 November 2021) where we shared our serious concerns on the emergency housing crisis that has unfolded in Rotorua.

As yet, neither Mr Morrison nor I have received a response from your Ministry to the distressing information that we shared in our correspondence and the questions that we raised. This lack of communication is more than disappointing and impacts on our ability to provide the leadership that our community so desperately needs right now.

In our previous letter we highlighted that our community was suffering on a daily basis due to drug use, violent behaviour, family violence, vandalism and other anti-social behaviours in the proximity of the motels providing emergency housing. These issues have escalated over the last four months since we wrote to you.

The contracted motels are clearly showing improved outcomes but our local police have confirmed that the issues are emanating almost exclusively from the unmanaged emergency housing facilities. Crime and victimisation in and around these establishments has escalated to a point where our community has lost tolerance and good will towards all of those living in emergency housing facilities.

We have lost any community empathy and support and Council has been forced to invest in security patrols, cameras and additional cleaning and maintenance. This is not sustainable.

As we prepare to face the worst of the pandemic it is also very clear that a significant number of unmanaged motels lack the separate facilities necessary for their clients to minimise the spread of Covid. As we predicted in our letter to you in November, a number of the facilities experienced outbreaks over the December/January period. This is another factor that puts our whole community at risk and is not acceptable.

P: +64 7 348 4199 | F: +64 7 346 3143 | E: info@rotorualc.nz | W: rotorualakescouncil.nz

Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council.

SISTER CITIES: Klamath Falls, Oregon, U.S.A. Beppu City, Oita, Japan Lake Macquarie, NSW, Australia Wuzhong District, Suzhou, China

People living inside and outside of our community feel that Rotorua is bearing the brunt of the housing crisis. The crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in the vicinity of emergency housing motels is clearly visible and this is adversely impacting on our community, our economy and our reputation as a visitor destination.

This cannot go on and I ask you again to reassess the policy settings being applied through MSD on the choice applied to accommodation, as given the current situation, I have no confidence that the Housing Hub or contracted services will address the escalating safety and behaviour issues that are within and emanating from the unmanaged emergency housing motels.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Chadwick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Steve Chadwick JP
Mayor