

A new life for Neela - video transcript

[Music playing in background, on screen the words 'A new life for Neela' appear]

Tracy Findlay talking: We had a day where we could all come and have a look, all the perspective families and walked in here and thought wow you know this is amazing. Its light and airy, clean totally purpose built.

[Conversation between Tracy and Neela in the background. Tracy talking to Neela: "Hi Neela, do you want to play with the iPad?"]

Tracy Findlay: Perfect we couldn't ask for anything better. Changed our minds

Lady voice over: Neela Findley is now living in one of three brand new community group homes built by Housing New Zealand and leased by Geneva Healthcare in West Auckland with 24 hour care.

Tracy Findlay: Neela was born, she was breach, and she was born at the 3 weeks early and was deprived of oxygen, they did a scan early on and there was scaring on the brain, brain damage, her whole life has been effected by it, there's nothing that's not been effected by this injury.

It's a really hard thing to give up your child who's so vulnerable to someone else to look after and care for you know its just massive. This is where we are now with the help of Housing Corp, if they hadn't have put these houses here I don't know where we would have been because there's not a lot of options open and we had explored them and I was feeling very not very confident at all about the future because we had previously had been let down with other organisations.

Lady voice over: Housing New Zealand has around 1500 community group housing properties, they offer a new way of living for people with special and high needs and many of the residents have moved out of institutions.

Karen Hocking - National Manager Tenancy Support Services: Community group housing is really hard to get on the private market, landlords and developers can't afford to provide the level of modification that the people that use our properties require. Our properties are often highly modified they have specialist compliance features such as specialist widen doors, they have bathrooms that you can put a bath trolley, shower trolley into them, fire systems and lovely open spaces so that the people that live in the homes if they use equipment or in wheelchairs can easily access around getting to their bedrooms.

Lady voice over: The community group homes sit on a large 1620 square metre site that previously held just one outdated 1950s brick and tile house.

Jan Taylor - Community Living National Manager Geneva Healthcare: The clients just love it, the families love it, it's just, it just feels like home. Because there's the three houses on one site there's always more people round which is quite nice when you want to get away from your flatmate. We've got one young man who lives in house B, but spends most of his day in house C because he actually enjoys the company of the youngsters in there.

[Conversation between Tracy and Neela in the background]

Tracy Findlay: Here we are today parents that have cared for their children all their life get an opportunity to come and live in brand new beautiful homes and that their parents feel safe that they're secure.

Karen Hocking: People can live full lives in their beautiful homes

Tracy Findlay: For us as a family it's been, it was the right decision to make and we are so thankful to Housing Corp have taken the initiative and set these houses up.

[Music playing, text appears on screen: Thanks to Tracy, Neela and the Findlay family. For more on eligibility for social housing, www.msd.govt.nz. Housing New Zealand logo and website address www.hnzc.co.nz]