

My home, my sanctuary – video transcript

[Words come up on screen "My home, my sanctuary"]

[Music playing in the background as a pair of hands put a plant in a pot]

Lady voice over: Jude Davison is making a new start she's turned her life around after living with drug addictions and a big part of her recovery has been moving into a refurbished Housing New Zealand home.

Jude Davison: My life was a mess I really couldn't go any further down. I came in the carpet had been brand carpeted everything was brand new. I danced in my chair. To put it in one word, sanctuary, it means that I have a home not just a house.

Lady voice over: Housing New Zealand provides accessible housing to more than 3,700 disabled tenants and their families. Modifications are made to suit each tenant, bench heights have been adjusted to suit her power chair and the bench is mounted on brackets so it can be easily adjusted.

Jude Davison: it's got so much room, its light, I can do everything I wanted in this house I couldn't do before. Just getting round in a chair is much easier.

Lady voice over: Jude's newly refitted bungalow is easy to manoeuvre around, walls have been removed to create space, insulation has been added so the house is warm and dry, the bathroom is completely accessible.

Patrick Dougherty GM Development: So this house here is a good example of a house that's actually modified to suit specific needs so things like ramps, wider doorways, bathroom and toilets adjusted so they can actually be accessed by someone in Jude's situation.

Sarah Cameron - architect: For all our houses both our new and existing there's a real focus on making sure our houses are healthy and warm so heating, insulation, curtains, and everything has ventilation which is really important. So looking at it holistically not only in day to day things but also making sure that the house is a healthy house for the customer.

Lady voice over: A year ago Jude was living in this state house suburb. Three old duplex's on a large area of land. Housing New Zealand the country's largest landlord is replacing them with 17 warm, dry and fit for purpose homes in this special housing area. Investing billions in new housing across the country, all of Housing New Zealand's new homes have been built to universal or life time design standards for more than a decade.

Patrick Dougherty GM Development: Today we now have to look at the fact that we require more one bedrooms and two bedrooms and in some cases larger four and five bedrooms houses that the families require. So in Auckland specifically we are finding also that we can respond to the opportunity that the special housing areas give us to make land available to be developed at a higher density using the Unitary Plan rules.

Lady voice over: Homes like Jude's are transforming the way tenants live, creating better futures for thousands of Housing New Zealand tenants.

Jude Davison: I feel peace, I feel joy, I feel safe because its a fresh new start for me.

[Music playing in the background text comes up on screen 'With thanks to Jude Davison, Find out more about Special Housing Areas www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz, for more on eligibility for social housing www.msd.govt.nz Housing New Zealand logo appears with website address www.hnzc.co.nz']