

PPC28:

Tākiri mai te haeata  
ki runga Kākā, tū tonu mai rā e Koro e  
Tirohia iho ki te tairua, kia rato ai te noho a te iwi e...

E tū ana au i te tihi tapu o Maungatapu  
Ka mātai whakararo ki ngā wai tuku kiri o Maitahi  
E ripi rere ana ki taku whenua taurikura ki Whakatū  
I puta ai te kōrero  
Mai Anatoto ki Kurupongi ki Ngā Kiore ki Takapourewa  
Whiti atu ki Te Matau  
Koata Taonga, Koata Mana, Koatatanga e!  
E ko Tainui, ko KURAHAPŌ, ko Tokomaru  
E ko Ngāti Koata, ko Ngāti Toarangatira, ko Ngāti Kuia, ko Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, ko Te Ātiawa tēnei e  
tū ake nei.

Tuatahi, ka mihi ki ōku kaumātua e noho mai nei i tēnei rā, tēnā koutou.  
Ka mihi ki ngā kaikauwhau i tū ki mua i au, ā, ka tautoko i ngā kōrero kua kōrerohia.  
Me mihi ka tika ki a koutou ngā kaiwhakawā e noho mai nā, e āta whakarongo, e āta whakaarohia i  
ngā kōrero e puta ana.  
Ka mutu, ka huri aku mihi ki te marea nei  
Nō reira, ngā mihi o te ata ki a tātou katoa.

My name is Kimiora McGregor, and I'm here today to share some of my personal experiences with  
the Nelson rental market over the past 6 years, which hasn't been great but is the catalyst for my  
goal of home ownership.  
I also want to give voice to the pathway and opportunity that Maitahi Village could provide for me  
and people like me to achieve that goal.

I am 37 and the second eldest of 5, and I was born and raised here in Whakatū.  
I have 5 children who were also born here in Whakatū.

We whakapapa to 7 of the 8 iwi of Te Taihū, and our ancestral connections to this whenua through  
our Kurahapō lines go back more than 500 years to Ngāti Māmoe, Ngāi Tarapounamu and  
Tūmatakōkiri, with our Tainui and Tokomaru tūpuna arriving from 1824.

My eldest child was born in 2007, and my second child in 2011. We had a secure rental from 2007 to  
2014, when I decided to move to Wellington to study at Victoria University.

My third child was born towards the end of my study year which I completed before deciding to  
return home in early 2016.

This is where my experience with the Nelson rental market began.

The kids were enrolled in kura and kōhanga, and I got a job as a database administrator for Ngāti  
Koata Trust (where I am still working).

We squished in at Mum's while we looked for a rental - viewing at least 2 a week, and applying for  
almost all of them. This went on for 6 months, before we finally secured a private rental in mid July.

When the tenancy period expired, the landlord did not wish to renew it, so we were back at Mum's for another 6 months while viewing and applying for rentals again.

We secured another private rental in early April, but after 18-months the landlords decided they wanted to return to Nelson. By now I had had 2 more children. So it was back to Mum's for all of us, and viewing and applying for rentals again. We secured another private rental, this time within a month.

But after 12 months, the landlords decided to sell. We were given 3 months notice, and I got straight onto attending viewings and putting in rental applications again.

Three months were up, and I hadn't secured a rental. This was really distressing and we faced the possibility of emergency housing and going on the social housing waitlist, even though we could afford market rates for a rental. I didn't feel living in a motel would be good for my children. So, my parents moved out of the family home into a small flat to give my children and I a home, and this is where we are currently living, but it isn't ideal as a forever situation.

My experience with renting over the past 6 years has been extremely stressful. The rental market is insanely competitive and biased in Nelson. All of the rentals we secured were private rentals. Not one of the property management companies we applied for rentals with between 2016 and 2021, did a single reference check. I know this because I checked in with my references each time I applied for a place.

Unfortunately, a Māori family, with 5 kids and 3 children under 5, even with long term, secure employment, good income, good credit, excellent employment and tenancy references, and actively involved in their community, were not worth a reference check for more than 100 rentals over a 6 year period.

But families like us need somewhere to live too.

The housing crisis is real and favours families like mine. The need for secure housing is great. The need for equitable opportunities for stable and secure housing is great.

I hadn't really given much thought to home ownership before 2016, but my experience with the Nelson rental market has led me to conclude it's the only way to provide my children with genuinely secure housing, THUS home ownership is the goal.

I visited the Kākā Valley site last week. It is beautiful,  
spacious,  
bright,  
sunny,  
and the vision for this community, intergenerational housing development is a welcome opportunity that should be realised.

Maitahi Village would help to alleviate the housing crisis in Nelson. Maitahi Village would give people like me, and families like mine, a genuine and realistic pathway to home ownership.

The opportunity for my children and I to have a warm, dry, stable and secure home that we own, on ancestral land, in a community environment, would be an investment in our present and future, and would do the same for others like us.

I therefore support the approval for the plan change.

Nō reirā, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.