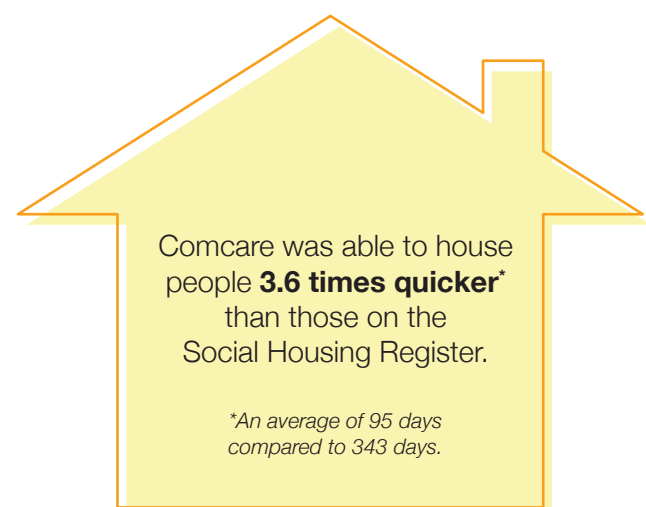
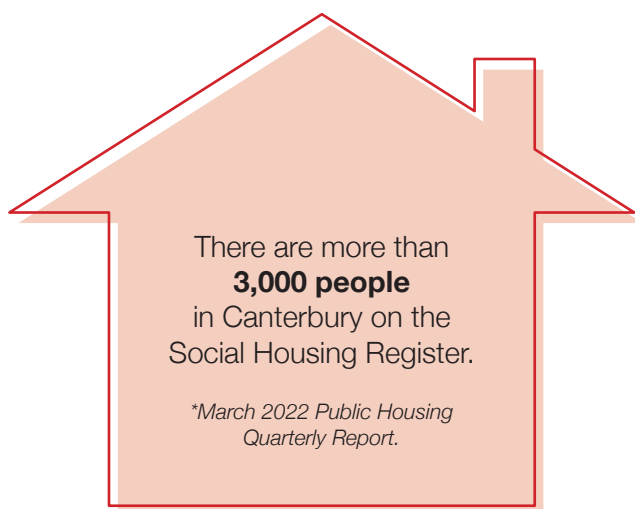


He Ara Oranga - Report of the Government Inquiry Into Mental Health and Addiction clearly identifies that access to safe, appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing is a key determinant of health, particularly mental health.

Successive Governments since 1999, have promoted a more integrated approach to service delivery with the aim of reducing perceived fragmentation of services, making better use of resources and improving discussions between relevant stakeholders.

For the last 25 years, Comcare's Housing Facilitation Service has supported people to locate, set up and maintain successful tenancies. Our team provide practical support and advice to people when signing Tenancy Agreements, dealing with WINZ, dealing with debt issues and engaging with landlords. Importantly, rapid supports are also available to people to sustain their tenancy if difficulties arise.



Comcare's Housing Facilitation Service is a health-funded programme, which delivers sustainable housing solutions. The service is provided in conjunction with a number of other health-funded initiatives.



Comcare Inpatient Workers

The Housing Facilitation Team have a worker partially based at the Specialist Mental Health Services Inpatient Unit, in Hillmorton Hospital, Christchurch. The worker addresses the needs of people who are ready to leave the unit, but have no accommodation to go to, or are at risk of losing housing. The worker assists with emergency housing processes, as well as private tenancy searches, or addressing issues where current housing is at risk.



Home Rescue

The Home Rescue Service provides urgent support and intervention where there is a risk of housing loss due to a deterioration of mental health, or ongoing barriers to maintaining the tenancy.

The Service can provide:

- Environmental cleaning and rubbish removal.
- Liaison with landlords to address issues of rent arrears.
- Assistance with the care of pets during inpatient stays.
- Assistance with neighbour disputes.



Complex Case Advisor

Although Health-funded, Complex Case Advice is provided with and across multiple agencies (Health, Corrections, Housing, for example) focusing on creating pathways of support into housing for individuals with high and complex needs. These are individuals for whom appropriate housing is extremely challenging to find, either with social housing providers or in the private sector.

At Comcare we view access to and sustaining of affordable, safe, quality housing as a health intervention. Working in partnership with and providing connections across multiple statutory, private and not-for-profit agencies is a critical ingredient in delivering successful housing and health outcomes.



Client Feedback

“Thank you so much for ‘being there’ for me. I really can’t express how grateful I am, **life now has a much better outlook for me.**”

“**Now I can start my life** – thank you!”

“I felt so scared having nowhere to go. **The worker was so great making me feel there was a way through** and I would be safe.”

“I need to extol my **extreme gratitude**, more than just appreciating the worker. For someone to know how safe and calm they allowed us to feel. There is no way I could have coped [without Comcare] and I’m so grateful.”

