

Wellington Region Housing Stocktake (Phase II) – 2 page summary

The cross-sectoral Wellington Regional Healthy Housing Group (WRHHG) was established in 2017 and formalised via MoU in October 2018. The Group's vision is that: *Everyone in the Wellington Region Lives in Warm, Dry, and Safe Housing by 2025.*

Wellington region's housing stock is generally in poor condition with low levels of insulation, heating, and ventilation in many homes which directly affects physical and mental health. There is a large body of evidence and experience that illustrates some aspects of what the problem is, for who and where it is most significant, and provides some evidence of what works to address it. It covers a complex and interrelated web of factors – including dwelling supply and performance, values and knowledge that affect householder and homeowner behaviour, systemic factors affecting access to support and resources, central and local government policy, regulation and funding. It spans the work of health, construction, council regulation and planning, community-based and research sectors. However, this information is not available in a way that provides a coherent regionally-specific picture, and it has some gaps.

WRHHG is driving a project to carry out a housing stocktake **to map and synthesise available information to answer targeted questions around housing supply and quality across the Wellington region.** The findings will inform WRHHG plan of action going forward and where we can best use our collective energy and resources.

In 2019, Regional Public Health on behalf of WRHHG received Building Levy funding to carry out Phase I of this project - a Housing Data Stocktake that identified publicly available data sources that could inform understanding of housing quality and supply in Wellington Region. The data stocktake report is a key input to the Phase II project, which will draw on public sources, data available from WRHHG members and other research to answer a set of sub-questions developed by the group together with an advisory panel with research and lived-experience expertise.

Relevant research being carried out contemporaneously is not Wellington Region specific (except RPH research) but will provide some disaggregable data by Wellington region and sub-regions. It includes:

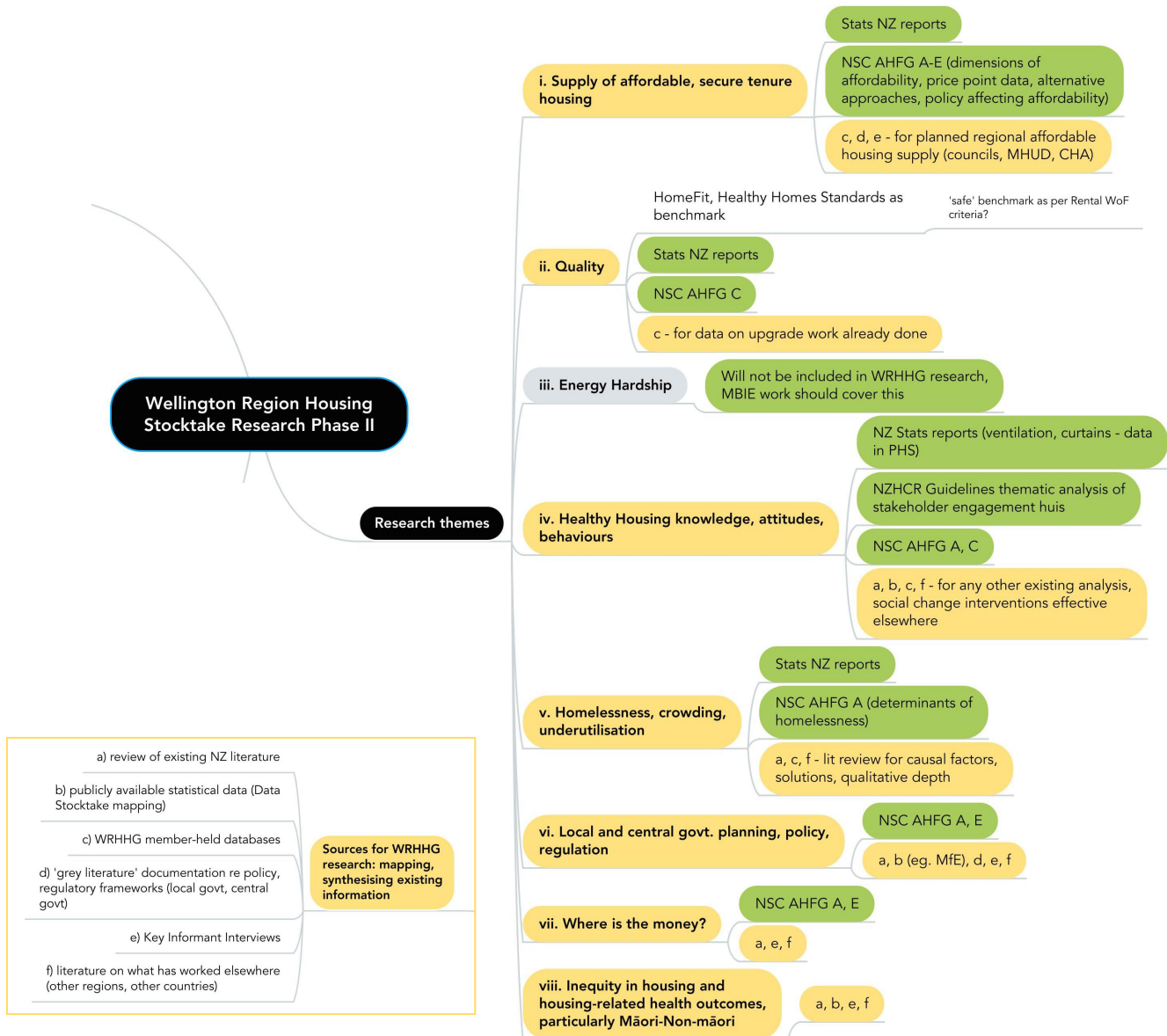
- NZ Stats with MHUD and BRANZ are working on updated Housing Reports due Dec 2020, based on areas identified in the 2009 Housing Statistics Review, including housing demand and supply, affordability, habitability (building performance) and suitability.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) is currently developing a housing quality measure under the StatsNZ Housing Quality Framework.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is tasked with establishing a definition of Energy Hardship and a framework for measuring this as part of the government response to findings of the Electricity Price Review.
- Various research happening under the National Science Competition 11 Affordable Housing for Generations Programme is complementary and related though not regionally specific.
- Wellington Regional Public Health, Health in All Policies team (RPH, HiAP) have a registrar working on a literature review project, looking at "the evidence base for community-level housing interventions and their effect on public health outcomes", with specific focus still to be determined at time of writing (Sept 2020). WRHHG will be coordinating to ensure that the RPH project and the research outlined here are complementary.
- Waikato Regional Housing Initiative (WRHI) in 2019 completed a Waikato region-specific Housing Stocktake which has informed our design. However this was housing supply rather than housing quality focused so had only partial crossover with the research proposed here.

The WRHHG research focuses on elements not already being addressed, and on drawing together the various strands of research with the aim of synthesising a coherent overall evidence-base as a final

WELLINGTON REGIONAL HEALTHY HOUSING GROUP

research product. We expect to produce a final synthesis report by January 2021. Some of the research streams identified above (eg. NSC11) will not be complete at that time so preliminary findings will be included in the synthesis where possible.

Sub-questions guiding the research are organised under a framework of seven themes, summarised below. More information is available on request from WRHHG (contact info@wrhhg.org.nz).



WRHHG welcomes suggestions, questions and advice on other research including evidence of 'solutions that work'. We work through a collective impact model, recognising we have common goals though diverse strategies and targets. We believe that by working together we will get more of Wellington region's people into warm, dry, safe housing more quickly. By doing so, we will see a healthier and happier population, significant savings in healthcare and energy costs to local and central government as well as individuals, and better outcomes across a range of other factors affecting wellbeing including education, employment, social connection, environment health.