

Homeless children in Aotearoa: “Are we there yet? Are we there yet?”

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Content

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- Methodology and method
- Definitions
- Results “Are we there yet?”
- So what?
- Where could we be?



*“Ladybird, ladybird fly away home,
your house is on fire,
your children are gone”*

Traditional (1744)



The research questions

What are the advantages and disadvantages of boarding houses?

1. Identify the drivers for people living in boarding houses.
2. Provide insight into the experience of living in these dwellings.
3. Explore options to improve boarding houses, particularly for those with poor health or disability.



Methodology and method

Methodology

- Qualitative, constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz 2006)

Method

- Semi-structured interviews with 9 participants: 2 boarders, 3 health workers, 4 landlords or managers
- Purposeful sampling and theoretical sampling
- Coding and creating theory



Definitions

Homelessness

Temporary Accommodation

*“Living situations are considered temporary accommodation when they provide shelter over-night, or when 24-hour accommodation is provided in a **non private dwelling**, and are not intended to be lived in long-term”.*

(Statistics New Zealand 2009).

Boarding house

*“(a) containing 1 or more boarding rooms along with facilities for communal use by the tenants of the boarding house; and
“(b) occupied, or intended by the landlord to be occupied, by at least 6 tenants at any one time.”*

(Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2010, Residential Tenancies Act 1986).



“Are we there yet”

- Yes, families with infants and young children are living in boarding houses.
- Yes, young people are living in boarding houses.

Drivers: Segmented market

- Affordability
- Debt
- Exiting institutions
- Relationship breakdown
- Location and convenience
- Tourism



Results cont:-

Experiences:

1. Poor physical and social environments impact negatively on children's well-being.
2. Sharing communal spaces and the lack of privacy and control over who can walk into the accommodation.
3. Impacts negatively on ability to parent, sleep over, weekend visits, gaining custody of children.
4. Poor management practices/ lack of maintenance/ eviction.



So what?

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) in 1989.
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, Articles 23 and 24) 1966.
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR, Article 10) 1966.



Where could we be?

- The provision of housing
- The provision of health and social service support
- Protection with proactive inspection and licensing
- Protection with eviction prevention policy
- Protection with security of tenure
- Enable participation by reducing family debt



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