

Flexible design in the Rotorua NOW Home

The Rotorua NOW Home was designed to be flexible and adaptable into the future, and to meet the needs of a Maori community.

A 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, single storey house with an attached garage, the Rotorua NOW Home has a total floor area of 141.2m² including the garage.

Meeting Maori needs

Situated in a predominantly Maori community, the Rotorua NOW Home was designed to reflect Maori values with: food related facilities separated from laundry, bathroom and toilets; a large, flexible open plan living space, deck, second bathroom and large kitchen for whanau gatherings; and a large well-equipped garage which could accommodate extra people during a tangi - tangi activity must be closed off from the kitchen.

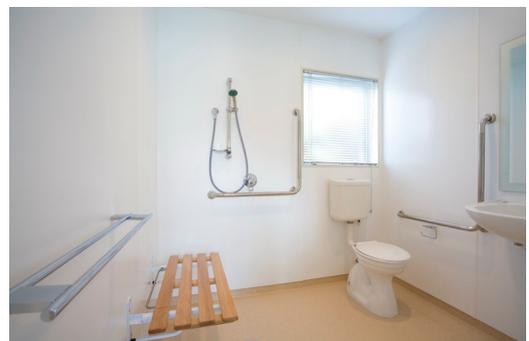
For more information, read Housing New Zealand's design guide, *Ki Te Hau Kainga: new perspectives on Maori housing solutions*.

Flexible for the future

The Rotorua house meets Housing New Zealand specifications for a modified home, so it can be made available to disabled tenants. The Rotorua NOW Home has an asphalt driveway leading to both garage and front door. All exterior doors have a low threshold, allowing wheelchair access to the house through the front entry and also to the concrete deck area and the washing line/utility area. There are no internal steps.

All hallway spaces are 1200mm wide to ensure sufficient room for wheelchair movement. All doors are 810mm wide allowing for a minimum 760 clearance for wheelchair access. An internal door provides easy access from the garage. Lever handles on all doors ensure they are easy to operate. Most power points are placed at 400mm above the finished floor level.

One of the two bathrooms in the Rotorua NOW Home is fully wheelchair accessible with a level access shower to meet Code requirements for accessibility. The toilet suite is designed to provide a raised seat height of between 460-480mm for disabled persons. The wall basin is designed for people with disabilities combined with an extended-lever mixer tap, also designed for disabled use.



For more information:

- Beacon website www.beaconpathway.co.nz/new-homes/article/what-is-the-rotorua-now-home-project