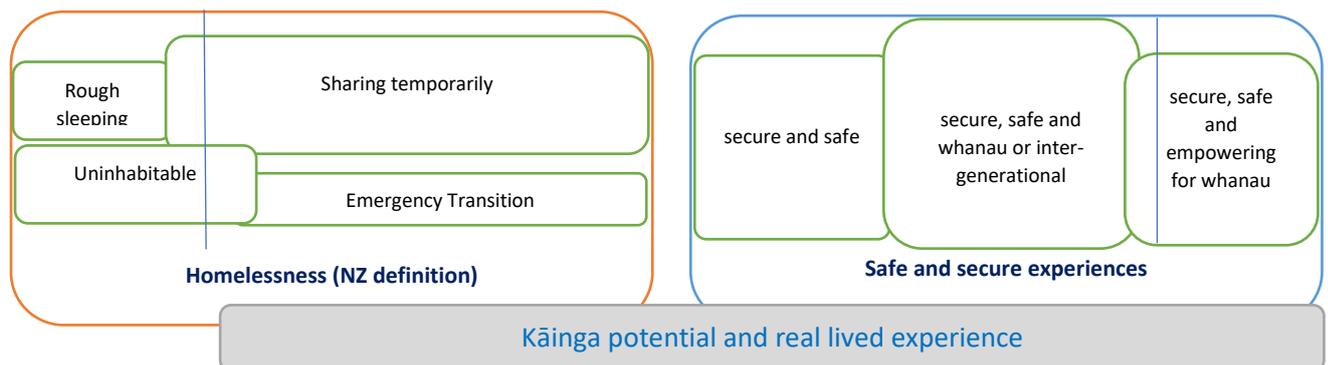


**DISCUSSION DOCUMENT**

**Re-thinking the HOUSING CONTINUUM**

**Our take on the housing continuum:**



- The gap in the middle is intentional and represents – in Auckland – both an income and opportunity gap between those in safe and secure housing and those not. The income gap arises because house and rent prices are such that for many whanau incomes are insufficient to achieve housing security. Whanau income does not change over-night and this is therefore relatively intractable, creating the gap. The opportunity gap arises because there is an under-supply of housing including in the social housing market which impacts on our compliance with Te Tiriti and human rights obligations. There is no over-supply of safe secure housing, into which whanau can flow when the time is right for them.
- We believe there is a great deal of confluence and inter-change among the categories
- We believe the linear progression presented in the use of arrows in other models is an inherent part of the financial continuum model and adds an unrealistic and insensitive compulsion to ‘move along the line’ which leads to *financial nirvana*
- The blue lines indicate a speculative scope of the space in which our social housing market operates. In terms of housing experience we acknowledge that an effective social housing system has the potential to both reach and support more whanau experiencing housing insecurity, and provide a more ambitious housing experience outcomes for whanau in terms of empowerment, safety, security, and *Kāinga*;
- Box sizes could be informed by population in each category

In this project, we are seeking to help the shift from thinking about housing in terms of financial cost, to thinking about its social function. This shift has been called for by participants at the Auckland Māori Housing Summit (April 2018) and by the United Nations.

We have therefore developed the model above which reflects housing experiences – the social function of housing, not income and financial outcomes as the principle outcome of housing. We have also reconsidered the typical linearity of the model which presupposes a linear differentiation of homelessness experiences, and seems to imply a need to move through those stages before exiting – a kind of graduation exercise from homelessness.

There are significant colonial, patronisation, capitalist, and hegemonic implications to this model which require critical review.

**Other approaches to the HOUSING CONTINUUM**, develop and use housing continuum models that are fundamentally about promoting financial outcomes through and reflected in housing. They are laden with *tenure* and this leads to stratification based on wealth or income, which is unreasonable and fails to reflect or promote the true social function of housing. The function of housing is not ‘wellbeing through equity’.

We have been clearly warned about framing housing outcomes for Māori through the lens of ownership. This is because presenting to or locating a whanau experiencing housing need on the continuum doesn’t provide much support or useful context for that whanau. It does however potentially disempower them by highlighting the deficit they are experiencing, especially in regard to what must be recognised as an intractable factor in the lives of all whanau: income. While income always changes overtime, the short-term capacity of any whanau – whatever income bracket, to substantively change their household income is extremely limited. Few people or whanau remain in one income bracket when there is a clear, achievable and accessible step available to a higher income bracket.

*One example of the ownership and financial focused model (from the Auckland Plan). This model explicitly states the public sector aspiration of decreased support, which appears as an added compulsion on whanau to move along the line):*

