

# Anthony never believed it would happen



Anthony Waite with the Curative production company crew – Senior Designer Logan Bradley (left) and Project Manager Sarah Wilson.

Anthony Waite has a home of his own – something he didn't think was possible for a man like him, with an intellectual disability. But having his own place has transformed his life.

Anthony works very hard at maintaining his independent life. He cleans ambulances five days a week at St John in Auckland, and when he's not there he is working at Totara Hospice in Manurewa.

For the past three or four years he has been living with a flatmate in a Papakura townhouse. He keeps the section smart and tenants of the other townhouses pay him to mow their lawns too.

And still he has time to be a video star. Anthony recently featured in 'We Believe', a video produced as part of a campaign

by the Auckland Community Housing Providers' Network to reinforce the fact that everyone has the right to a home of their own. "I never believed I'd have somewhere stable to live," he says in the film, which shows him caring for his two budgies.

The video highlights the part that network members have played, and can continue to play, in housing those who can't afford to house themselves.

Anthony, who is supported by IDEA Services to live independently, rents his townhouse, one of a block of four, from IHC subsidiary Accessible Properties New Zealand Limited (APNZL). He says he likes living there. "I like to talk to the other neighbours." Anthony also liked taking part in the filming. "I was thinking I was cool when I saw myself there.

Yes, it turned out good," he says. "I could do more acting."

APNZL is one of 21 community housing organisations operating across Auckland that have formed the Auckland Community Housing Providers' Network.

APNZL Chief Executive Greg Orchard also added his on-screen support: "Over the past 30 years, we have provided warm, dry, safe homes to over 25,000 New Zealanders. We believe everyone has a right to a home to call their own".

In June APNZL won the Leading Asset Management category for 'Tauranga Portfolio Asset Management in a Changing Political Environment' in the New Zealand leg of the Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) Awards. The AHI Awards presentation was held during the Shift Aotearoa Conference in Wellington.