

Straight Up

A landlord's perception

Sometimes people's perception is that those with experience of mental illness don't make good tenants. Richard, a private investor landlord, is quick to point out quite the opposite is true.

He's been renting properties to clients from Keys for some time and is very happy with the arrangement. "We know the rent is going to be paid because generally the tenants have a rent redirection arranged with WINZ, and they look after the houses."

Another benefit for Richard is the tenants want to be settled which means they're fairly permanent. He believes there are fewer hassles with tenants from Keys because their housing co-ordinators are there to support them and help sort out any problems.

Richard says he's found Keys clients to be honest and reliable, especially with Keys providing support. "If they say they have a problem, they have a problem; there is no garbage from them. They will tell me straight up, other tenants often try telling me white is black!"

When he has a property vacant, Keys are often the first to know. "For us it's much easier. I know there is a very good backup service with them. The housing co-ordinator is 100 per cent professional."

Richard wants to encourage more landlords to look to Keys for potential tenants and has organised for a Keys housing co-ordinator to speak with the Taranaki Property Investors group.

