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Generation Rent: Rethinking New Zealand's Priorities (BWB Texts Book 30)

Generation Rent Rethinking New Zealand's Priorities

Shamubeel Eaqub
and Selena Eaqub

BWB Texts



Synopsis

'The decline of home ownership has struck at the heart of the Kiwi dream – so perhaps it is time to fashion a new one.' House prices may boom or bust but the long-term trend is clear: for more New Zealanders than ever, home ownership is out of reach. Incomes simply have not kept pace with skyrocketing property prices. 'Generation Rent'™ calls into question priorities at the heart of New Zealand's identity. In this BWB Text, Shamubeel and Selena Eaqub investigate how we ended up here, and what can be done to ensure all New Zealanders – home owners and renters alike – live in affordable and secure housing.

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Customer Reviews

This book, through the objective view of economists Shamubeel and Selena, and supported by very recent (at the time of my reading) research does a great job of highlighting the dangers to the New Zealand economy, and the community of the Auckland housing situation. I bought the book as a way

of supporting someone raising an important issue in a much more realistic way than our Housing Ministers or elected representatives. It brings together a clear summary of the dangers of the situation, the challenges for the majority of Aucklanders (who are renting). I don't always agree with the conclusions, but the authors have taken a dramatic step forward - in thinking, and bringing the subject into the public domain in a way that invites INFORMED discussion. There are some things I would like to have also had the authors perspectives of, such as the impact of schemes like Blue Chip (although they touch on the impact of the dodgy finance companies, this did feel like an omission), the number of building companies going into receivership (Tribeca being just the latest in a string), the leaky buildings fiasco (despite increasing governance costs from many Councils), and the often associated issue of poor building quality (such as the large number of apartments build by Cornerstone), the Christchurch rebuild and building training schemes (like apprenticeships). And it doesn't really cover the practical challenges of finding a flat when 30 other people are looking at the same unit, and bribes to the letting agent are becoming increasingly expected. The book is cheap (ironic since it discusses how expensive things are).

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