



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 9 DEC 2016

On 14 September 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The total amount paid by Work and Income, on behalf of clients, to Western Park Village for accommodation.*
- *Please specify how much of the above was recoverable/non recoverable.*
- *Please specify the total number of accommodation grants for Western Park Village.*
- *The largest individual grant paid to Western Park Village.*
- *All correspondence between MSD, the Minister(s) of Social Housing/Social Development regarding Western Park Village*
- *All correspondence between Western Park Village and the Ministry of Social Development (including all branch staff).*

On 11 October 2016, it was agreed that the time period for the information you have requested will be between 14 September 2014 and 14 September 2016.

The Ministry of Social Development acknowledges that caravan parks are not a suitable option for long-term accommodation. Some clients may choose to live in these parks on a long-term basis, however, for others it is temporary and used as a last resort when all other options for suitable housing have been exhausted. In these instances, we will continue to support these people to find alternative housing arrangements.

The Ministry is aware that Western Park Village may not be the most suitable accommodation for children despite the social support available in the Park. When we can find an alternative for families with children we will work with them to secure this. We recently met with our clients who have children to complete a review of their entitlements, including housing in the private sector and a possible Housing New Zealand referral.

The Western Park Village has a 'hub' on site which is a base for community organisations to provide services for residents, such as cooking classes and Plunket clinics. Residents can also meet with careers advisors and Work and Income case managers. The Public Health Nurse and Mental Health Nurse are frequent visitors to the communal hub and the Baptist Church pastoral care worker also has a regular presence.

The Auckland Work and Income region encourages clients to explore alternative accommodation. Work and Income provide options, advice and financial assistance to clients to allow them to access sustainable accommodation, however, the final decision over where they live remains with the client.

I have enclosed the following three tables that provide you with information about Hardship payments paid to clients who are residing in the Western Park Village. The collation of data for Hardship payments is the most robust way the Ministry can provide you with the information you have requested.

Table one: Hardship payments for Accommodation, Bonds and Tenancy, Rent Arrears, Board in Advance and Housing Support Package.

Recovery Indicator	Oct 14 to Sep 15		Oct 15 to Sep 16	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
No	0	\$0.00	S	\$837.00
Yes	480	\$243,672.07	S	\$227,713.22
Total	480	\$243,672.07	488	\$228,550.22

Table two: Hardship payments for Accommodation and Housing support package paid between 01 October 2014 and 30 September 2016 to Western Park Village by reason.

Reason	Oct 14 to Sep 15		Oct 15 to Sep 16	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Housing Support Package (HSP)	0	\$0.00	S	\$837.00
Rent Arrears	84	\$36,231.07	S	\$30,995.22
Rent in Advance	177	\$49,829.00	190	\$49,538.50
Tenancy Bond	219	\$157,612.00	215	\$147,179.50
Total	480	\$243,672.07	488	\$228,550.22

Note:

- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.

Table three: Single largest grant of hardship payments paid to Western Park Village over two fiscal periods between 14 September 2014 and 14 September 2016.

Oct 14 to Sep 15	Oct 15 to Sep 16
\$1,781.43	\$1,449.00

I have enclosed the following two documents that have been identified as in scope of your request.

- *'Briefing for Minister Bennett's Meeting with Mayor Len Brown: Emergency Housing'*, dated 24 August 2015.
- *'Minister Bennett – Meeting with Lisa Woolley, CEO VisionWest'*, dated 13 May 2016.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act as, if released, would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or

who is the subject of the information. The greater public interest is in ensuring that the commercial position can be maintained.

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Minister Tolley was provided with background information and advice to respond to the question for oral answer dated 30 October 2016. This information is withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

Some information has been removed as it is not within in the sopce of your request.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding the Western Park Village with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery



Memo

To: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons
From: s 9(2)(a) Team Manager, DCE Office
Date: 24 August 2015
Security level: IN CONFIDENCE

Briefing for Minister Bennett's Meeting with Mayor Len Brown: Emergency Housing

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with a background briefing on emergency housing and related issues for Minister Bennett's meeting with Mayor Len Brown on Tuesday 25th August. Out of scope

Background

Out of scope

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Suggested talking points

You may wish to discuss with Mayor Brown:

- how the Council and government could best work together on a short-term emergency housing response for Auckland
- how the Council could contribute to a short-term emergency housing response for Auckland. For example:
 - whether some of the \$250,000 per year that the Council has set aside for emergency housing providers could be used as capital for refurbishing existing properties or new builds;
 - whether Council-owned land could be used to deliver emergency housing.

Auckland Update

Out of scope



Western Park

The owners of the Western Park Village have committed to the Auckland Council that they will apply for resource consent for existing re-locatable housing units, and will lodge their application within the next two weeks.

The Council has advised that it will only authorise existing use of the park for up to two years. This has potential to impact on the 12 existing cabin sites that are currently used by permanent residents.

The owners are still reviewing reports and considering their options in relation to the consent for other redevelopments of the site.

s 9(2)(ba)(ii) Commercially sensitive

Local Work and Income staff are continuing to monitor all beneficiaries living at the park and advising them of assistance available and to apply for social housing, if appropriate.

Out of scope

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Memo

To: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons Private Secretary, Social Housing

From: s 9(2)(a) Senior Advisor, DCE Office, Service Delivery

Date: 13 May 2016

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE

Minister Bennett – Meeting with Lisa Woolley, CEO VisionWest

Purpose

The following information is provided to support Minister Bennett's meeting with Lisa Woolley, CEO of VisionWest, on Wednesday 18th May. s 9(2)(b)(ii) Commercially sensitive

Background

Out of scope

Out of scope

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s 9(2)(ba)(ii) Commercially sensitive

Current MSD engagement Western Park Village Residents

Local Work and Income staff continue to monitor all beneficiaries living at the park and advising them of assistance available and to apply for social housing, if appropriate

As at 28th April 2016 there were a total of 141 Work and Income clients residing at WPV, of whom 134 were receiving a benefit. Of those clients, 21 were under 18 years of age, 119 were aged 25-64 years, and one was over 65 years old. Of these clients 79 are noted as having a health condition or disability.

The following table provides a breakdown of Work and Income clients residing at WPV by benefit type:

Benefit Type	# of Clients
JS	77
SLP	40
SPS	15
EMA	s 9(2)(a)
Non-ben	7
Total	141

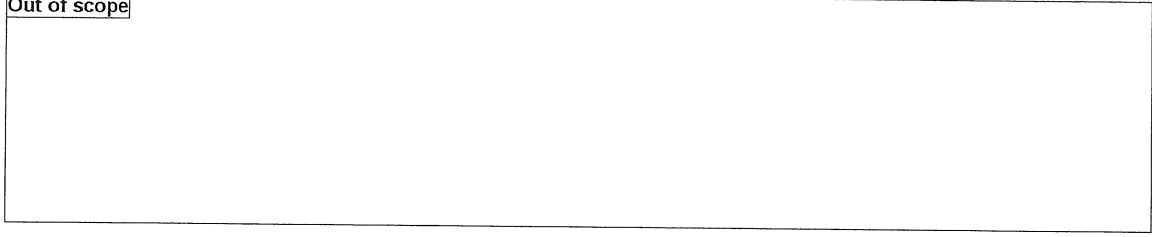
Monte Cecilia Housing Trust currently employs a social worker for 25 hours per week to coordinate social services at the 'The Hub' located at WPV. The coordinator provides a range of services to residents including: social work support services; referrals to other agencies; liaison with WPV owners; access to phone and internet, and coordination of voluntary and community-based initiatives. The coordinator also acts as 'point of first contact' for agencies including, MSD, Police, Corrections, schools, the District Health Board, and other social and health agencies.

Since 2014, Community Investment has contributed to the cost of the coordinator position through the fund holder, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust. Community Investment's contribution for the current financial year is \$45,000.

RFP Process

Out of scope

Out of scope



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