



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

7 APR 2017

9(2)(a)

On 13 and 16 December 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding emergency housing accommodation in the Auckland and Gisborne region.

On 1 July 2016, the Government introduced a Special Needs Grant (SNG) to help people who need emergency housing. The Emergency Housing SNG does not need to be paid back in most cases, and is payable for up to seven days while the Ministry works with the individual to investigate alternative housing options. In locations where contracted emergency housing places are limited or already at capacity, the Ministry will consider other housing options for people who require assistance. In some cases motels, hotels or similar accommodation may be the only emergency housing option available.

Further information regarding Emergency Housing SNGs is available on the Ministry's website:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/e8179917emergency-housing.html

For clarity, your questions have been addressed in turn.

- *Are you able to please provide me with a list of all emergency housing providers WINZ clients are currently housed in in Auckland, and how much per week WINZ is paying for that accommodation (regardless of whether it must be eventually paid back by the WINZ client or not), itemised with the description of the accommodation.*

I can advise that, as at 15 February 2017, the Ministry had contracts with 13 Auckland emergency housing providers who were providing 252 places for people with an urgent housing need. These 252 places consist of various sizes and types of accommodation, such as multi bedroom units or cabins with shared facilities and self contained studio rooms. Please refer to Appendix A for a list of contracted Auckland emergency housing providers broken down by the number of places and the annual value of the contracted places.

Motels and other commercial accommodation are only used when all other options have been exhausted to provide a short-term solution for those in need, while the Ministry works to bring more contracted emergency housing places available. To this end, the Ministry has made payments to over 500 accommodation providers across the country since the emergency housing SNG was implemented.

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Some accommodation has been used frequently, where demand has been high, while accommodation in areas where there has been low demand have been used less frequently.

- *Do you currently or have you this year placed any clients in Gisborne's Endeavour Lodge Motel or Eastland Motor Lodge?*

The Ministry's primary responsibility is to provide options, advice and financial assistance to individuals to allow them to access suitable emergency accommodation. When someone presents with an emergency housing need, Work and Income staff work with them to assess all options, including referring them to contracted emergency housing providers, and where that is not possible providing options, advice and financial assistance to secure appropriate and cost effective commercial accommodation. Work and Income staff do not 'place' people into commercial accommodation, the final decision as to where people choose to stay remains with the individual and their family.

The following table provides the amount of Emergency Housing SNGs granted as well as the number of clients who have stayed at the Endeavour Lodge Motel and Eastland Motor Lodge for the quarter ending 30 September 2016.

Registered supplier	Number of grants	Number of clients	Total amount granted	Average grant amount
Eastland Motor Lodge	20	13	\$14,862	\$743.10
Endeavour Lodge Motel	14	6	\$8,455	\$603.93

Notes:

- Due to improvements in reporting, this data cannot be combined or compared with the December 2016 quarter data which can be found on the Ministry's website.
 - This data only includes grants where the grant was paid directly to the supplier through direct debit. Grants paid by other methods have accommodation details stored on individual client files. Substantial manual collation would be required to check each individual's file to find accommodation details.
 - The table shows the number of grants approved for that period, some grants may not have been paid as they were no longer required.
 - A client can have more than one grant in the same period of time.
- *If yes, what was the rate WINZ paid? This can be per night, per week, per month, whatever is applicable.*

The Ministry does not pay a set rate to the Endeavour Lodge Motel, the Eastland Motor Lodge or other commercial accommodation providers. Instead, the Ministry pays actual costs as quoted by the motel on the day.

The rates paid can change depending on the season, demand in the area (an event in the area could push rates higher), the household type and the number of people in that household. The table above shows the average grant amount.

More information regarding the Ministry's Emergency Housing SNG rates per night guideline is available at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/maximum-per-night-rates-for-special-needs-grant-for-emergency-housing.html

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

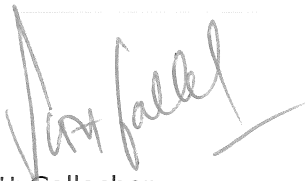
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter 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 emergency housing accommodation in the Auckland and Gisborne regions with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher
**Deputy Chief Executive, Housing
Ministry of Social Development**

Appendix A: Contracted Auckland emergency housing providers broken down by the number of places and the annual value of the contracted places as at 15 February 2017.

Contracted Providers	Places	Annual Value
De Paul House	12	\$213,356
Island Child Charitable Trust	4	\$63,284
Monte Cecilia Housing Trust	12	\$178,464
Te Manawanui Trust	4	\$16,120
Te Roopu O Te Whanau Rangimarie O Tamaki Makaurau	26	\$28,912
Whanau Resource Centre o Pukekohe Charitable Trust	4	\$12,972
Total Healthcare Charitable Trust - Gandhi Nevis	6	\$20,176
The Salvation Army NZ Trust	84	\$602,784
Nga Whare Whakaruruhau o Aotearoa National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges Inc (NCIWR)	38	\$54,870
James Liston Hostel	42	\$395,304
Ranui Baptist Community Care	6	\$39,104
The Lifewise Trust and Airedale Property Trust	4	\$60,944
Emerge Aotearoa Limited	10	\$1,000,000

Note:

Annual value costs may include the cost of accommodation provided as well as funding for associated support services, where applicable.