



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 5 JUL 2017



Dear 

On 17 January 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the number and value of emergency housing grants approved for Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty broken down by month since December 2015.

My sincerest apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Prior to the 2016 December quarter, emergency housing related hardship grants were coded in the Ministry's IT system as 'Other Emergency Payment', which included hardship grants for various other emergency reasons. The Ministry cannot disaggregate emergency housing hardship payments from other types of assistance granted under the 'Other Emergency Payment' category and any information regarding emergency housing grant payments prior to the December quarter is held in notes on individual case files.

I am able to provide you with the below data showing the number and amount of Advances paid under need reason "Other Emergency Payment" in the Bay of Plenty Work and Income Region for the quarters ending as shown.

Quarter Ending	Grants	Amount Granted
31 December 2015	866	\$167,625.75
31 March 2016	1,539	\$406,968.50
30 June 2016	928	\$182,644.23

Notes:

- A client can have more than one grant in the period.
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Other Emergency Payments are granted as Advances.
- The Ministry cannot determine if these were for emergency accommodation without substantial manual collation looking into each grant and client file individually. As such this data cannot be compared to Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants data from 1 July 2016.
- Region is based on the Work and Income region where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.

The Ministry reports information about Hardship grants quarterly, this ensures that the data published is accurate and reliable. Please note that the Bay of Plenty region includes Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty.

On 1 July 2016, the Ministry introduced a non recoverable Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (SNG). This grant has been made available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs.

Further information regarding Emergency Housing SNGs can be found on the Ministry's website:

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

Please refer to the below table for the estimated number and amount of Emergency Housing SNGs in the Bay of Plenty Work and Income Region for the quarter ending 30 September 2016. This data was collated for reporting as a one-off exercise for operational use, while reporting methods were being developed, and is an approximation.

Quarter Ending	Applications	Amount Granted
30 September 2016	700	\$561,000.00

Notes:

- This is a count of grants. A client can have more than one grant in the period.
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent. Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- This data includes Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants paid under the "Emergency Housing" payment reason and those paid under "Other" with client events identified as Emergency Housing related. This quarter's data should not be compared to future quarters data as it includes security deposits and is indicative only.
- This quarter's data counts multiple grants on the same day to the same client, as one application.

Since the release of the September 2016 quarter Emergency Housing SNG data, the Ministry has introduced a code dedicated to Emergency Housing SNGs. I am able to provide you with the following table that shows the number and amount of Emergency Housing SNGs in the Bay of Plenty Work and Income Region for the quarters ending 31 December 2016 and 31 March 2017 compiled using the Emergency Housing SNG code.

Quarter Ending	Grants	Amount Granted
31 December 2016	343	\$252,405.19
31 March 2017	241	\$210,321.07

Notes:

- A client can have more than one grant in the period.
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- Region is based on the Work and Income region where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.

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 shortly. 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 concerning Emergency Housing SNGs issued for Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gallacher', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Gallacher
Deputy Chief Executive, Housing