



2 NOV 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 22 September 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs) in the Waikato region. On 26 September 2018, you clarified your request as follows:

The proportion of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants granted to young people 18 – 24 and under 18 in Hamilton City and the Waikato for quarters ending December 2017, March, June and September 2018.

The purpose of EH SNGs is to help individuals and families with the cost of staying in short-term commercial accommodation such as a motel. EH SNGs are not intended as a long-term housing solution, and is only available as a last resort where no other options are available. They are a necessary solution while Ministry staff work with clients as more sustainable options are progressed to ensure that people have somewhere dry, warm and safe to stay.

The table below shows the number of EH SNGs granted to clients in Hamilton City and the Waikato aged between 18 and 24 in each of the quarters ending December 2017, March, June and September 2018. Please note that no EH SNGs have ever been granted to clients aged under 18.

Quarter ending	Waikato		Total
	Hamilton City	Other Waikato	
December 2017	3	14	17
March 2018	15	6	21
June 2018	65	22	87
September 2018	221	20	241
Total	304	62	366

Note:

- This is a count of grants. A client may have more than one grant in a time period.
- Hamilton City includes the Work and Income sites at Dinsdale, Five Cross Roads, Hamilton Central, Hamilton East and Glenview.
- Other Waikato includes the Work and Income sites at Te Awamutu, Ngaruawahia, Huntly, Thames, Paeroa, Waihi, Matamata, Morrinsville and Cambridge.
- 'Site' refers to the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- 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.

For context, the following table below shows the total number of EH SNGs granted for clients of all ages in Hamilton City and the Waikato for the quarters ending December 2017, March 2018, June 2018 and September 2018.

Quarter ending	Waikato		Total
	Hamilton City	Other Waikato	
December 2017	21	105	126
March 2018	102	94	196
June 2018	352	168	520
September 2018	978	210	1,188
Total	1,453	577	2,030

Note:

- This is a count of grants. A client may have more than one grant in a time period.
- Hamilton City includes the Work and Income sites at Dinsdale, Five Cross Roads, Hamilton Central, Hamilton East and Glenview.
- Other Waikato includes the Work and Income sites at Te Awamutu, Ngaruawahia, Huntly, Thames, Paeroa, Waihi, Matamata, Morrinsville and Cambridge.
- 'Site' refers to the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- 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.

As you will see from this data, there has been a significant increase in the number of EH SNGs granted in the Hamilton City area over the past year. This is reflective of the Ministry's approach of making housing for clients a top priority. It is important to note that this data only reflects the number of EH SNG's granted to clients and not a total number of clients receiving them, the same client may have several grants over each quarter. The Ministry is currently working to understand and then address the increased demand for Emergency Housing in Hamilton.

If you wish to discuss this data or have any further questions regarding Special Needs Grants and housing in the Waikato region you are welcome to contact Monica Allen, Manager Regional Services on 07 957 1515.

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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Emergency Housing Special Needs grants in the Waikato region, 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 'Kay Read', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kay Read

Group General Manager, Client Service Delivery