




6 DEC 2019



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 25 September 2019 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information from the quarter ending December 2018 to the quarter ending September 2019:

1. *The mean and median dollar amount granted for a Special Needs Grant (SNG) for Emergency Housing, broken down by Work and Income region*
2. *The total number and dollar amount spent by the Ministry on SNGs for Emergency Housing, broken down by Work and Income region*
3. *The number of distinct clients who have received a SNG for Emergency Housing broken down by Work and Income region.*

As you may be aware, the Emergency Housing SNG funds temporary accommodation at places such as hostels and motels to meet people's immediate housing needs. This grant is paid to help meet the cost of short-term accommodation where Transitional Housing is not available. We acknowledge that motels are not a long-term solution, particularly for vulnerable people with complex needs, but they provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed.

The Ministry pays Emergency Housing SNGs directly to the accommodation provider. This grant is 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 their or their family's needs. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependent on individual circumstances. In most cases, this does not need to be paid back, unless a person is unreasonably contributing to their own need for emergency accommodation.

More information about Emergency Housing SNGs is available here:

www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-opotions/emergency-housing.html

Both the Ministry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development recognise the public interest in data relating to Emergency Housing. As such, a large amount of data, including the number and amount of Emergency Housing SNGs approved, and the number of distinct clients that received an Emergency Housing SNG is published quarterly at the following:

www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/

To be helpful, I have replicated the published data and included the median amount that you have requested in the table below, showing each quarter from December 2018 to September 2019.

You will see that there are significant regional differences in the number and amount of the Emergency Housing SNGs approved. This reflects the regional differences in

housing markets and the number of people in each region. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development leads New Zealand's housing and urban development work programme. Information about the progress, housing developments, and the direction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's public housing supply, including regional information, can be found at:

<https://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/>

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

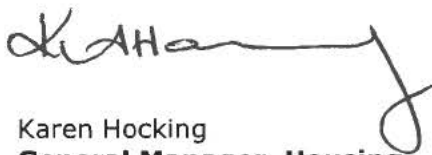
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 SNGs, 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



Karen Hocking
General Manager, Housing

Table 1. The number of grants granted, number of distinct clients and total amount approved for Emergency Housing (EH) during each quarter from December 2018 to September 2019 broken down by region, mean and median amounts

Region	Quarter	Number of grants	Number of clients	Total amount	Mean	Median
Northland	Dec-18	280	87	\$164,450.44	\$587.32	\$560.00
	Mar-19	157	66	\$88,613.05	\$564.41	\$550.00
	Jun-19	297	122	\$211,762.35	\$713.00	\$600.00
	Sep-19	373	131	\$263,946.57	\$707.63	\$570.00
Auckland Metro	Dec-18	5,839	1,359	\$8,584,067.40	\$1,470.13	\$1,260.00
	Mar-19	6,464	1,495	\$10,134,133.20	\$1,567.78	\$1,470.00
	Jun-19	8,760	1,799	\$14,996,675.40	\$1,711.95	\$1,743.00
	Sep-19	10,126	2,093	\$17,108,580.20	\$1,689.57	\$1,750.00
Waikato	Dec-18	1,829	380	\$2,811,282.50	\$1,537.06	\$1,673.00
	Mar-19	2,128	432	\$3,630,290.91	\$1,705.96	\$1,750.00
	Jun-19	2,979	533	\$5,314,598.71	\$1,784.02	\$1,890.00
	Sep-19	3,708	659	\$6,622,666.82	\$1,786.05	\$1,929.00
Taranaki	Dec-18	124	73	\$73,417.00	\$592.07	\$423.50
	Mar-19	226	81	\$169,419.00	\$749.64	\$825.00
	Jun-19	324	129	\$224,289.00	\$692.25	\$700.00
	Sep-19	480	191	\$364,606.14	\$759.60	\$770.00
Bay of Plenty	Dec-18	2,210	477	\$2,388,128.38	\$1,080.60	\$925.75
	Mar-19	2,738	554	\$3,163,545.35	\$1,155.42	\$1,120.00
	Jun-19	3,456	652	\$4,505,373.38	\$1,303.64	\$1,190.00
	Sep-19	4,901	825	\$6,142,829.72	\$1,253.38	\$1,190.00
East Coast	Dec-18	831	214	\$889,670.06	\$1,070.60	\$1,015.00
	Mar-19	886	252	\$1,115,238.60	\$1,258.73	\$1,130.00
	Jun-19	1,338	390	\$1,873,942.66	\$1,400.56	\$1,260.00
	Sep-19	1,430	381	\$1,871,648.54	\$1,308.85	\$1,170.00
Central	Dec-18	820	229	\$704,013.06	\$858.55	\$850.00
	Mar-19	773	217	\$690,162.85	\$892.84	\$910.00
	Jun-19	993	245	\$1,000,244.95	\$1,007.30	\$1,015.00
	Sep-19	1383	336	\$1,382,028.53	\$999.30	\$1,015.00
Wellington	Dec-18	1,452	371	\$2,001,320.38	\$1,378.32	\$1,253.00
	Mar-19	1,408	390	\$1,877,901.08	\$1,333.74	\$1,248.21
	Jun-19	1,979	430	\$2,963,826.92	\$1,497.64	\$1,393.00
	Sep-19	2,534	537	\$3,597,059.78	\$1,419.52	\$1,365.00
Nelson	Dec-18	472	131	\$388,549.12	\$823.20	\$901.50
	Mar-19	428	114	\$345,730.62	\$807.78	\$850.00
	Jun-19	632	151	\$511,295.39	\$809.01	\$840.00
	Sep-19	823	166	\$632,747.65	\$768.83	\$800.00
Canterbury	Dec-18	906	322	\$549,951.07	\$607.01	\$600.00
	Mar-19	1,041	381	\$744,816.70	\$715.48	\$700.00
	Jun-19	1,268	449	\$970,384.96	\$765.29	\$770.00
	Sep-19	1,336	433	\$920,080.59	\$688.68	\$735.00
Southern	Dec-18	296	110	\$199,321.86	\$673.38	\$700.00
	Mar-19	236	98	\$176,045.71	\$745.96	\$770.00

Region	Quarter	Number of grants	Total amount	Number of Clients	Mean	Median
Southern	Jun-19	468	\$357,442.00	154	\$763.76	\$700.00
	Sep-19	537	\$350,209.22	174	\$652.16	\$595.00
Other	Dec-18	617	\$740,797.77	217	\$1,200.64	\$1,120.00
	Mar-19	779	\$943,638.70	334	\$1,211.35	\$1,120.00
	Jun-19	1,080	\$1,408,777.66	420	\$1,304.42	\$1,246.00
	Sep-19	1,635	\$2,332,644.91	535	\$1,426.69	\$1,330.00
National	Dec-18	15,676	\$19,494,969.04	3,749	\$1,243.62	\$1,050.00
	Mar-19	17,264	\$23,079,535.77	4,090	\$1,336.86	\$1,169.00
	Jun-19	23,574	\$34,338,613.41	5,103	\$1,456.63	\$1,290.00
	Sep-19	29,266	\$41,589,048.70	6,064	\$1,421.07	\$1,285.00
National	Whole Period	85,780	\$118,502,166.92	13,558	\$1,381.47	\$1,225.00

Notes:

- 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.
- Clients can be counted more than once if they have a grant in more than one region in a quarter. For this reason, the sum of distinct clients by region will be different from the total distinct clients.
- Clients can be counted in multiple quarters if they have grants in more than one quarter.
- The "Other" region includes grants made through contact centres, MyMSD and centralised processing units.