



Tēnā koe

On 11 November 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *How many children are included in applications made for social housing in Tairāwhiti as at 30 Sept 2021?*
2. *How many children included in applications for social housing are on the Social Housing Register awaiting housing as at Sept 30 2021 in Tairāwhiti?*
3. *How many children are in emergency accommodation as at Sept 30 2021 in Tairāwhiti?*
4. *How many children are in Transitional Housing as at 30 September 2021 in Tairāwhiti?*
5. *How many children are in insecure housing on the Social Housing Register as at Sept 30 2021 in Tairāwhiti?*
6. *How many children are classed as not in insecure housing are on the Social Housing Register as at 30 Sept 2021 in Tairāwhiti?*
7. *How many children are attached to the transfer register awaiting a transfer as at 30 Sept 2021 in Tairāwhiti?*
8. *How many adults and children in total are attached to the applications for social housing or transfer in Tairāwhiti as 30 Sept 2021?*
9. *What is the ethnicity of the ones attached to the applications for social housing in Tairāwhiti as at 30 Sept 2021?*
10. *How many on the social housing register have been in emergency or transitional housing longer than 3 months as at 30 September 2021?*
11. *How many children on the social housing register have been in emergency or transitional housing longer than 3 months as at 30 September 2021?*
12. *How many on the social housing register have been in emergency or transitional housing more than 3 months but less than 12 months as at 30 September 2021?*
13. *How many children on the social housing register have been in emergency or transitional housing more than 3 months but less than 12 months as at 30 September 2021?*
14. *How many on the social housing register have been in emergency or transitional housing longer than 12 months as at 30 September 2021?*
15. *How many children on the social housing register have been in emergency or transitional housing longer than 12 months as at 30 September 2021?*
16. *What is the longest time children have been on the social housing register and in emergency or transitional housing as at 30 September 2021?*

The transitional housing aspects of questions 4 and 9-16 were transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on 18 November 2021 as these questions are closer aligned with their functions and you can expect a response from HUD in due course. The emergency housing elements of these questions will be addressed in this response.

There is a high demand for housing – emergency, transitional and public housing – across the country, which is reflected in the enclosed data. The Ministry has strong relationships with local government, non-government and other community organisations working together to support people who present with housing needs, as well as offering other wrap-around services people may need.

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time.

There are also a distinct group of people that face a range of complex issues that are a barrier, such as mental health and addictions, criminal history, or family violence. There are still others that need to live in a specific area, due to the need to access specialist care or educational needs for them or their family.

For people with high and complex needs, it can sometimes be challenging to identify suitable long-term housing, which can lead to longer stays in emergency housing. Work and Income work closely with these people to see what can be done to ensure that once they have a home of their own, they have the skills to sustain it, and the support they need to keep it.

When a person makes an application for public housing, their eligibility is assessed on their ability to access suitable, adequate, affordable and sustainable housing. Further details about the criteria for public housing assessments is available on the Ministry's website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/introduction.html.

Please see enclosed **Appendix A** which contains the following four tables:

- **Table One:** The number of applicants and the number of children on the Social Housing Register in the Tairāwhiti District Territorial Local Authority, as at 30 September 2021, broken down by ethnic group and register type.

This addresses questions 1,2,7,8 and 9.

- **Table Two:** The number of clients and children who were in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Tairāwhiti District Territorial Local Authority, as at 30 September 2021.

This addresses question 3.

- **Table Three:** The number of applicants and the number of children on the Social Housing Register in the Tairāwhiti District Territorial Local Authority, as at 30 September 2021, broken down by insecure housing type.

This addresses questions 5 and 6.

- **Table Four:** The number of clients who were in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Gisborne District Territorial Local Authority who were also on the Public Housing Register as at 30 September 2021.

This addresses questions 10, 12 and 14.

The Ministry cannot match children from the register to Emergency Housing. The Ministry cannot discern which children are included in the Emergency Housing. Accordingly, questions 11, 13, 15 and 16 are refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry'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 Social Housing in Tairāwhiti, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



PP
Karen Hocking
**General Manager
Housing**

Appendix A

Table One: The number of applicants and the number of children on the Social Housing Register in the Tairāwhiti District Territorial Local Authority, as at 30 September 2021, broken down by ethnic group and register type.

Ethnic Group	Register Type				Total	
	Housing Register		Transfer Register		Number of applicants	Number of Children
	Number of applicants	Number of Children	Number of applicants	Number of Children		
Māori	471	534	81	135	552	669
Pacific Peoples	9	18	3	15	12	30
NZ European	54	39	3	3	57	42
Other	9	3	3	3	9	6
Unspecified	9	6	0	6	12	12
Total	552	597	90	159	642	759

Table Two: The number of applicants and the number of children on the Social Housing Register in the Tairāwhiti District Territorial Local Authority as at 30 September 2021

Insecure Housing	Number of applicants	Number of Children
No	273	345
Yes	369	417
Total	642	759

Table Three: The number of clients and children who were in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Tairāwhiti District Territorial Local Authority as at 30 September 2021

Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children
114	66	141

Table Four: Number of clients who were in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Gisborne District Territorial Local Authority who were also on the Public Housing Register as at 30 September 2021

Duration in Emergency Housing	Distinct Clients
<3 Months	21
3-6 Months	21
6-12 Months	33
12+ months	27
Total	102

Notes for Tables One, Two, Three and Four:

- 'As at' is interpreted to mean a snapshot on the day of 30 September 2021.
- Reporting of ethnicity is voluntary and is based on the prioritised self-reported ethnicity of the main applicant.
- Multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.
- Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.
- Insecure Housing is based on the main applicant's current accommodation. It includes applications where the main applicant is currently living in a car, tent, homeless or night shelter, Refugee Centre, Sleeping Rough, Motel/Hotel or campground, Emergency Housing Provider (either contracted or non-contracted), Women's Refuge, Marae or a Mobile Home – caravan.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of each period.
- Un-geocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through a suburb or city have an unknown TLA.
- This only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
- EH SNG is Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.
- This data only includes EH SNGs where the payment was made on or before 30 September 2021.
- The number of households is the number of distinct clients who were granted an EH SNG.
- Household composition is based on the declared adults and children in each Emergency Housing application and may not be reflective of their actual family size.
- The number of children is declared at the time of each individual EH SNG.
- When a client applies for an EH SNG, MSD records the household make up including the number of children.
- In some cases, children may have alternative or alternating living arrangements and may not necessarily be living in emergency housing for the entire duration.
- Children may also be counted more than once, as MSD are unable to verify if the child/children are included in more than one household living in emergency housing.