



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

17 December 2021

Tēnā koe

On 22 November 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of emergency accommodation placements within the Whanganui District between July 1 2019 and June 30 2021, broken down by month, and the number of people in each placement (eg family of four, couple, etc).*
- *The total cost of all emergency accommodation placements within the Whanganui District between July 1 2019 and June 30 2021, broken down by each individual accommodation provider and the exact number of grants.*
- *The current number of emergency accommodation providers within the Whanganui District as at Nov 22, 2021.*

On the same day, you also emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of emergency accommodation placements within the Taranaki Region between July 1 2019 and June 30 2021, broken down by month, and the number of people in each placement (eg family of four, couple, etc).*
- *The total cost of all emergency accommodation placements within the Taranaki Region between July 1 2019 and June 30 2021, broken down by each individual accommodation provider and the exact number of grants.*
- *The current number of emergency accommodation providers within the Taranaki Region as at Nov 22, 2021.*

On 24 November 2021, the Ministry informed you that your requests will be treated as a single request under section 18A(2) of the Act, as your requests were received in short succession and are about the same subject matter.

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing, and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) 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 them or their family's needs. The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier, and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependent on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation and if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people in Emergency Housing to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing or private rental accommodation. Other options including

transitional housing can also be explored as an option depending on availability and the individual's circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EH SNGs is available at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html).

In response to your request, the Ministry has provided the following tables in the attached Excel spreadsheet:

- **Table One:** The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for clients in selected Taranaki and Whanganui Territorial Authorities during 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2021 broken down by Household Composition, Month and TLA.
- **Table Two:** Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for clients in selected Taranaki and Whanganui Territorial Authorities between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2021 broken down by supplier.
- **Table Three:** Suppliers used for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants by clients in selected Taranaki and Whanganui Territorial Authorities between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2021.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Masterton Motor Lodge, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



 Karen Hocking  
**General Manager  
Housing**