



15 FEB 2021

On 5 January 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many people are currently in emergency accommodation across Hawke's Bay for the last year.*

Emergency Housing is short-term accommodation for individuals and their immediate family who have an urgent need for accommodation because they are unable to remain in their usual place of residence (e.g. because of safety concerns), and have no access to other accommodation that is adequate for their needs that night, or within the next seven days. Emergency Housing utilises commercial accommodation options and is not purpose built for this use.

There has been a growing demand nationally for Emergency Housing as the shortage of affordable housing and rising rents continues to impact low-income whanau, particularly those who are beneficiaries.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution, particularly for vulnerable people with complex needs. The need to provide Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs) is, in addition to the shortage of affordable housing, a reflection of the Government's commitment to ensuring that those in need have somewhere to stay, so they are not sleeping in their cars or outside. EH SNGs provide a short-term solution whilst more sustainable options are progressed.

The year 2020 has seen a significant increase in demand for Emergency Housing, as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic period with accommodation in which they could safely self-isolate.

There are three periods of which EH SNGs can be granted for; up to seven nights, up to fourteen nights and finally, up to twenty-one nights. Generally, a client's first EH SNG is for a period up to seven nights (unless a period of low availability applies) or when the client does not meet the criteria for a longer grant period. Where the Ministry determines there is a period of low availability of emergency housing in the region (e.g. longer public holiday, special sporting events, etc) and where the regions notify their staff, staff will be able to grant an EH SNG for up to fourteen nights. Clients that meet the full criteria for twenty-one night grants can be granted for periods of up to twenty-one nights for any subsequent grants in an emergency housing event.

From 19 October 2020, a client does not need to have exceptional circumstances to get more than one EH SNG in any 52-week period or, for the period of the EH SNG to be extended.

For your information you can access more general information about the Ministry's housing and support services, including EH SNGs, on the Ministry's website available at: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/index.html).

Please find **Table One** attached which outlines the number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in Hawke's Bay from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) and quarter.

The Ministry has interpreted your question as being interested in the population of clients that have received one or more EHSNGS for the past calendar year.

You will note that there was a high increase in the amount granted for EH SNGs in the June 2020 quarter, compared with previous quarters. This is a national trend and directly associated with the COVID-19 lockdown period. During this quarter the Ministry granted 38,883 EH SNGs across the country, this is up from 23,574 EH SNGs for the same period in 2019.

The Ministry's reporting standard for hardship grants is monthly/quarterly, typically by either financial year or calendar year-end. Hardship is not reported by the Ministry at a point in time as many types of hardship assistance are for instances before or after the date of grant and so do not reliably display a true population. Distinct clients can be counted in more than one quarter if they have had grants in multiple quarters.

Territory Land Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the last grant in the quarter. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.

Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA.

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

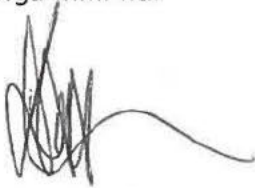
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response in regard to how many people are currently in emergency accommodation across Hawke's Bay for the last year, 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**

**Table One: The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in Hawke’s Bay from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, broken down by TLA and quarter.**

TLA / Quarter Ending	March 2020			June 2020			September 2020			December 2020		
	Grants	Amount	Clients	Grants	Amount	Clients	Grants	Amount	Clients	Grants	Amounts	Clients
<b>CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT</b>	137	\$201,289.00	24	107	\$214,568.00	28	116	\$243,229.00	29	151	\$250,393.00	27
<b>HASTINGS DISTRICT</b>	378	\$514,573.45	91	723	\$1,197,772.53	219	776	\$1,329,267.73	189	638	\$1,154,550.76	159
<b>NAPIER CITY</b>	1,105	\$1,573,476.98	203	1,306	\$2,235,002.13	343	1,596	\$3,115,362.26	378	1,384	\$3,192,409.01	315
<b>WAIROA DISTRICT</b>	117	\$210,877.99	24	79	\$255,686.50	31	99	\$329,061.26	31	114	\$425,351.90	31

**Notes:**

- The number of grants is not the number of individuals. A client may have received more than one grant in each time period.
- 'Amount' is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Distinct clients should not be summed up across Territory Land Authorities (TLAs) as they may be represented in multiple TLAs if regularly changing their address.
- Distinct Clients can be counted in more than one quarter if they have had grants in multiple quarters.
- TLA is based on the clients' address and may not be reflective of where their emergency housing accommodation is located.
- TLA is defined under the Local Government Act 2002 as a city council or district council.
- Ungeocoded client address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA and are not included in this table.