



01 JUL 2021

Tēnā koe

On 3 June 2021 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Please provide the number of clients currently on the waiting list for Social Housing in the Porirua District.*
- *Please also provide the current number of clients in emergency housing in the same area.*

The Public Housing Register (the Register) is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having the greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may change also. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Nationally there is an issue of housing demand exceeding supply. More housing is needed to support the most vulnerable people in our community and the Government, through a number of agencies, is working to increase the amount of Public Housing. More information about Public Housing is contained in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's quarterly reports which can be found at the following link:

[www.hud.govt.nz/news-and-resources/statistics-and-research/public-housing-reports/](http://www.hud.govt.nz/news-and-resources/statistics-and-research/public-housing-reports/).

The Register consists of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register represents those already in Public Housing who are eligible to be rehoused, generally due to a change in circumstances prompting a move to somewhere more appropriate to their needs.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings and the calculation of overall priority ratings can be found on the Work and Income website at the following link:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html).

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place or residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's need. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended, dependent on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights, Work and Income will arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation, and to determine if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people receiving EH SNGs to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing or private rental accommodation.

The Ministry recognises that emergency housing is not a long-term solution, however, a short-term solution for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. More information about EH SNGs is available on the Ministry's website at the following link:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/index.html).

The year 2020, saw a significant increase in demand for emergency housing as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic period with accommodation where they could safely self-isolate. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, people also could not easily move out of emergency housing into long-term accommodation which contributed to longer durations of stay and higher costs.

**Table One** below provides the total number of applicants on the Register for the Porirua City Territorial Local Authority as at the end of the most recent quarter, March 2021.

**Table One: Number of applicants on the Public Housing register for the Porirua City Territorial Local Authority as at the end of March 2021.**

As at end of	Total number of applicants
March 2021	477

Notes for Table One:

- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the clients address as at the time of the grant and may not be reflective of where their emergency housing is located.
- This only includes priority A and B applications.
- 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. A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three. 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.

**Table Two** below provides data regarding EH SNG, broken down by the number of distinct clients, the amount granted and the number of grants for the Porirua Territorial Local Authority for the quarter ending March 2021.

**Table Two: EH SNG data, broken down by the number of distinct clients, the amount granted and the number of grants for the Porirua Territorial Local Authority for the quarter ending March 2021.**

Quarter ending	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Number of grants
March 2021	144	\$1,538,004.65	450

Notes for Table Two:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- This is a count of grants. A client can have more than one grant in the time period.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the clients address as at the time of the grant and may not be reflective of where their emergency housing is located.

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 regarding housing in Porirua 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, 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**