



19 JUL 2021

Dear

On 15 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *On the housing register for Dec 2020 it notes there are 540 applicants in the Rotorua district. My questions are:*
 - a. *Does this number include children?*
 - b. *How many of those applicants are Māori?*
 - c. *How many of those applicants are Te Arawa?*

On 15 June 2021, you refined your request to note there were 676 applicants in the December 2020 quarter.

On 23 June 2021, you refined your request to include the following additional questions:

2. *Can I confirm \$1800 a week as a figure that would be paid to a motel for two people to live in emergency housing?*
3. *What is the average weekly amount in Rotorua that a motel would be given to house two people in that situation?*

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 dependant on individual 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.

You may be interested in the work on Emergency Housing being undertaken in Rotorua, further information about can be found at the following link:
www.beehive.govt.nz/release/rotorua-emergency-housing-update.

For the sake of clarity, I will answer your questions in order.

1. *On the housing register for Dec 2020 it notes there are 676 applicants in the Rotorua district. My questions are:*

a. Does this number include children?

The number given in the housing register is the number of applicants. Applicants apply on behalf of their household, and as such the children of these applicants are not represented in the number of applicants shown on the housing register.

Please find **Table One** below, which shows all housing and transfer register clients in Rotorua as at 31 December 2020, broken down by register and household type.

Household type	Housing Register		Transfer Register		Total
	A	B	A	B	
Couple no children	27	0	3	0	27
Couple with Children	36	3	0	3	42
Single no Children	315	12	9	0	336
Single with Children	276	9	15	0	300
Unknown	3	0	0	0	3
Total	654	21	27	3	705

b. How many of those applicants are Māori?

c. How many of those applicants are Te Arawa?

Please find **Table Two** below, which shows all people on the housing register who have identified themselves as Māori in Rotorua as at 31 December 2020, broken down by Iwi affiliation and household type.

Iwi affiliation	Couple no children	Couple with Children	Single no Children	Single with Children	Unknown	Total
Not Te Arawa	9	21	168	162	3	363
Te Arawa	9	12	96	93	0	213
Total	21	33	267	255	0	576

Please find **Table Three** below, which shows all Te Arawa housing register clients in Rotorua as at 31 December 2020, broken down by household type and number of bedrooms required.

Required bedrooms	Household type				Total
	Couple no children	Couple with Children	Single no Children	Single with Children	
1	3	0	96	0	96
2	6	6	3	60	75
3+	0	6	0	33	36
Total	9	9	96	93	210

Notes for Tables:

- Household composition is based on the declared adults and children staying in Emergency Housing and may not be reflective of their actual family size.

- Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Hapu affiliation is also self-identified.
 - Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller and politically significant ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy.
 - Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.
 - Affiliation to Te Arawa has been determined by self-identified affiliation to the following hapu:
 - Ngati Manawa, Ngati Pikiāo, Ngati Pikiāo (Te Arawa), Ngati Rangiteāorere (Te Arawa), Ngati Rangitihī (Te Arawa)
 - Ngati Rangiwewehi (Te Arawa), Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whāoa (Te Arawa), Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Whakaue (Te Arawa)
 - Tapuika (Te Arawa), Tarawhai (Te Arawa), Te Arawa,
 - Te Arawa/Taupo (Rotorua/Taupo) Region, Tuhourangi (Te Arawa), Waitaha (Te Arawa)
 - To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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.
2. *Can I confirm \$1800 a week as a figure that would be paid to a motel for two people to live in emergency housing?*
 3. *What is the average weekly amount in Rotorua that a motel would be given to house two people in that situation?*

The Ministry can confirm that the weekly cost for emergency housing in Rotorua generally varies from \$1200 per week to \$2,200 depending on the size of family, seasonal demand, and any special accessibility requirements.

The amount paid to Emergency Housing providers to house a client for a week varies based on a wide range of factors, including the size of the accommodation required, the number of rooms required, and how soon the accommodation is needed. The Ministry is unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review hundreds of files. As such, I refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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
- 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding housing register applicants in the Rotorua district, 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