



18 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 20 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Is the Westport Motor Hotel being used for emergency accommodation?*
- *If yes, since when?*
- *How many people are staying there in emergency housing?*
- *How much is the motel being paid to house them?*
- *Is the Palm Court Motel being used for emergency accommodation?*
- *If yes, since when?*
- *How many people are staying there in emergency housing?*
- *How much is the motel being paid to house them?*
- *Are any other motels, hostels, or other accommodation providers being used for emergency housing in Buller?*
- *In total, how many people are using emergency housing in Buller?*

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 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.

After these seven nights, Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation, and whether 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 and 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 here: www.housing.msdc.govt.nz/housing-options/emergency-housing.html.

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.

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.

The Ministry can confirm that the Westport Motor Hotel and the Palm Court Motel have both been used by the Ministry for emergency housing accommodation. The Westport Motor Hotel was first used in June 2020 and the Palm Court Motel was first used in June 2019.

To answer questions three and four of your request, please find **Table One** enclosed in **Appendix One** for the number of grants, the amount and the number of distinct clients with an EH SNG payment to the Westport Motor Hotel for quarter ending June 2020 to March 2021.

To answer questions seven and eight of your request, please find **Table Two** enclosed in **Appendix One** for the number of grants, the amount and the number of distinct clients with an EH SNG payment to the Palm Court Motel for quarter ending June 2019 to March 2021.

To answer questions nine and ten of your request, please find **Table Three** enclosed in **Appendix One** for a list of suppliers who have received a EH SNG for clients residing in the Buller district for the quarter ending 31 March 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 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, 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



Karen Hocking
General Manager
Housing

Appendix One

Table One: Number of grants, amount, and distinct clients with an EH SNG payment to the Westport Motor Hotel for quarter ending June 2020 to March 2021

| Quarter ending | Registered Name | Clients | Grants | Amount granted |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| June 2020 | Westport Motor Hotel | S | S | \$660.00 |
| September 2020 | Westport Motor Hotel | S | 12 | \$11,755.00 |
| December 2020 | Westport Motor Hotel | 9 | 33 | \$37,300.00 |
| March 2021 | Westport Motor Hotel | 9 | 18 | \$16,745.00 |
| Total | | 24 | 21 | \$66,460.00 |

Table Two: Number of grants, amount, and distinct clients with an EH SNG payment to the Palm Court Motel for quarter ending June 2019 to March 2021

| Quarter ending | Registered Name | Clients | Grants | Amount granted |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| June 2019 | Palm Court Motel | S | 9 | \$7,595.00 |
| September 2019 | Palm Court Motel | S | 6 | \$5,285.00 |
| March 2020 | Palm Court Motel | S | 9 | \$12,400.00 |
| June 2020 | Palm Court Motel | 9 | 24 | \$29,805.00 |
| September 2020 | Palm Court Motel | 9 | 33 | \$45,575.00 |
| December 2020 | Palm Court Motel | 6 | 39 | \$50,315.00 |
| March 2021 | Palm Court Motel | S | 27 | \$40,890.00 |
| Total | | 36 | 36 | \$191,865.00 |

Table Three: List of suppliers with an EHSNG grant for clients residing in the Buller District in the quarter ending 31 March 2021

| Quarter ending | Registered Name | Clients | Grants | Amount granted |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| March 2021 | Aaa Northlands Motel | S | S | \$110.00 |
| | Ascot Motor Lodge | S | S | \$3,267.00 |
| | Bellbird Motels | S | S | \$220.00 |
| | Chelsea Gateway Motor Lodge | S | S | \$1,260.00 |
| | Greymouth Motel | S | S | \$480.00 |
| | Greymouth Seaside Top 10 Holiday Park | S | S | \$868.00 |
| | Kina Campers | S | S | \$880.00 |
| | Palm Court Motel | S | 27 | \$40,890.00 |
| | Westport Holiday Park | S | 12 | \$15,270.00 |
| | Westport Motor Hotel | 6 | 18 | \$16,745.00 |
| Total | | 24 | 21 | \$79,990.00 |

Notes for tables one, two and three:

- This is amount of Emergency Housing grants paid to a registered supplier.
- The amount granted may not be the amount spent.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- Emergency Housing grants paid directly to the clients are not reported in this.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.