



18 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 27 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to receive information on the numbers of people using Motels and other commercial accommodation as emergency/temporary housing in Christchurch for the years 2016 – 2020.*

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 or private rental accommodation. Other options, including transitional housing, can also be explored 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.msd.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.

There has been a growing demand nationally for emergency housing, as the shortage of affordable housing and rising rents continues to impact low-income whānau,

particularly those who are beneficiaries. 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.

Across government, there is a major programme of work underway aimed at increasing the supply of public housing and improving housing affordability and supply.

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga (The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development/HUD) and Kāinga Ora are responsible for increasing the supply of affordable and public housing. This includes planning, and with Kāinga Ora, delivering more public housing, transitional housing, and services to tackle homelessness. HUD is also working to improve housing affordability and supply for aspiring homeowners.

As requested, please find **Table One** and **Table One Continued**, attached in **Appendix One** for the number of EH SNGs and the total amount granted in the Canterbury region during the period 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2020, broken down by year end and Canterbury Territorial Local Authority.

Please note that EH SNGs were not recorded before 1 October 2016.

Regarding the tables provided, please note that the TLA is estimated based on the clients' address at the time of the grant. This TLA may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing supplier. Where the client address is not recorded, the location of the Ministry's service centre case managing the client has been used to approximate which TLA a client resides in. However, as the Ministry has switched to working from national queues, EH SNGs and other hardship grants could be granted by a case manager working anywhere in New Zealand. Therefore, in such cases, the TLA may not reflect the actual client address or location. Due to the transient nature of people receiving EH SNGs, the recorded address for a client may also be that of a trusted family member or friend who receives mail on their behalf.

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 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 the total amount of EH SNGs granted in the Canterbury region, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KH' followed by a stylized name.

Karen Hocking
General Manager
Housing

Appendix One:

Table One: Number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants and the total amount granted in the Canterbury Housing Region during the period 01 October 2016 to 31 December 2020 by year end and Canterbury Housing region Territorial Local Authorities

Territorial Local Authority	December 2016			December 2017			December 2018		
	Number of Grants	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients	Number of Grants	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients	Number of Grants	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients
ASHBURTON DISTRICT	42	\$27,768.20	15	48	\$25,136.00	33	39	\$18,247.00	24
CHRISTCHURCH CITY	495	\$277,525.44	165	1,425	\$762,485.97	549	2,421	\$1,336,320.44	828
HURUNUI DISTRICT	9	\$5,018.00	S	S	\$1,827.00	S	S	\$372.00	S
KAIKOURA DISTRICT	S	\$1,846.86	S	48	\$44,232.67	S	12	\$8,246.00	S
MACKENZIE DISTRICT	S	\$246.20	S	0	\$0	0	S	\$1,010.00	S
SELWYN DISTRICT	S	\$3,540.00	S	21	\$5,120.00	15	27	\$17,532.00	15
TIMARU DISTRICT	12	\$7,107.60	9	78	\$33,251.14	36	129	\$74,006.50	63
WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT	9	\$4,660.00	S	30	\$13,077.00	24	69	\$35,261.00	36
WAIMATE DISTRICT	0	\$0	0	S	\$2,887.00	S	12	\$5,419.00	S
WAITAKI DISTRICT	15	\$11,104.00	6	81	\$48,561.00	27	114	\$85,117.00	39

Table One Continued:

Territorial Local Authority	December 2019			December 2020		
	Number of Grants	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients	Number of Grants	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients
ASHBURTON DISTRICT	63	\$42,007.00	30	276	\$291,880.00	69
CHRISTCHURCH CITY	4,995	\$3,769,088.19	1,317	9,303	\$9,516,947.83	1,734
HURUNUI DISTRICT	9	\$6,710.00	6	33	\$35,550.00	18
KAIKOURA DISTRICT	S	\$5,380.00	S	18	\$10,420.00	9
MACKENZIE DISTRICT	S	\$805.00	S	12	\$8,375.00	S
SELWYN DISTRICT	39	\$32,288.00	24	48	\$46,569.00	30
TIMARU DISTRICT	186	\$126,306.00	63	420	\$345,191.57	114
WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT	174	\$97,962.83	69	216	\$196,990.67	69
WAIMATE DISTRICT	15	\$13,086.00	12	21	\$18,286.00	9
WAITAKI DISTRICT	150	\$123,135.00	36	258	\$217,680.49	69

Notes for Table One:

- December 2016 starts from 01 October 2016 so is not a full year.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- The amount granted is not the amount spent
- Distinct Clients will only count clients once in a period and in a TLA
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.