



31 January 2022

Tēnā koe

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

- *There are 8,376 Auckland applicants eligible for public housing on the Housing Register. Would you be able to provide information on how many of these applicants were aged 65 and over? (If possible, could you break down by ethnic group - NZ European, Maori, Pacific and Asian?)*
- *Do you also happen to have information on the number of Aucklanders and total New Zealanders (aged 65 and over) who do actually live in public housing? (Again broken down by ethnic group if possible)*

The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing.

The Public Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly. 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.

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.

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/.

In response to your request, please find attached **Table One** in **Appendix A** which shows the number of applicants aged 65 and over on the Public Housing Register as at the quarter ending September 2021, broken down by total ethnic response and region.

Please also find attached **Table Two** in **Appendix A** which shows the number of applicants aged 65 and over currently living in Public Housing as at the quarter ending September 2021, broken down by total ethnic response and region.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 Aucklanders 65 years and over on the Housing Register, 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

pp. 

Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**



Appendix A

Table One: Number of applicants aged 65 and over on the Housing Register as at the quarter ending September 2021, by total ethnic response and region.

Quarter ending / Region		Māori	European	Pasifika	Asian	MELAA	Other	Not specified	Distinct total clients
September 2021	Auckland	141	330	195	216	36	36	39	936
	National Total	495	987	261	270	54	69	75	2,082

Table Two: Number of applicants aged 65 and over currently living in Public Housing as at the quarter ending September 2021, by total ethnic response and region.

Quarter ending / Region		Māori	European	Pasifika	Asian	MELAA	Other	Not specified	Distinct total clients
September 2021	Auckland	1,245	2,562	2,910	1,170	198	360	186	8,181
	National Total	3,567	7,374	3,603	1,425	309	690	471	16,512

Notes for Tables One and Two:

- This only includes Priority A and B applications on the Public Housing Register. The Priority A and B applications used in Table One are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.
- The Ministry is in the process of changing our reporting to total response, so ethnicity results may differ from previous or other reporting. Reporting of ethnicity is voluntary and is based on the prioritised self-reported ethnicity of the main applicant. Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.
- Total New Zealanders includes Unknown and Other regions.
- MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African.
- 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. 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.