



15 June 2022

Tēnā koe

On 24 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *A list of all hotels, motels, boarding houses and any other commercial accommodation provider located within the Auckland 1010 postcode area through which the Ministry of Social Development offers emergency housing.*

The Auckland 1010 postcode area includes the Auckland Central Business District but also takes in parts of Parnell, Grafton, Grey Lynn and Eden Terrace.

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

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.

After these seven nights Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation and if 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 as an option depending on availability and the individual's circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that emergency housing is 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

Please find attached an Excel spreadsheet that provides a list of suppliers for clients living in the Auckland City Territorial Local Authority (TLA), as at the end of March 2022 (the latest list available).

The list provides suppliers by motel/hotel, and holiday park/campground. The list includes all suppliers of Emergency Housing in the Auckland TLA but does not reference boarding houses as the Ministry does not specifically capture data about them.

Note that the Ministry does not hold information about the postcode attached to specific suppliers. The Ministry only captures data on the location of Emergency Housing providers by the address of the client.

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 the Excel attachment 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 providing a list of Emergency Housing suppliers for Auckland City, 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
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Housing**