



18 October 2022

Tēnā koe

On 20 September 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I would like to know the top 10 emergency housing motels/hotels across Nelson/Tasman in terms of spend since March 1, 2020, please.*
- *Could I have a breakdown of cost per motel/hotel?*

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 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.

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 is providing you with information from the start of the most recent quarter since 1 March 2020, which would be for the quarter beginning 1 April 2020.

Please find attached **Appendix One** which shows the top ten suppliers of emergency housing, based on the total amount granted for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG) that were granted in Nelson City and the Tasman District Territorial Local Authorities for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2022. This is broken down into nine data tables, showing the top ten suppliers for each quarter.

Please note, the supplier The Setup on Manners is not located in Nelson or Tasman District Territorial Local Authority. The Ministry's reporting of Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the client's address at the time of the Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant. As such, it may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider but will still be present in the data pulled for the TLA. A client may also have received more than one EH SNG in a time period, therefore the number of EH SNGs does not necessarily equal the number of clients.

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 emergency housing, 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 read 'K. Hocking'.

Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**