



11 July 2023

Tēnā koe

On 8 June 2023, 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 request under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information:*

- *The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, and the value of said grants made to any entity operating out of, and accommodating people at: 5 Sponge Bay Rd, Gisborne.*
- *The operating entities may include, but not be limited to, Motel Oasis, Motel Oasis Ltd, D W Group Ltd or Sponge Bay Motel.*
- *Can I please have the information in a monthly breakdown for the period April 2021 to June 2023.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and many 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](http://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.

Please see below **Appendix** containing **Table One** which outlines the number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, amount and distinct households approved for Motel Oasis in the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 May 2023.

Please note there is no data for the period April 2021 to August 2021 as there were no EHSNG granted during this period.

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'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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager**  
**Housing**

## Appendix

**Table One: Number of Emergency Special Needs Grants (EHSNG), amounts and distinct households approved for Motel Oasis in the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 May 2023**

Month	Number of Grants	Amount Granted	Distinct Households
September 2021	S	\$5,716.28	S
October 2021	S	\$11,143.08	S
November 2021	S	\$10,857.36	S
December 2021	S	\$12,000.24	S
January 2022	S	\$13,714.56	S
February 2022	S	\$8,000.52	S
March 2022	15	\$47,711.64	6
April 2022	6	\$38,000.76	S
May 2022	9	\$39,715.08	S
June 2022	6	\$36,000.72	S
July 2022	12	\$48,007.65	6
August 2022	6	\$40,000.80	S
September 2022	9	\$52,610.88	6
October 2022	6	\$30,286.32	S
November 2022	6	\$42,000.84	S
December 2022	6	\$35,143.56	S
January 2023	S	\$30,000.60	S
February 2023	6	\$42,000.84	S
March 2023	6	\$36,000.72	S
April 2023	6	\$36,000.72	S
May 2023	S	\$20,000.40	S
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>\$634,913.57</b>	<b>78</b>

### Notes:

- The number of Grants is not the same as number of clients. A client may have multiple grants in the period and counted in each month.
- A single EH grant can cover up to 21 nights.
- Amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- We have searched for grants in the period 01 April 2021 to 31 May 2023. However, there were no data found for the months of April 2021 to August 2021.
- 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.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
- 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.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.
- Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.