



Tēnā koe

On 26 and 27 June 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

**26 June 2023 request:**

- *'s looking to extend and we are applying for funding through HUD to do this (via the Affordable Housing Rental Pathway). As part of our funding application we need to provide evidence of the level of deprivation and demand in the area of the housing.*
- *One way to do this would be to report on the number of people aged over 65 years who currently receive accommodation supplement for housing that they do not own (ie renting or boarding) in Papanui and the surrounding suburbs, or even the whole of the Christchurch area.*
- *Do you know who I could approach within MSD to get this information? Would I need to do an Official Information Request?*

**27 June 2023 request:**

*Could you please provide the following information:*

- 1. The number of clients who are aged 65 years and older who are receiving Accommodation Supplement for housing that they do not own (ie renting or boarding), who reside in the Lower Hutt region*
- 2. The number of clients who are aged 65 years and older who are on the social housing register and require housing in the Lower Hutt region.*

*This information is required for a feasibility report for older persons housing in Nae Nae, Lower Hutt.*

An Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards a client's accommodation costs. A person does not have to be getting a benefit to qualify for Accommodation Supplement.

You may get an Accommodation Supplement if you:

- have accommodation costs
- are aged 16 years or more
- are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- normally live in New Zealand and intend to stay here
- are not paying rent for a social housing property. Social housing properties are provided by Kāinga Ora (used to be Housing New Zealand) and approved community housing providers.

It also depends on:

- how much you and your spouse or partner earn
- any money or assets you and your spouse or partner have.

For the questions in your 26 June 2023 request, and question one of your 27 June 2023 request regarding Accommodation Supplement in Christchurch and Lower Hutt, please see **Table One** below.

**Table One:** Number of current clients aged 65 years and over receiving Accommodation Supplement in Christchurch City and Lower Hutt City Territorial Local Authority (TLA) as at the end of June 2023.

Territorial Local Authority	Tenure type			Total
	Boarding	Renting	Own Home	
Christchurch City	234	2,700	534	3,468
Lower Hutt City	132	708	192	1,038
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>4,506</b>

**Notes:**

- AS is not paid for clients (main signatory and their partners) in HNZ (Housing NZ) accommodation or any other Community Housing Provider property where the provider is receiving Income Related Rent (IRR).
- The number of recipients receiving an Accommodation Supplement is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an accommodation supplement for their housing purposes. It is not necessarily a count of households.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of June 2023.

- 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.

Question two of your 27 June 2023 request asks for the number of Public Housing register applications of people aged 65 and over currently requiring housing in Lower Hutt. For the Lower Hutt postcodes of 5010, 5011, 5012, 5013, 5014, 5019, 5373, there are currently 156 people aged 65 or over on the Public Housing register as at the end of June 2023. Please note the following:

- This number of 156 includes the Housing register and Transfer register with priority A and B applications
- This only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used are as at the end of the period and may have changed prior to this date.
- Applications can select multiple letting areas where they would like to live
- The post codes selected for Lower Hutt are 5010, 5011, 5012, 5013, 5014, 5019 and 5373
- Some post codes are shared by bordering suburbs such 'Heretaunga' which come under 'Upper Hutt' e.g. Post code 5019 and those people in that area will be counted in the table.
- 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.

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 regarding Accommodation Supplement and the Public 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager  
Housing**