



23 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 28 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of EH SNGs granted in the Bay of Plenty in the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023, broken down by month, TLA, households with children and the number of children included in those households.*
 - *Can this data please be provided in the same way the data was most recently provided.*

Your request follows on from the information the Ministry provided to you in the letters dated 27 April 2023 and 27 March 2023. The information provided in this response needs to be read in conjunction with the contextual information about emergency housing provided to you in the 27 March 2023 letter.

Please find attached the **Appendix** with the information you have requested. The table contains the number of households, households with children and children in emergency housing in the Bay of Plenty region, by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) as at the end of each month from January 2022 to March 2023.

You are seeking an accurate number of how many children are in emergency housing in the Bay of Plenty area. However, as has been advised to you previously, there are limitations around how the Ministry can collate this data. This is qualified in the notes provided with the table, which clarify:

- Details of the children attached to each Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) are not recorded and as such, we are unable to count the number of unique children in emergency housing across a period if their caregivers have had more than one grant in a period.
- Children are only attached to the file of the primary client making the EH SNG application.

- Children may also be counted more than once, as the Ministry is unable to verify if the child/children are included in more than one household living in emergency housing.
- In some cases, children may have alternative or alternating living arrangements and may not necessarily be living in emergency housing for the entire duration.
- TLA is based on the client's address listed on their file at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.

Please note that the table does not include numbers for contracted emergency housing, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

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 households in emergency housing in the Bay of Plenty area, 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
**Group General Manager
Housing**