



18 March 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2024, requesting information about Visions of a Helping Hand. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

- 1. What happens of their tenants were ever to become in arrears etc while tenanting a property - does HUD provide assistance here to cover any costs etc relating to these?*

If people need help to pay rent or accommodation costs, or support to stay in their homes, the Ministry may be able to help them. The Ministry offers a number of Housing Support Products:

- [Rent Arrears Grant](#) provides recoverable assistance to help clients retain their rental housing if they are at risk of losing their tenancy due to being behind on their rent.
- [Rent in Advance Grant](#) provides recoverable assistance to help with the cost of rent in advance charged by a landlord to the client as a tenant.
- [Bond Grant](#) provides recoverable assistance to help with the cost of a rental bond charged by a landlord to the client as a tenant.
- [Moving Costs Grant](#) provides recoverable assistance to help a client (or any person living in the client's household) with costs to move their combined household furniture, appliances, personal effects and personal belongings into rental housing.
- [Tenancy Costs Cover](#) is a conditional grant for clients who are having difficulty getting rental housing due to their personal circumstances. It provides landlords with assurance the client will be able to meet any tenancy related costs over and above the rental bond (up to a limit) if

owed at the end of the tenancy. Tenancy Costs Cover is payable to the landlord, but recoverable from the client.

- [Transition to Alternative Housing Grant](#) is a one-off, non-recoverable incentive payment for clients who are ready and able to move out of social housing and into alternative housing.

2. *Aswell as providing any information held on amounts of tenants that have ended up in arrears, approx ammounts all up in total and ammounts if any that have been granted to visions to cover any arrears claimed etc?*

Please see below Appendix One, Table One: The number of hardship grants for rent arrears granted to selected Visions of a Helping Hands suppliers from 1 January 2018 to 31 January 2024.

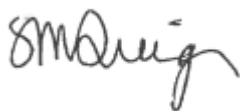
As you are aware, the Ministry contracts Visions of a Helping Hand to deliver support services to people living in Emergency Housing. Payments recorded here represent separate Housing Support Products paid by MSD to Visions in respect of eligible clients in their role as a Transitional Housing provider. Please note the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development contracts Visions of a Helping Hand for Transitional Housing purposes.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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



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Magnus O'Neill

**General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services**



Appendix One

Table One: The number of hardship grants for rent arrears granted to selected Visions of a Helping Hand supplier from 01 January 2018 to 31 January 2024

MSD Supplier Name	Grants	Amount Granted
VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND	99	\$81,531.25
VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND - BOND	33	\$47,417.58
VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND - TAUPO	6	\$9,230.00
VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND CHARITABLE TRUST	15	\$19,162.01
Total	156	\$157,340.84

Notes:

- Grants are not the same as clients. A client can have multiple grants within a period.
- Amount granted may not be the same as amount spent.
- This table only includes hardship grants for 'Rent Arrears' and 'Housing Support Product: Rent Arrears Grant'.
- This table only includes grants made to the following suppliers: VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND , VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND - BOND, VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND - TAUPO, and VISIONS OF A HELPING HAND CHARITABLE TRUST
- 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.