



14 MAY 2018



Dear 

On 13 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I understand some beneficiaries are being housed at campgrounds – caravans, cabins – by the Ministry, in an effort to provide them with accommodation. How many beneficiaries are being housed like this for each of the last 3 years – including the type of accommodation? I would also like to know how much was spent and whether the beneficiary is expected to pay back the sum.*

Thank you for your confirmation on 4 May 2018 that the provision of data on Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants from the September 2016 quarter to the December 2017 quarter, broken down by whether the grant was recoverable and the type of accommodation funded, would meet the intent of your request.

It is important to note that while the Ministry encourages clients to explore alternative accommodation and provides options, advice and financial assistance to support their housing needs, the final decision over where they live remains with the client.

On 1 July 2016, the Ministry introduced a non-recoverable Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant. This grant has been made 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 their or their family's needs. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights, but can be extended depending on an individual's circumstances. In most cases the grant does not need to be repaid. An individual does not need to be in receipt of a Benefit to qualify for an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.

Prior to the 2016 December quarter, emergency housing related hardship grants were coded in the Ministry's IT system as 'other emergency grants', which included hardship grants for various other emergency reasons. As such, the Ministry cannot disaggregate emergency housing hardship payments from other types of assistance granted under the 'other emergency grants' category and any information regarding emergency housing grant payments prior to the December quarter is recorded in notes on individual case files.

As such, please find attached a table providing Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants from the December 2016 quarter to the December 2017 quarter, broken down by the type of accommodation funded by and whether the grant was recoverable. I have also included information from the September 2016 quarter, however, it is not able to be broken down by accommodation type. It is also important to note that an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant is granted for up to seven days at a time and as such clients are eligible for more than one payment.

You will note that some clients received Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to stay in holiday parks, campgrounds and hostels. Generally, all three types of accommodation include private bedrooms, or in the case of campgrounds, cabins, with shared cooking facilities and communal spaces. While it is not the Ministry's preference to utilise these types of accommodation, and our staff do not refer clients to them, we have met those costs on occasion including, where the client has identified that option themselves, or as a last resort where no alternative accommodation options exist. You will note that use of holiday park, campground and hostel accommodation has generally declined over time as the Ministry has contracted more transitional housing places, which provide not only stable accommodation but wrap-around support to help people get their lives back on track.

All Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants are paid in respect of eligible individuals to meet the cost of habitable, adequate accommodation as described on the Ministry website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/adequate-accommodation-for-emergency-housing.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/adequate-accommodation-for-emergency-housing.html)

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 shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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 concerning Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gallacher', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Scott Gallacher  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Housing**

**Table One: Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants by the type of accommodation funded by quarter and whether the grant was recoverable**

Quarter	Type of Accommodation Funded	Total Grants	Total Amount Granted	Recoverable Grants	Recoverable Amount Granted	Number of Clients
Dec-16	Holiday Park / Campground	350	\$188,929.00	48	\$28,085.30	230
	Hostel	364	\$156,843.55	55	\$20,551.72	261
	Motel / Hotel	8,111	\$7,380,888.07	887	\$778,781.84	2,352
	Shelter	S	\$7,107.29	S	\$60.00	S
	Not recorded	S	\$2,020.00	S	\$590.00	S
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8,860</b>	<b>\$7,735,787.91</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>\$828,068.86</b>
Mar-17	Holiday Park / Campground	365	\$204,699.47	S	\$19,832.00	229
	Hostel	360	\$143,082.60	48	\$19,165.00	239
	Marae	S	\$120.00	0	\$0.00	S
	Motel / Hotel	8,440	\$8,478,066.67	846	\$784,612.98	2,341
	Shelter	51	\$8,893.55	S	\$240.00	45
	Not recorded	S	\$225.00	0	\$0.00	S
	<b>Total</b>		<b>9,218</b>	<b>\$8,835,087.29</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>\$823,849.98</b>
Jun-17	Holiday Park / Campground	523	\$332,015.44	43	\$25,152.50	270
	Hostel	444	\$210,192.18	46	\$21,254.00	285
	Marae	S	\$1,064.00	0	\$0.00	S
	Motel / Hotel	10,431	\$12,053,230.21	1,287	\$1,288,693.45	2,797
	Shelter	43	\$12,223.75	7	\$3,195.00	41
	Not recorded	S	\$960.00	0	\$0.00	S
	<b>Total</b>		<b>11,446</b>	<b>\$12,609,685.58</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>\$1,338,294.95</b>

Table One continued on next page.

Quarter	Type of Accommodation Funded	Total Grants	Total Amount Granted	Recoverable Grants	Recoverable Amount Granted	Number of Clients
Sep-17	Holiday Park / Campground	501	\$306,919.94	46	\$24,023.30	253
	Hostel	441	\$187,885.37	54	\$20,849.65	259
	Motel / Hotel	8,179	\$8,462,114.89	929	\$849,401.57	2,607
	Shelter	S	\$6,617.00	6	\$532.00	S
	Not recorded	S	\$903.00	0	\$0.00	S
	<b>Total</b>		<b>9,159</b>	<b>\$8,964,440.20</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>\$894,806.52</b>
Dec-17	Holiday Park / Campground	245	\$169,876.77	S	\$15,216.00	146
	Hostel	329	\$158,794.45	32	\$12,411.50	188
	Motel / Hotel	5,548	\$6,219,425.82	612	\$588,819.94	1,847
	Shelter	S	\$18,443.00	S	\$106.00	S
	Not recorded	S	\$420.00	0	\$0.00	S
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6,172</b>	<b>\$6,566,960.04</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>\$616,553.44</b>
Mar-18	Holiday park / Camp ground	158	\$94,416.55	S	\$9,834.00	107
	Hostel	350	\$168,565.81	33	\$14,366.20	224
	Marae	S	\$1,812.00	0	\$0.00	S
	Motel / Hotel	5,604	\$6,301,079.71	566	\$493,260.10	1,911
	Shelter	S	\$8,858.75	S	\$105.00	S
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6,138</b>	<b>\$6,574,732.82</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>\$517,565.30</b>

Notes:

- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants
- Clients can be counted more than once if they had more than one type of accommodation funded in the quarter. For this reason the number of distinct clients by accommodation type totalled up will not match the total number of distinct clients for the whole quarter.
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect client privacy.

**Table Two: Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the quarter ending 30 September 2016**

Number of Grants	5,450
Number of Clients	2,140
Total recoverable payments	\$386,258.29
Total non-recoverable payments	\$3,923,472.05

Notes:

- This data is an approximation and is rounded.
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Multiple applications granted on the same day to the same client, are counted as one application.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants post 12 Sept 2016.
- Data in this quarter includes security deposits paid to providers.
- Data was cleaned to exclude grants that were not granted to Emergency Accommodation providers and as such will not total to previously published data. This was a manual exercise and as such cannot be replicated or broken down further.
- The data for the September 2016 quarter should not be compared to other quarters, as a different methodology is used to estimate Emergency Housing SNGs in this quarter.