



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

20 JUN 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 15 May 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of people/families on the Social Housing Register in each month that spend nights in motels in the Hutt Valley, for each month in 2017, 2018 and 2019, broken down by number of families, number of nights, number of motels, and the total cost per month.*

Your request has been interpreted as referring to the provision of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs) to people on the Housing Register. I have provided information about EH SNGs granted at the Upper Hutt, Naenae, Lower Hutt, and Wainuiomata Work and Income service centres from 1 January 2017 to 30 March 2019 broken down by quarter. Contextual information about EH SNGs, Transitional Housing and the Housing Register is included below.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development publishes quarterly Housing Regional Factsheets, which include a regional overview of Upper Hutt City and Lower Hutt City. The latest Factsheet, for the quarter ending 31 March 2019, is available at www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/March-2019/Housing-regional-Factsheets-March-2019-Wellington-web.pdf.

There is a high demand for housing – emergency, transitional and public housing – across the country, which is reflected in the enclosed data. The Ministry has strong relationships with local government, non-government and other community organisations working together to support people who present with housing needs, as well as offering other wrap-around services people may need.

Please find enclosed a table showing the number of EH SNGs granted, number of distinct clients, number of nights granted, number of distinct providers and amount granted to people on the Housing Register, in the Hutt Valley for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2019.

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Housing Register

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The numbers of applications on both Registers are published on a quarterly basis, and the combined register is referred to as the Social Housing Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in public housing but who have been assessed as eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in public housing but who have applied to be rehoused. More information about the Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants

The EH SNG was introduced on 1 July 2016 in order to fund temporary accommodation at places such as hostels and motels to meet people's immediate housing needs. This grant is paid to help meet the cost of short-term accommodation where no transitional housing is available. The Ministry acknowledges that motels are not a long-term housing solution, particularly for vulnerable people with complex needs, but they provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed.

The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation provider. This grant 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. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependent on individual circumstances. In most cases, this does not need to be paid back, though this will depend on a household's income. More information about EH SNGs is available here: www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-options/emergency-housing.html.

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing provides warm, dry, short-term accommodation housing for people and families who don't have anywhere to live. It includes support services to help people secure a longer-term home and get back on their feet so that they're in a stronger position to stay housed. Families and individuals stay in transitional housing for an average of 12 weeks or more. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks support once they've found a more permanent place to live.

Transitional housing places are contracted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and are managed by specialists who are skilled in providing a range of social and tenancy-related support.

More information about transitional housing is available here: www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/increasing-public-housing/transitional-housing/.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Emergency Housing in the Hutt Valley, 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.

Yours sincerely



Cassandra Wise

Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

The number of EH SNGs granted, number of distinct clients, number of nights granted, number of distinct providers and amount granted to people on the Housing Register, in the Hutt Valley Region broken down by quarter for the quarters ending 31 March 2017 to 31 March 2019.

Quarter Ending	Number of Grants	Distinct Clients	Number of Nights	Distinct Providers	Amount Granted
Mar 17	145	34	990	13	\$133,949.00
Jun 17	249	69	1,587	18	\$255,097.81
Sep 17	221	63	1,364	18	\$206,678.22
Dec 17	191	61	1,232	15	\$169,617.00
Mar 18	278	76	1,793	18	\$300,048.00
Jun 18	362	89	2,422	20	\$438,457.61
Sep 18	477	97	3,217	17	\$639,143.13
Dec 18	612	117	4,044	20	\$1,070,134.25
Mar 19	593	117	3,967	25	\$1,038,852.39

Notes:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs).
- Hutt Valley clients are clients from the Upper Hutt, Naenae, Lower Hutt, and Wainuiomata Work and Income Service Centres. Site is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- This includes clients from all ages and benefit types. A client or provider may be counted more than once in this data, if they had an EH SNG in more than one quarter.
- Register status is at the end of the week in which the EH SNG was granted. Register applications include those currently on the Register and associated statuses such as "Provisional Offer Approved". The Housing Register includes priority A and B applications on the Housing and Transfer Registers. The Register data is based on any applicant included in a Register application.