



18 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 21 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Spend on Emergency Housing in Wellington CBD (not region, just CBD) for June 2019*
2. *Number of people in Emergency Housing in Wellington CBD (not region, just CBD) for June 2019*
3. *Spend on Emergency Housing in Wellington CBD (not region, just CBD) for June 2020*
4. *Number of people in Emergency Housing in Wellington CBD (not region, just CBD) for June 2020*
5. *Spend on Emergency Housing in Wellington CBD (not region, just CBD) for June 2021*
6. *Number of people in Emergency Housing in Wellington CBD (not region, just CBD) for June 2021*
7. *Can I please get the same requests as above but for the months of January instead?*

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) 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. The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier, and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended depending on the individual's circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution, or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. More information about EH SNGs is available at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/emergency-housing.html

In New Zealand there has been a growing demand for emergency housing, as the shortage of affordable housing and rising rents continues to impact low-income whānau, particularly those who are beneficiaries. The year 2020 saw an especially sharp increase in the number of EH SNGs, as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 Lockdown restrictions by providing accommodation in which they could safely self-isolate. During that period, people could not easily move out of emergency housing into long-term accommodation, which contributed to longer durations of stays and higher costs.

Please see below **Table One**, which shows the number of EH SNGs paid on behalf of Wellington City-based clients in January and June of the years 2019 to 2021, broken down by the number of clients and the amount granted.

Table One: Number of EH SNGs paid on behalf of Wellington City-based clients in January and June of the years 2019 to 2021, broken down by the number of clients and the amount granted.

Month	WELLINGTON CITY		
	Grants	Clients	Amount Granted
January 2019	120	54	\$107,022.04
June 2019	282	117	\$326,172.48
January 2020	231	93	\$283,754.24
June 2020	675	351	\$1,592,096.44
January 2021	702	468	\$2,472,844.10
June 2021	741	441	\$2,586,074.23

Notes:

- Grants are not the same as clients. A client may be receiving more than one grant within a period.
- Amount granted is not necessarily the amount spent.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- 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 published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Further information on Emergency Housing data is published quarterly on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development’s website. The information can be found at the following links:

- 2019 March: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/March-2019/386d318b6e/Housing-regional-Factsheets-March-2019-Wellington-web.pdf
- 2019 June: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/June-2019/6c4f746f30/Housing-Quarterly-Report-June-2019-v11.pdf
- 2020 March: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/Regional-Dashboards-2020/aaff4d7d7/Housing-regional-Factsheets-March-2020-Wellington.pdf
- 2020 June: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/Regional-Dashboards-2020/June-2020/Housing-regional-Factsheets-June-2020-Wellington.pdf

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 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 about the number of people in and amount spent on emergency housing in Wellington City, 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

YR



Karen Hocking
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Housing