



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Tēnā koe

On 23 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding emergency housing in Waihi, Waihi Beach and Whangamata area:

- 1. How many 18-24 year olds are on job seekers benefits for each of the three areas as separate figures for each area- not combined.*
- 2. Emergency housing – how many units do you have in each area and the occupancy levels ie are any available?*
- 3. For the elderly – we want to know how many pensioners there are, and how many are accessing subsidised housing for each area*

On 3 August 2021, the Ministry contacted you to discuss and refine question two and three of your request. The Ministry explained that it does not record occupancy details and the lowest area the Ministry reports on for emergency housing is the Hauraki District Territorial Land Authority (TLA). In order to be helpful, the Ministry could provide you with the number of grants and distinct clients for the Hauraki District TLA.

On 3 August 2021, you confirmed that you were happy with this approach and 'subsidised housing' was to be interpreted as people in a current tenancy.

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 dependant on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights, Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation, and whether another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people in emergency housing to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing or private rental accommodation. Other options, including transitional housing, can also be explored as an option depending on availability and 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. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EH SNGs is available here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/special-needs-grant.html.

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply, or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing, which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time.

For people with high and complex needs, it can sometimes be challenging to identify suitable long-term housing, which can lead to longer stays in emergency housing. Work and Income work closely with these people to see what can be done to ensure that once they have a home of their own, they have the skills to sustain it, and the support they need to keep it.

As advised in the clarification email sent to you on 3 August 2021, the Ministry only reports on clients at a TLA level. Any breakdown smaller than TLA is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, all questions regarding a breakdown of data into townships is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

Please see enclosed **Appendix A** which contains the following tables:

- **Table One:** The number of Jobseeker Support benefits aged 18-24 years old in the Hauraki District TLA as at the month ending June 2021.
- **Table Two:** The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, Clients and Amount Granted in the Hauraki District TLA during the quarter ending June 2021.
- **Table Three:** The number of New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension current tenancies in the Hauraki District TLA as at 30 June 2021.

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
- 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 available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and the attached document 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 Hauraki District TLA, 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

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix A.

Table One: The number of Jobseeker Support benefits aged 18-24 years old in the Hauraki District TLA as at the month ending June 2021

TLA	Jobseeker Support
Hauraki district	186

Notes for Table One:

- TLA is estimated based on clients address as at the end of the period.

Table Two: The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, Clients and Amount Granted in the Hauraki District TLA during the quarter ending June 2021

TLA	Grants	Clients	Amount Granted
Hauraki district	141	27	\$219,061.87

Notes for Table Two:

- TLA is estimated based on clients address as at the end of the period.
- Grants is not the same as clients. A client may have more than one grant within a period.
- Amount granted is not necessarily the amount spent.
- 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.

Table Three: The number of New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension current tenancies in the Hauraki District TLA as at 30 June 2021

TLA	Current Tenancies
Hauraki district	30

Notes for Table Three:

- This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.
- TLA is based on the tenancy address.