



14 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 14 May 2021, Kāinga Ora transferred part of your Official Information request to the Ministry of Social Development to answer under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). The Ministry will be responding to the following questions:

1. *Number of active Ruapehu emergency housing requests*
2. *Current costs of Emergency needs grants and number of clients for Jan 2021 to end of March 2021*
3. *Number of Ruapehu residents on wait list for housing*
4. *Number of people and cost within Ruapehu living in motels funded by the agency and or/MSD*

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place or residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's need. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended, dependent on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights, Work and Income will arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation, and to determine if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people receiving EH SNGs to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing or private rental accommodation.

The Ministry recognises that emergency housing is not a long-term solution. However, EH is a short-term solution for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. More information about EH SNGs is available on the Ministry's website at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/index.html.

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will respond to your questions in turn.

1. *Number of active Ruapehu emergency housing requests*
2. *Current costs of Emergency needs grants and number of clients for Jan 2021 to end of March 2021*
4. *Number of people and cost within Ruapehu living in motels funded by the agency and or/MSD*

As per the previous response the Ministry released to you on 15 February 2021, your request has been interpreted as the number of clients who have received an EH SNG. Please note, due to the nature of motels and people checking in and out of accommodation, the grant information the Ministry holds doesn't necessarily reflect the current occupancy of EH in the area.

Please see below **Table One** which shows the total number of EH SNG granted, the number of clients and the amount granted in the Ruapehu District TLA for the quarter ending March 2021.

Table One: The total number of EH SNG granted, the number of clients and the amount granted in the Ruapehu District TLA for the quarter ending March 2021.

Territorial Authority	Quarter Ending 31 March 2021		
	Total Grants	Clients	Amount Granted
RUAPEHU DISTRICT	51	15	\$106,120

Notes:

- One client may have more than one Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.
- This report only contains clients with a recorded residential address in the Ruapehu Territorial Authority
- 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.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a territorial authority through suburb and city details have an unknown territorial authority.
- The amount granted may not be the amount spent.
- 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 2 counts.

3. Number of Ruapehu residents on wait list for housing

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The combined register is referred to as the Public 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. While the Ministry completes the housing assessments which inform the Public Housing Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with HUD and Kāinga Ora, respectively. More information about the Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested will soon be publicly available. This information will be published as soon as possible and can be found at the following link on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Developments website: www.hud.govt.nz/news-and-resources/statistics-and-research/public-housing-reports/. Please note that Ruapehu information falls under the Taranaki Regional breakdown at the above link.

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 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 in regard Emergency Housing in the Ruapehu 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KH' followed by a stylized name.

Karen Hocking
**General Manager
Housing**