



30 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 1 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *the number of households on the public housing register as at 31 May 2021, and*
2. *the number of EH SNG clients at 31 May 2021*

On 14 June 2021, the Ministry advised you that question one of your request was being transferred to Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as it is more closely connected with the functions of HUD. In these circumstances, we are required under section 14 of the Act to transfer your request.

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, 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.

The year 2020, saw a significant increase in demand for emergency housing as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic period with accommodation where they could safely self-isolate. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, people also could not easily move out of emergency housing into long-term accommodation which contributed to longer durations of stay and higher costs.

Please see **Table One** below, which shows the number of grants, clients and amount granted by the Ministry for EH SNGs for the quarter ending 31 March 2021.

Table One: The number of grants, clients and amount granted by the Ministry for EH SNGs for the quarter ending 31 March 2021.

| Quarter Ending | Number of Grants | Number of Clients | Amount Granted |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| March 2021 | 34,314 | 8,025 | \$77,805,320.63 |

Notes for Table One:

- The number of clients is not the same as the number of grants. A client may have more than one grant within a period.
- The amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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 two counts.

Please note that the Ministry reports on EH SNGs data by quarter, and at the time of your request, the most recent period available was March 2021. Therefore, the Ministry cannot provide you with information as at 31 May 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 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 in regard to the number of EH SNGs, 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



 Karen Hocking
**General Manager
Housing**