



13 April 2022

Tēnā koe

On 14 March 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *What percentage of the current National Social Housing Register are Māori living in Auckland?*

On 16 March 2022, this aspect of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) as the information was not held by HUD but is held by the Ministry.

The Public Housing Register (the Register) consists of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register represents those already in Public Housing who are eligible to be rehoused, generally due to a change in circumstances prompting a move to somewhere more appropriate to their needs.

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.

Many factors contribute to the fluctuations in the Public Housing Register. The needs of New Zealanders are changing, and many families are finding it harder to access the private rental market. This is particularly true for those who have been renting for a long time and are now looking to buy their first home in an increasingly competitive and expensive housing market.

The Public Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right

number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having the greater need for housing will be prioritised higher.

Nationally, there is an issue of housing demand exceeding supply. More housing is needed to support the most vulnerable people in our community and the Government, through a number of agencies, is working to increase the amount of Public Housing. More information about Public Housing is contained in HUD’s quarterly reports which can be found at the following link: www.hud.govt.nz/research-and-publications/statistics-and-research/public-housing-reports/.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client’s housing need, housing need priority ratings and the calculation of overall priority ratings can be found on the Work and Income website at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

Please see **Table One** below which shows the number of Māori clients on the Public Housing Register.

Table One: The number of clients on the Public Housing Register as at the end of December 2021, broken down by ethnicity and Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

TLA	Māori	Other Ethnicities	Total
Auckland Super City	4,011	6,900	10,914
Rest of New Zealand	11,250	8,589	19,836
Total	15,261	15,489	30,750

Notes for Table One:

- Ethnicity data is self-identified. Clients identifying with more than one ethnicity may be counted more than once.
- TLA is estimated based on the client’s address at the time of application on the Social Housing Register.
- ‘Non-Māori’ includes unspecified ethnicity.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. This data table has 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.

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'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, 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

 
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Housing