



Report

Date: 28 March 2018

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development

Further information on clients receiving tents

Purpose of the report

- 1 This paper provides you with information about MSD's approach to date to providing funding to clients to purchase tents at their request, and when there are no other accommodation options available over the last 12 months.

The information we have

- 2 In order to provide information for your initial request, we asked each of our 11 regions if they are aware of any cases in which grants for tents had been made as our system does not record tents as a separate sub-category of hardship grant.
- 3 While we cannot provide a detailed account of every case, based on information we have received from regions, common reasons for providing funding for a client, at their request, to purchase a tent were:
 - 3.1 Seasonal workers wanting to stay on site
 - 3.2 Where there were no other short term emergency accommodation options available in the local area at the time.
 - 3.3 Where clients preferred a tent over other emergency accommodation options.
- 4 In cases where staff were able to recall the time period where support was provided the cases generally took place over the summer period. In a large number of the cases we are aware of, the clients involved were staying at a campground or on a relative or a friend's property.

It will be difficult to collate fulsome and detailed information

- 5 As cases involving the provision of hardship grants to purchase tents are unusual, staff have been asked to recall cases. This means the place in our system where this information is recorded is not easily searchable. This information may also be recorded under inconsistent terms for example using brand names or general outdoor camping terms instead of "tent."
- 6 In order to provide accurate information about each case where a client has come to MSD requesting assistance to purchase a tent, we require either a specific system code or the identifying details of the client involved. In this situation, we do not have all of these details to hand, so a system search would be difficult to undertake.

Recommended actions

- 7 It is recommended that you:
 - 7.1 **Note** that we have information from our regions advising of assistance provided to approximately 25 clients requesting to purchase tents

7.2 **Note** that without a specific code or client details, this information has been based on the recall of our staff.



Liz Jones
Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Service Delivery

28.3.18

Date



Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development

28/03/18

Date

File ref: REP/18/3/447

Author: s9(2)(a) OIA, DCE Advisor, Service Delivery)

Responsible manager: (Liz Jones, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery)