



5 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 7 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Can I please have the amount of money MSD has paid to Aroha House in Tauranga each year over the last five years?

[...] just the EHSNG.

further to this

- Can I please have the total EHSNG payments to Aroha House in Tauranga over the last five years*
- Can this please be broken down into each year in the last five years*
- Can I please have the total amount of other payments made by MSD to Aroha House over the last five years, broken down into each year.*
- Can you please specify what these payments were for*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and many people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

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 if 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 at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html.

You will find attached **Appendix, Table One** which details the number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants and amount granted from the Ministry to Arthouse Accommodation (now trading as Aroha House) from 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2023.

Also attached **Appendix, Table Two** are other payments made to Arthouse Accommodation (now trading as Aroha House) from 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2023. These payments are made on behalf of clients and are generally recoverable from the client. These payments are likely to be made on behalf long term residents.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing



Appendix

Table One: The amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to Arthouse Accommodation during the period 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2023, by calendar year.

MSD Supplier Name	Calendar Year	Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants
		Amount Granted
ARTHOUSE ACCOMMODATION	2020	\$10,029.00
	2021	\$224,445.82
	2022	\$1,008,459.89
	2023 (Up to 31 July 2023)	\$750,240.19
Total		\$1,993,174.90

Notes:

Amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.

No payments were found for this supplier in 2018 or 2019.

Table Two: The amount of hardship payments other than Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to Arthouse Accommodation during the period 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2023, by calendar year and need type.

MSD Supplier Name	Calendar Year	Need Type						Total Amount Granted
		Rent Arrears	Rent in Advance	Security Deposit Claim	Stranded travel - Other	Tenancy Bond	Other	
		Amount Granted	Amount Granted	Amount Granted	Amount Granted	Amount Granted	Amount Granted	
ARTHOUSE ACCOMMODATION	2020	\$0	\$941.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$941.00
	2021	\$6,061.64	\$22,148.71	\$0	\$0	\$500.00	\$5,261.00	\$33,971.35
	2022	\$1,480.00	\$11,120.00	\$315.00	\$314.30	\$3,750.00	\$848.00	\$17,827.30
	2023 (Up to 31 July 2023)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,714.28	\$1,714.28
Total		\$7,541.64	\$34,209.71	\$315.00	\$314.30	\$4,250.00	\$7,823.28	\$54,453.93

Notes:

This is Hardship Payments granted as Special Needs Grants, Recoverable Assistance Payments and Advances on benefit.

Amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.

No payments were found for this supplier in 2018 or 2019.

The 'Other' need type includes Other Emergency Payment and Other Emergency Grants.