



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

21 JUL 2017

Dear

On 13 February 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information relating to emergency housing. We regret the delay in responding to your request.

As of 1 July 2016, the Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (SNG) was made available to people who for various reasons, cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and will not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for their or their family's needs.

The Ministry contracts emergency housing places and staff endeavour to place eligible clients with an urgent need in transitional housing as a first option. Where that is not possible, and where there is eligibility, the Ministry is able to meet the cost of temporary accommodation, such as motels or hotels, through the Emergency Housing SNG.

In the context of your request, we have attached two tables which show Emergency Housing SNGs by age and ethnicity for the quarter ending March 2017.

Further information regarding Emergency Housing SNGs is also available on the Ministry's website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/emergency-housing.html

I can advise that between:

- 1 July and 30 September 2016, the Ministry approved approximately \$4,344,000 for 5,450 Emergency Housing SNGs to 2,140 clients nationally;
- 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2016, the Ministry granted \$7,735,787.91 for 8,860 Emergency Housing SNGs to 2,616 clients nationally; and
- 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017, the Ministry granted \$8,835,087.29 for 9,218 Emergency Housing SNGs to 2,616 clients nationally.

Please refer to the following website links to Written Parliamentary Question responses regarding regional breakdowns of Emergency Housing SNGs for the September and December 2016 quarters, and the March 2017 quarter: www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/QWA_02165_2017/2165-2017-carmel-sepuloni-to-the-associate-minister and www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/QWA_02165_2017/2165-2017-carmel-sepuloni-to-the-associate-minister

[questions/document/QWA_00121_2017/121-2017-louisa-wall-to-the-minister-for-social-housing](#)

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 shortly. 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 you have the right to seek a review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gallacher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Gallacher
Deputy Chief Executive, Housing

Table 1: Emergency Housing SNGs approved broken down by age group for the quarter ending 31 March 2017.

Age	Grants	Amount Granted
16-19	313	\$244,833.39
20-24	1,213	\$1,086,711.46
25-29	1,580	\$1,578,671.71
30-34	1,559	\$1,494,133.95
35-39	1,280	\$1,314,560.78
40-44	1,047	\$1,014,567.13
45-49	894	\$847,674.97
50-54	547	\$489,341.64
55-59	449	\$410,689.39
60-64	172	\$178,033.13
65+	164	\$175,869.74
Total	9,218	\$8,835,087.29

Notes:

- This is a count of grants. A client may have more than one grant in the time period.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants (SNG).
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Age is recorded at the time of the grant.

Table 2: Emergency Housing SNGs approved broken down by ethnicity group for the quarter ending 31 March 2017.

Ethnicity	Grants	Amount Granted
Maori	5,330	\$5,139,131.84
Pacific Island	1,058	\$1,310,240.75
NZ European	1,892	\$1,471,966.13
Other	763	\$740,531.57
Unspecified	175	\$173,217.00
Total	9,218	\$8,835,087.29

Notes:

- This is a count of grants. A client may have more than one grant in the time period.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants (SNG).
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified. A client may nominate multiple ethnicities as fits their preference or self-concept. However, when the Ministry reports on this data people are grouped by a single ethnicity based on standard Ministry practice. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.
- Pacific Island includes clients with the ethnicities of Samoan, Cook Island Maori, Tokelauan, Tongan and Niuean.
- Other ethnicities includes Other Europeans, Asian peoples and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African people.