



Tena koe 

On 20 March 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Figures regarding how many families/individuals Work and Income has placed into camping grounds under emergency housing provisions please in the past two years?*
- *Where the families/individuals live (towns etc).*

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) was introduced on 1 July 2016 in order to fund temporary accommodation at places such as hostels and motels to meet people's immediate housing needs. This grant is paid to help meet the cost of short-term accommodation where no Transitional Housing is available. The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution, particularly for vulnerable people with complex needs, but they provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. It is important to note that while the Ministry encourages clients to explore alternative accommodation and provides options, advice and financial assistance to support their housing needs, a client may choose to stay in accommodation the Ministry considers to be inadequate.

The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation provider. This grant 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. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights, but can be extended dependent on individual circumstances. In most cases, this does not need to be paid back, though this will depend on a household's circumstances.

There is a high demand for housing - emergency, transitional and public housing- across the country. The Ministry has strong relationships with local government, non-government and other community organisations working together to support those who present with housing needs, as well as offering other services to the public.

Housing solutions can be limited in some areas as there can be a lack of affordable renting options and a year-round need for accommodation for workers in the horticultural and viticulture industries. The demand for housing for workers increases during crop harvests. The Ministry is in discussion with the industry in regards to having more accommodation options for seasonal workers.

More information about EH SNGs is available here:

[www.housing.msdc.govt.nz/housing-options/emergency-housing.html](http://www.housing.msdc.govt.nz/housing-options/emergency-housing.html).

Please find enclosed, Tables One and Two showing the number of EH SNGs, number of distinct clients and amount granted to Holiday Parks and Camping Grounds granted by Work and Income region during the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

The Ministry does not hold addresses for the camp grounds/holiday parks. The locations were instead based on the Work and Income region where the grant was from.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

I am refusing your request for the number of families that were granted EH SNGs as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 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 further with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wise', with a small flourish at the end.

Cassandra Wise  
**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Table One: Number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to Holiday Parks and Camping Grounds during the period 01 January 2017- 31 December 2017**

Work and Income region	Quarter Ending											
	Mar-17			Jun-17			Sep-17			Dec-17		
	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted
Northland	13	S	\$5,869.00	20	10	\$7,993.75	19	9	\$7,913.00	9	6	\$4,337.63
Auckland Metro	77	47	\$56,114.20	115	78	\$96,738.50	139	79	\$113,726.00	82	44	\$74,001.00
Waikato	32	22	\$27,536.00	12	9	\$7,604.75	11	7	\$3,907.50	S	S	\$2,823.00
Taranaki	26	16	\$11,167.00	22	15	\$7,713.00	13	9	\$6,843.80	S	S	\$2,455.00
Bay of Plenty	14	12	\$11,243.00	20	11	\$13,903.25	35	12	\$19,275.00	12	11	\$8,086.00
East Coast	7	S	\$2,430.00	17	9	\$10,523.00	37	13	\$23,057.00	7	S	\$4,315.00
Central	20	13	\$8,433.00	12	10	\$5,445.28	11	7	\$4,947.00	S	S	\$3,845.00
Wellington	54	33	\$30,464.13	56	25	\$36,493.91	41	22	\$27,411.64	43	22	\$29,379.00
Nelson	38	19	\$23,716.00	149	48	\$96,082.00	99	43	\$53,993.50	34	18	\$19,775.00
Canterbury	31	23	\$11,838.00	52	31	\$20,898.00	42	23	\$16,421.00	21	14	\$11,294.14
Southern	31	24	\$10,548.00	16	13	\$9,746.00	37	17	\$21,431.50	19	13	\$6,466.00
Other	23	19	\$6,251.14	33	14	\$19,714.00	18	14	\$8,503.00	7	S	\$3,370.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>\$205,609.47</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>\$332,855.44</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>\$307,429.94</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$170,146.77</b>

**Table Two: Number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to Holiday Parks and Camping Grounds during the period 01 January 2018- 31 December 2018**

Work and Income region	Quarter Ending											
	Mar-18			Jun-18			Sep-18			Dec-18		
	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted	Count of Grants	Distinct Clients	Amount Granted
Northland	S	S	\$1,530.00	9	7	\$7,283.00	17	10	\$11,589.40	21	15	\$11,518.50
Auckland Metro	27	22	\$14,484.00	27	23	\$22,513.27	79	48	\$61,030.50	52	39	\$41,634.50
Waikato	15	7	\$9,085.00	18	8	\$9,732.00	15	8	\$12,195.00	25	16	\$15,403.00
Taranaki	7	S	\$2,750.00	12	6	\$4,209.00	10	9	\$4,615.00	17	14	\$8,504.00
Bay of Plenty	21	11	\$16,367.55	43	26	\$28,677.00	93	48	\$71,500.67	117	38	\$89,531.50
East Coast	6	S	\$5,755.00	21	16	\$21,431.70	15	12	\$11,889.00	47	24	\$53,505.50
Central	S	S	\$1,364.00	6	S	\$3,808.57	17	11	\$8,261.00	S	S	\$5,650.00
Wellington	20	13	\$13,717.00	55	36	\$37,439.00	21	18	\$20,342.00	38	20	\$34,373.50
Nelson	25	13	\$15,540.00	36	20	\$24,420.00	38	23	\$19,981.00	59	33	\$39,406.82
Canterbury	18	17	\$7,049.00	36	25	\$15,703.00	29	23	\$14,290.00	44	28	\$21,640.00
Southern	12	10	\$6,475.00	44	23	\$23,020.00	50	27	\$34,571.00	23	14	\$16,225.00
Other	S	S	\$300.00	8	S	\$5,733.00	12	9	\$5,411.00	S	S	\$1,508.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>\$94,416.55</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>\$203,969.54</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>\$275,675.57</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>\$338,900.32</b>

**Notes for Tables One and Two:**

- It must be noted that within the "Count of Grants", some clients may have been counted more than once in the period recorded if multiple grants exist. Furthermore, the figures relating to the amount granted through EH SNGs may not be representative of the amount spent.
- Clients managed from non-regional service centres such as; the Centralised Processing Unit, Youth Services and the Studylink Processing Centre have been included in the data and have been recorded under the region labelled as "other".