



2 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 6 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *How much money has been accessed from the Flexible Funding Package, available under the Homelessness Action Plan, for additional (or increased) costs for immediate needs encountered because whanau are staying in Emergency Housing? (could this please be broken down into regions and weekly payouts)*
2. *What is the funding being accessed for?*
3. *Who are the approved contractors for FF nationwide?*
4. *How many requests for Flexible Funding have been denied?*

For the sake of clarity, I will address each question in turn.

1. *How much money has been accessed from the Flexible Funding Package, available under the Homelessness Action Plan, for additional (or increased) costs for immediate needs encountered because whanau are staying in Emergency Housing? (could this please be broken down into regions and weekly payouts)*

Please refer to **Table One** below, which shows the total amount of Flexible Funding Assistance (FFA) accessed by clients of the Ministry, broken down by region, as at 30 June 2021.

Table One: The total amount of Flexible Funding Assistance (FFA) accessed by clients of the Ministry, broken down by region, as at 30 June 2021

Region	Amount
Auckland	\$266,500.00
Bay of Plenty	\$270,000.00
Canterbury	\$18,000.00
Central	\$79,700.00
East Coast	\$122,500.00
Nelson	\$12,000.00
Southern	\$24,000.00
Taranaki	\$29,250.00

Region	Amount
Waikato	\$340,000.00
Wellington	\$171,000.00
Northland	\$0.00
Total	\$1,332,950.00

Payments of FAA are made by contracted providers and suppliers on the Ministry's behalf. Due to the way in which FFA is administered and recorded by providers and suppliers, the Ministry is unable to provide a weekly breakdown for each region. The Ministry would need to manually review individual client files and confirm whether their address was within the district. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act due to the substantial manual collation required. 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.

In the Northland region, The Ministry has chosen to support the needs of families in emergency accommodation directly through our case manager services, rather than through the FFA. For individuals and whānau in emergency housing, the Ministry assigns a dedicated case manager who works with them to secure more permanent housing. There is a small number of tamariki in emergency housing in the region, in comparison to other regions.

In the case of this region, the Ministry believes this is working to effectively support whānau. The Ministry is continuing to look at how it can improve services and regularly discusses the needs of individuals and whānau with our community providers.

2. What is the funding being accessed for?

FFA can be used for individuals, and where appropriate, groups of children. For example, the Ministry has partnered with community organisations to deliver after-school programmes and school holiday programmes for children in emergency housing.

FFA has also been used for additional early childhood education, employment preparedness, travel (where whānau are financially disadvantaged and need to attend house viewings in an area of their choice for a long-term home), and sports equipment for children who would benefit from extra-curricular activities.

More information about FFA can be found on the Ministry's website, here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/flexible-funding-assistance/index.html.

3. Who are the approved contractors for FF nationwide?

Please refer to **Table Two** below, which shows the list of FFA providers by region.

Table Two: The list of FFA providers by region

Region	Providers
Auckland	Emerge Aotearoa
Bay of Plenty	Central North Island Kindergarten Trust (Rotorua and Tokoroa)
	Te Runanga o Ngai te Rangi Iwi Trust (Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty)
	Ngati Awa Social and Health Services (Whakatane, Opotiki and Kawerau)
	Tuwharetoa Health (Taupo)
Canterbury	Emerge Aotearoa
Central	MASH Trust
East Coast	Emerge Aotearoa (Hawkes Bay)
	Enabled Wairoa (Wairoa)
	Te Hauora o Turanganui a Kiwa (Gisborne/East Coast)
Nelson	Christchurch Methodist Mission
Southern	Emerge Aotearoa
Taranaki	Whangai People's Centre (Whanganui)
	Tui Ora Limited (New Plymouth)
Waikato	Te Kohao Health Ltd
Wellington	Te Roopu Awhina ki Porirua
Northland	-

4. How many requests for Flexible Funding have been denied?

In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to review thousands of individual files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the 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. The Ministry has 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 to the wider public. 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 regarding the Flexible Funding Package, 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 black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

 Karen Hocking
General Manager
Housing