



10 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 15 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please provide information on the number of requests for emergency accommodation in Te Awamutu during 2021 and the number that were filled and where (Te Awamutu, Hamilton etc.).*

On 22 July 2021, you refined your request to the following:

- *Number of emergency accommodation applications granted and declined in Te Awamutu YTD (2021).*

On 23 July 2021, you confirmed that your request was for the Waipa Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more 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 up to 21 nights 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 and 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

Please see **Table One** below, which details the number of EH SNGs granted and declined in the Waipa TLA between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021. Please note that there were no EH SNGs declined in the Waipa TLA for the period 01 January 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Table One: Number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants granted in the Waipa Territorial Local Authority (TLA) between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021.

Territorial Local Authority	Distinct Clients	Number of Grants	Amount Granted
Waipa	60	261	\$508,289.66

Notes for Table One:

- Grants are not the same as clients. A client may have more than one grant within the duration.
- Amount granted is not necessarily the amount spent.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

For EH SNG information regarding the Waipa TLA from previous years, please see the Housing regional factsheets available in the Public housing reports archive on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's website here: www.hud.govt.nz/news-and-resources/statistics-and-research/public-housing-reports/public-housing-reports-archive/.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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 regarding emergency housing in Waipa, 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



Karen Hocking
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Housing