



17 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 following information:

- *How many children have stayed in emergency accommodation since last June (broken down by month and region)*
- *How long have those children been staying in emergency accommodation*
- *What are the ages of those children?*

There has been a growing demand nationally for emergency housing, as the shortage of affordable housing and rising rents continues to impact low-income whānau, particularly those who are beneficiaries.

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place or 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 depending on the individual's 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.

Information regarding children in emergency housing was released in the Ministry's 2019/20 Annual Review to the Social Services and Community Committee. The data used for the 2019/20 Annual Review was operational data. In the past, the Ministry has chosen to publish emergency housing data in line with other official reporting on hardship assistance. However, due to the increased public interest, the Ministry decided to publish operational data, which is at a point in time, or a snapshot, of children in emergency housing for the purposes of the Annual Review.

Operational data, taken at a point in time or as a snapshot, means that the data is taken from a narrow window and can fluctuate significantly from day to day. Any clients that are entering emergency housing on the day the reporting takes place will not be counted within the reported snapshot of data, resulting in a significant portion of EH SNG clients that will be missed in this method of reporting.

When a client applies for an EH SNG, the client will provide the appointed Case Manager or Housing Broker the total number of adults and children who will likely be staying the emergency accommodation with them. No other information that identifies the relationships of these adults and children to the applicant is recorded for an EH SNG application, nor is confirmation of whether the children and/or adults will be staying in emergency accommodation for the duration of the EH SNG. EH SNG clients may have complex family or caregiver relationships, and it is not uncommon for children of one parent to stay with another family member or there could be scenarios where the same child is recorded in multiple EH SNG applications, (i.e, both parents are in separate emergency accommodation at the same time).

The Ministry centrally records the total number of children, and separately, the total number of adults who are likely to be staying in emergency accommodation. This is recorded in the main applicant's EH SNG application. In line with data released in the 2019/20 Annual Review, the Ministry has provided you with a point in time snapshot of emergency housing composition, which includes children.

Please see **Table One**, within the attached Excel spreadsheet, which outlines the number of clients and children who were in receipt of EH SNGs, as at the end of the quarters 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2021, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA). Please note that TLA is the standard regional geographical boundary used by the Ministry for EH SNG reporting and the data has been provided at this regional level to satisfy the intent of your request.

Please note, **Table One** has been presented as at a point in time. Unlike standard emergency housing reporting, which is based on the date of the EH SNG, operational reporting is based on a point in time, using the recorded check in and check out details of the main applicant. The Ministry cannot confirm whether the additional adults and/or children are staying in the emergency accommodation for the duration of the EH SNG.

Furthermore, the lowest geographical boundary the Ministry reports on for clients receiving EH SNGs is TLA. The Ministry records the addresses of recipients at a local level; however, this information is kept on individual client records and is not part of the Ministry's standard reporting. The TLA is estimated based on the clients' address at the time of the grant. Where the client address is not recorded, the location of the Ministry's service centre case managing the client has been used to approximate which TLA a client resides in. However, as the Ministry has switched to working from national queues, EH SNGs and other hardship grants could be granted by a case manager working anywhere in New Zealand. Therefore, in such cases, the TLA may not reflect the actual client address or location. Due to the transient nature of people receiving EH SNGs, the recorded address for a client may also be that of a trusted family member or friend who receives mail on their behalf.

Information regarding the duration which households with children were in receipt of EH SNG as at 31 March 2021 was provided to you in a previous response which is available to view at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2021/june/20210623-request-to-know-how-many-children-are-currently-staying-and-have-been-in-ea-for-longer-than-3-to-6-months-and-in-which-regions-and-how-many-children-staying-in-motels-are.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2021/june/20210623-request-to-know-how-many-children-are-currently-staying-and-have-been-in-ea-for-longer-than-3-to-6-months-and-in-which-regions-and-how-many-children-staying-in-motels-are.pdf)

To satisfy the intent of the second part of your request, please see **Table Two** within the attached Excel spreadsheet, which outlines details the number of clients and children who were in receipt of EH SNGs as at 30 June 2021 by quarter and duration in emergency housing.

Please note that when a client applies for an EH SNG, the Ministry records the household make-up as it has been advised by the client, including the number of children. However, in some cases, children may have alternative living arrangements, and may not necessarily be living in emergency housing for the entire duration of the EH SNG.

Regarding the third part of your request, the Ministry does not hold information regarding the age of children in emergency housing as age is not recorded in an EH SNG application. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act.

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 and attachments 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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

  
Karen Hocking  
**General Manager  
Housing**

Table One: The number of clients and children who were in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG) as at the end of the quarters 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2021 broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA)

TLA / as at date	30 June 2020			30 September 2020			31 December 2020			31 March 2021			30 June 2021		
	Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children	Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children	Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children	Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children	Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children
ASHBURTON DISTRICT	9	S	6	9	S	6	9	S	9	S	9	9	S	9	18
AUCKLAND SUPER CITY	1350	702	1566	1302	738	1,596	1221	726	1554	1230	774	1,674	1,065	624	1,305
BULLER DISTRICT	9	0	0	15	S	S	9	S	S	6	S	S	6	S	9
CARTERTON DISTRICT	S	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	0
CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT	15	S	12	18	S	9	15	S	12	15	9	15	S	18	21
CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT	0	0	0	S	S	S	0	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	6
CHRISTCHURCH CITY	273	72	114	177	66	123	150	51	96	198	87	162	198	93	180
CLUTHA DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	S	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUNEDIN CITY	18	6	15	18	6	18	S	S	6	S	S	S	S	S	S
FAR NORTH DISTRICT	12	S	6	S	S	S	18	9	18	12	9	24	12	6	21
GISBORNE DISTRICT	108	48	102	120	63	132	93	42	96	99	51	117	102	66	135
GORE DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	S
GREY DISTRICT	18	9	24	21	9	21	21	6	21	27	9	27	27	12	27
HAMILTON CITY	381	264	519	369	276	531	393	273	552	480	327	678	552	330	675
HASTINGS DISTRICT	78	30	51	78	33	57	54	21	30	84	39	63	99	48	102
HAURAKI DISTRICT	9	6	15	9	6	12	9	9	18	9	6	9	15	9	12
HOROWHENUA DISTRICT	36	18	36	39	15	30	33	12	21	30	15	33	36	15	30
HURUNUI DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	0	0	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	0
INVERCARGILL CITY	30	18	33	27	18	27	12	S	9	0	0	S	S	S	S
KAIKOURA DISTRICT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	S	S
KAIPARA DISTRICT	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KAPITI COAST DISTRICT	36	18	30	48	21	36	36	15	33	39	15	33	39	18	33
KAWERAU DISTRICT	15	6	9	24	12	21	24	12	24	21	9	15	27	12	21
LOWER HUTT CITY	138	45	81	156	63	108	123	51	84	90	39	66	90	39	60
MANAWATU DISTRICT	9	6	12	6	S	12	6	S	S	9	6	12	9	6	9
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT	54	15	24	48	15	27	18	S	6	18	S	12	24	6	15
MASTERTON DISTRICT	48	18	27	48	18	21	30	12	15	27	12	21	36	18	21
MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT	18	12	24	24	21	45	15	12	15	12	9	18	15	12	21
NAPIER CITY	174	78	150	189	87	150	165	90	168	162	84	162	165	84	168
NELSON CITY	45	15	33	39	21	33	9	9	21	15	9	21	24	12	27
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT	42	24	42	39	27	51	39	24	57	42	27	75	45	30	69
OPOTIKI DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	S	S	6	15	9	24
OTOROHANGA DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	0	0	S	S	6	S	S	S	S	S	6
PALMERSTON NORTH CITY	120	57	90	135	54	90	132	54	78	126	54	84	126	66	120
PORIRUA CITY	66	30	60	60	24	39	66	24	42	75	27	48	51	18	27
QUEENSTOWN-LAKES DISTRICT	0	0	0	S	0	0	S	S	S	0	0	0	S	0	0
RANGITIKEI DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	9	S	S	S
ROTORUA DISTRICT	291	129	231	297	138	246	366	195	354	372	192	360	408	207	384
RUAPEHU DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	9	S	S	S	9	S	9
SELWYN DISTRICT	S	S	S	0	0	0	S	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	6
SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT	6	S	9	S	S	S	S	S	S	9	6	9	6	S	9
SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT	24	15	33	12	9	21	12	9	15	15	S	12	9	6	18
SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT	S	S	S	0	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SOUTHLAND DISTRICT	0	0	0	S	0	0	0	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	S
STRATFORD DISTRICT	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	9	6	S	6
TARARUA DISTRICT	S	S	S	6	S	S	S	S	S	6	S	6	S	S	S
TASMAN DISTRICT	12	S	9	9	S	6	S	S	S	S	S	6	S	S	S
TAUPO DISTRICT	42	15	30	54	18	30	54	21	48	66	24	48	87	42	81
TAURANGA CITY	144	69	117	126	66	126	102	57	132	111	72	165	105	75	159
THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT	S	S	12	S	S	S	S	S	S	6	S	9	12	9	15
TIMARU DISTRICT	9	S	6	6	6	12	S	S	6	S	6	6	6	6	9
UPPER HUTT CITY	27	12	21	39	18	36	30	12	30	18	12	30	21	12	21
WAIKATO DISTRICT	15	12	27	18	9	15	9	S	9	9	S	9	15	6	18
WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT	6	S	S	9	S	S	6	S	9	S	0	S	S	S	S
WAIMATE DISTRICT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	0	0	0	0	0
WAIPA DISTRICT	21	12	21	9	6	15	6	6	9	12	6	12	18	12	27
WAIROA DISTRICT	12	6	12	15	6	18	15	6	15	18	6	18	12	6	18
WAITAKI DISTRICT	6	S	9	S	S	9	S	0	0	S	S	S	S	S	9
WAITOMO DISTRICT	6	S	6	S	S	9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	6
WELLINGTON CITY	240	51	78	390	81	138	390	99	162	387	96	162	381	102	156
WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT	15	9	15	12	6	9	15	9	18	15	12	18	15	9	18

WESTLAND DISTRICT	6	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	S	S	6
WHAKATANE DISTRICT	27	9	18	21	9	12	12	6	12	15	6	12	21	12	18
WHANGANUI DISTRICT	6	S	6	12	9	18	S	S	S	S	S	S	6	9	12
WHANGAREI DISTRICT	18	9	15	48	21	36	30	21	33	39	30	54	33	24	39
UNKNOWN/OTHER	S	S	S	9	S	S	S	S	S	S	0	0	S	S	S
<b>NATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>1,917</b>	<b>3,795</b>	<b>4,152</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>4,011</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>4,368</b>	<b>4,026</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>4,233</b>

**Table Two: The number of clients and children who were in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants as at 30 June 2021 by Quarter and Duration in Emergency Housing.**

Duration in Emergency Housing	Number of Households	Households with Children	Number of Children
<4 weeks	711	375	684
4-7 weeks	699	381	720
8-12 weeks	576	309	630
3-6 Months	1008	576	1206
6-12 Months	756	369	750
12-24 months	273	123	240
24+ months	9	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,029</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>4,233</b>

**Notes for Table One and Two:**

EH SNG is Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.

This data only includes EH SNGs where the payment was made on or before 30 June 2021.

Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the clients address as at the end of the period and may not be reflective of where their emergency housing is located.

Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA.

The number of households is the number of distinct clients who were granted an EH SNG.

Household composition is based on the declared adults and children in each Emergency Housing application and may not be reflective of their actual family size.

The number of children is declared at the time of each individual EH SNG.

When a client applies for an EH SNG, MSD records the household make up including the number of children.

In some cases, children may have alternative or alternating living arrangements and may not necessarily be living in emergency housing for the entire duration in Emergency Housing.

Children may also be counted more than once, as MSD are unable to verify if the child/children are included in more than one household living in emergency housing.

To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.

These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.

A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.

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.

In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.

Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.

Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.

Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.