



07 JAN 2021

On 26 November 2020, you emailed Kāinga Ora requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *What you assess as being the current unmet need for social housing in Dunedin?*

On 26 November 2020, Kāinga Ora transferred your request to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), as the information requested is not held by Kāinga Ora.

The 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), first introduced in 2016, is available to people who 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. Through the use of EH SNG's, the Ministry has assisted thousands of vulnerable families and individuals in these types of situations. The Ministry provides quarterly data, to show the assistance that has been provided. These Benefit Fact sheets are published quarterly and can be found at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html.

The year 2020 has seen a significant increase in demand for emergency housing, as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic period with accommodation in which they could safely self-isolate.

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on the Social Housing Register, which is comprised of a Housing Register and a Transfer Register. The Housing Register is prioritised by need and consists of applicants who have been assessed as being eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register is made up of people already in public housing, but who have requested and are eligible for a transfer to another property. More information on the Social Housing register can be found at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/index.html.

The need for public housing is a nationwide issue not isolated to Dunedin only. The Ministry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) both report on nationwide housing needs.

Your request for information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is publicly available. Please see the below links to the information requested.

HUD works alongside the Ministry and assists with funding and partners to deliver more public and transitional housing. More information around the increase in public housing and the growing need can be found on HUD's website at the following link: www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/.

The following link provides information on the demand for public housing for each quarter of 2020. These quarterly reports show the movement between each quarter and the demand nationwide: www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/.

This information has also been broken down further into regions, which includes Dunedin figures. Please see the following link that provides information for the Southern Region and the need for Public Housing Supply: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Community-and-Public-Housing/Follow-our-progress/December-2020/Housing-regional-Factsheets-September-2020-Southern.pdf.

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. 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 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
**General Manager
Housing**