



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

18 MAR 2021

On 29 January 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of senior citizens (65+) on the housing waiting list broken down by ethnicity.*
- *The annual numbers of senior citizens on the social housing waiting list from 2011 to present, broken down by ethnicity.*

On 10 February 2021, the Ministry asked you if you would like the data outlined quarterly or annually, to which you responded quarterly.

On 16 February 2021, we informed you that the Ministry is able to report on the number of senior citizens (65+) on the Public Housing Register from June 2014. The Ministry outlined that any information prior to that date would be held by Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (Kāinga Ora). On this same day you confirmed that you were happy for us to transfer this part of your request to Kāinga Ora.

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry emailed both you and Kāinga Ora about the partial transfer of your request. Kāinga Ora agreed to assist with providing the data from 2011 to the March 2014 quarter.

Public (social) houses are properties rented out by Kāinga Ora (previously Housing New Zealand) and other Community Housing Providers. The properties can be tenanted by people who are deemed eligible by the Ministry.

The Ministry assesses the eligibility of individuals for public housing and manages the Public Housing Register. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development manages public housing and monitors community housing providers.

To qualify for public housing, a client must be assessed as having a housing need priority rating of 'at risk' (priority A) or serious housing need (priority B). Other requirements include (but are not limited to):

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- being lawfully resident and ordinarily living in New Zealand with a period of prior residence in New Zealand
- aged 16 years or older, and
- have a low income and little or no cash assets.

A client requesting a transfer to another social housing property will have to be reassessed using the original assessment criteria. This means they must have had a significant change in circumstances, as the client needs to once again be 'at risk' (priority A) or have a serious housing need (priority B), to be eligible for another property.

Further information about eligibility for social housing is available on the Ministry's Work and Income website, here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/index.html.

Please see enclosed **Table One**, which shows the number of senior clients (aged 65 years or older) on the Public Housing Register as at the end of June 2014 to the end of September 2020, broken down by ethnicity.

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 regarding the number of senior citizens on the housing waiting list and the annual numbers of senior citizens on the social housing waiting list, from 2011 to present, 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**

Table One: Seniors clients (aged 65 year or older) on the Public Housing Register as at the end of June 2014 to the end of September 2020, by quarter end and ethnicity

Quarter ending	Housing Register					Transfer Register					Public Housing Register Total
	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	Māori	Pacific Peoples	NZ European	Other	Unspecified	
June 2014	48	39	84	93	9	21	27	42	21	6	396
September 2014	33	36	99	114	6	24	27	51	27	6	423
December 2014	48	21	96	108	9	30	27	57	27	6	423
March 2015	42	33	102	99	6	30	21	57	21	9	423
June 2015	48	33	102	99	9	24	18	54	24	3	408
September 2015	36	36	102	96	6	30	18	54	33	3	411
December 2015	48	30	99	102	6	36	18	51	39	0	435
March 2016	45	33	102	108	6	30	21	45	33	0	423
June 2016	42	39	117	120	9	33	24	39	36	0	462
September 2016	66	45	144	132	9	33	15	45	36	0	525
December 2016	75	48	144	147	6	39	18	54	36	0	567
March 2017	84	57	141	150	6	36	21	45	42	0	579
June 2017	90	75	171	144	9	42	24	48	42	3	648
September 2017	96	69	186	168	12	39	27	57	45	3	699
December 2017	99	72	192	174	15	33	30	54	42	6	714
March 2018	111	90	237	219	18	42	36	66	39	6	858
June 2018	129	108	246	192	18	36	33	72	39	6	879
September 2018	153	123	291	216	24	57	39	81	39	6	1,029
December 2018	174	123	330	237	30	51	42	96	42	6	1,140
March 2019	177	129	351	249	36	60	39	99	48	3	1,191
June 2019	204	147	372	276	36	60	48	108	54	9	1,311
September 2019	249	177	411	303	39	72	54	123	69	9	1,509
December 2019	267	183	438	345	45	75	48	120	69	6	1,590
March 2020	294	192	492	372	51	78	60	123	69	9	1,740
June 2020	312	189	534	369	48	78	60	120	66	9	1,785
September 2020	381	228	663	414	60	87	69	156	78	12	2,142

Notes for Table One:

- This only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the end of the reporting period, the application priority may have changed prior to this date.
- This table displays information from the Northgate excel file, which is the source for all pre 2015 September Housing Register information
- Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.
- Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy.
- The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples.
- NZ European has the lowest priority.
- This is to ensure that smaller and politically significant ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups.
- 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 2 counts.
- 'Housing register' refers to clients who have been assessed as eligible for and are awaiting placement into social housing.
- 'Transfer register' refers to clients currently in social housing who have requested and have been assessed as in need of a transfer to another, more suitable social housing property.