



23 November 2021

Tēnā koe

On 20 October 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How much money in total has the NZ government spent on housing (supports, building, transitional and emergency housing) from 2020 to 2021?*
- *A breakdown of ages and ethnicities of the households in emergency housing and transitional housing – and if possible, who are in the housing first program*

On 26 October 2021, HUD partially transferred this request to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), as the Ministry holds information related to emergency housing.

On 8 November 2021, the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request. You agreed to proceed with the following refinement:

- *How much money in total has the NZ government spent on emergency housing from 2020 to 2021 - this will be the amount granted to applicants and the number of distinct clients, for the financial year 2020/21.*
- *The number of people receiving these benefits (e.g., Accommodation Supplement (AS) and Temporary Additional Support (TAS)), as well as money spent. (Please note, AS and TAS are not benefits, they are supplementary payments)*
 - *We can only provide this information at a point in time (snapshot), which will be as at the end of September 2021*
- *We will also provide these figures broken down by age and ethnicity.*

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.

The information requested is provided in the attached Excel spreadsheet.

Please refer to **Table One**, which shows the number of EH SNGs, amounts granted and distinct clients in the financial year 2020/2021, by age group

Please refer to **Table Two**, which shows the number of EH SNGs, amounts granted and distinct clients in the financial year 2020/2021, by ethnic group

Please refer to **Table Three**, which shows the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients and the total amount of weekly rate payments, as at the end of September 2021, by age group and ethnic group

Please refer to **Table Four**, which shows the number of Temporary Additional Support recipients and the total amount of weekly rate payments, as at the end of September 2021, by age group and ethnic group

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
- 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 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, 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

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**