



Tēnā koe

On 23 August 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *How many people are using Transitional housing in the Napier Area*
2. *How many people are on the housing register requiring houses?*
3. *How much is being spent for transitional housing per week*
4. *What portion of Māori vs non-Māori are on the waiting list*
5. *How many houses are required to solve the housing issue in Napier*
6. *Do you have stats of Māori and non-Māori that are currently working in the area?*
7. *Do you know what is the ratio of bedrooms are required per whanau? 1, 2 and 3 etc?*

On 4 September 2021, the Ministry contacted you advising that question one and three of your request had been transferred to Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the questions align more closely with the functions of HUD.

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in public housing but who have been assessed as eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in public housing who have applied to be rehoused. While the Ministry completes the housing assessments that inform the Public Housing Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora, respectively. More information about the Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Each housing application is given a priority rating based on the Ministry's assessment of housing need, and all applications are measured against the same criteria to determine that priority rating. Applicants who are assessed as at risk (Priority A) or as having a serious housing need (Priority B) are placed on the Register until a house becomes available. The Ministry's role is to assess people's needs for public housing, and if they or a family member need an accessible home, we capture that as part of the assessment process. Clients who are on the Register are referred to Public Housing providers when suitable properties become available.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking public housing are offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. These options include, for example, an Accommodation Supplement for private renters, or a Recoverable Assistance Payment Grant. Further

information regarding available support can be accessed on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html. For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will answer your questions in turn.

2. *How many people are on the housing register requiring houses?*
4. *What portion of Māori vs non-Māori are on the waiting list*
7. *Do you know what is the ratio of bedrooms are required per whanau? 1, 2 and 3 etc?*

Please see enclosed **Appendix A** containing **Table One**, which shows the number of clients on the Public Housing Register in Napier City as at 30 June 2021, broken down by ethnicity and required bedrooms.

You may notice that **Table One** shows three clients whose social housing applications, according to the Ministry's records, specified that *no* bedrooms were required. We can confirm that this was the result of a technical error, and that these applications have since been manually updated to accurately reflect the number of bedrooms required by each of the affected clients. However, because the Ministry's social housing data is captured at certain points in time, the error is still apparent in the June 2021 data provided to you.

5. *How many houses are required to solve the housing issue in Napier*

The Ministry is refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

You may be interested to know that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development collects and analyses research and data about New Zealand's housing sector. You can access their publicly available research online, here: www.hud.govt.nz/research-and-publications/statistics-and-research/

6. *Do you have stats of Māori and non-Māori that are currently working in the area?*

The Ministry does not record the number of Māori and non-Māori currently working in the Napier area. However, Stats NZ have advised that data relating to the Māori and non-Māori in employment is publicly available on *infoshare*. Publicly available estimates are available for the Gisborne/Hawkes Bay region and for Napier.

We are therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, on the ground that the requested information is already publicly available.

To access the information, click the following link: <http://infoshare.stats.govt.nz>, then browse for:

- Work income and spending
- Household labour force survey – HLF
- Labour Force Status by Ethnic Group by Regional Council (Qrtly-Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec)

Once you have selected your desired variables, you can use the dropdown in the bottom right to choose to export as a CSV file (the default is to show a table on screen).

The Household Labour Force Survey on which the above data is based used a sample of some 15,000 households and was designed to produce results at a national and regional level. However, it is worth bearing in mind that although reliable regional level information can be provided, any lower level information (e.g. data for Napier City alone) may be heavily impacted by sampling error and therefore should be interpreted cautiously.

For any further questions, or to discuss options for lower level estimates, please contact Stats NZ.

Further information regarding statistics for Napier may be found at the following link: https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018_census-place-summaries/napier-city.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

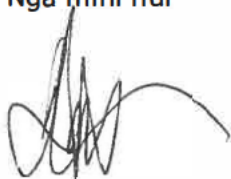
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.


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 in regard to Emergency Housing in the Napier TLA, 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**

Appendix A

Table One: The number of clients on the Social Housing Register in Napier City as at 30 June 2021, broken down by ethnicity and required bedrooms.

Required Bedrooms	Māori	Non-Māori	Unspecified	Total
0	0	3	0	3
1	240	153	3	399
2	213	78	6	297
3	111	30	3	141
4	36	15	0	54
5	6	3	0	9
Total	603	285	15	900

Notes:

- This includes applications on both the Housing Register and Transfer Register.
- This only includes priority A and B applications.
- TLA is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of the period.
- Reporting of ethnicity is voluntary and is based on the prioritised self-reported ethnicity of the main applicant.
- Multiple selected ethnicities are prioritised into a hierarchy with Māori having the highest priority followed by Pacific peoples and then NZ European.
- A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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.