



25 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 28 June 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Can I please have the number of the following Housing Support Products MSD has given out every quarter from the quarter ending June 2017 to June 2022 (or since the start of the product)*
 - *Tenancy cost cover*
 - *Bond Grant*
 - *Moving Assistance*
 - *Rent arrears assistance*
 - *Rent in advance*
 - *Tenancy Costs Cover*
 - *Transition to Alternative Housing Grant*
- *Can you also provide the number of distinct clients that have received HSPs above every quarter from the quarter ending June 2017 to June 2022 (or since the start of the product)*
- *Can you also please provide the total amount spent for each of the above HSPs every quarter from the quarter ending June 2017 to June 2022 (or since the start of the product)*

Housing Support Products (HSP) are a set of individual products that aim to address barriers to accessing or retaining housing by meeting needs not covered by other forms of assistance. HSPs are usually an option after all other housing support options have been exhausted.

This assistance is available to people who could sustain accommodation in the private housing (rentals) sector but require assistance to access it. This includes people who are existing public housing tenants, on the Social Housing Register, or people who have contacted the Ministry about housing support, but who could retain their current accommodation with some financial assistance.

Please find attached, an Excel spreadsheet containing the following Table:

- **Table One:** The number of Housing Support Products granted, amount granted, and distinct clients during the period 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2022, broken down by quarter.

There is a notable increase in number of grants and amount granted for some HSP categories for the period June 2020 to June 2021. This is a flow-on effect following the COVID-19 Alert Level Four Lockdown in March and April 2020 where moving properties was restricted. The introduction of temporary policy settings to Rent Arrears Assistance HSP as a response to COVID-19 also increased the number of grants and amount granted for Rent Arrears Assistance HSP.

For more information regarding HSP, please visit the Ministry's website at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/supporting-people-to-independence.html.

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 and attachments 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 HSP, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH' followed by a flourish.

Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing