



30 May 2022

Tēnā koe

On 8 May 2022, you emailed the Office of Hon Megan Woods, Minister of Housing, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Since the government created the emergency housing special needs grant system in 2016, what is the total number of individuals who have stayed in a motel or hostel or campground?

On 9 May 2022, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response.

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) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of 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 dependant on individual circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EH SNGs is available at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html

Regarding your request, please find enclosed an Excel spreadsheet which contains the following data tables:

- **Table One:** The number of distinct clients that have been granted Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants each quarter between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2022, broken down by type of accommodation.

- **Table Two:** The number of distinct clients that have been granted Emergency Housing between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2022, by type of accommodation funded.

Please note that the information provided in **Table One** looks at the distinct count of clients who have received EH SNGs for each accommodation type, broken down by quarter for the period requested, which is the Ministry's standard way of reporting over time.

The information provided in **Table Two** is designed to answer your question more closely, by providing a distinct count of all clients by the type of accommodation funded over the period requested. **Table Two** presents the data over the total period, which avoids suppression of data for accommodation types with low numbers when broken down by quarter.

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 emergency housing between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2022 broken down by accommodation type, 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
Group General Manager Housing