



27 September 2022

Tēnā koe

On 30 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *What we are seeking to understand from MSD is the current housing needs in the Wellington Region and I am hoping we could connect virtually to korero about the following:*
  - *Current number of households in EH*
  - *Current number of Adults in EH*
  - *Current number of Children in EH*
  - *Current under 20yrs old in EH*
    - *Male / Female*
    - *Benefit Type - YP / YPP / JS*
  - *Current 21-25yr olds in EH*
    - *Male / Female*
    - *Benefit Type - JS / SPS*

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.

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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 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](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html)

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time.

For people with high and complex needs, it can sometimes be challenging to identify suitable long-term housing, which can lead to longer stays in emergency housing. Work and Income work closely with these people to see what can be done to ensure that once they have a home of their own, they have the skills to sustain it, and the support they need to keep it.

Please find attached **Appendix One**, containing the following tables:

- **Table One:** Household characteristics of those receiving Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Wellington region as at 31 July 2022.
- **Table Two:** Number of clients aged 25 and under in the Wellington Region receiving Emergency Housing Grants as at 31 July 2022, broken down by gender and age group.
- **Table Three:** Number of clients aged 25 and under in the Wellington Region receiving Emergency Housing as at 31 July 2022, broken down by benefit type and age group.

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 attachment 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding EH SNGs in the Wellington region, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Hocking'.

Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager**  
**Housing**

**Appendix One:**

**Table One: Household characteristics of those receiving Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Wellington region as at 31 July 2022.**

Housing Region	31 July 2022		
	Number of Households	Number of Adults	Number of Children
Wellington	543	582	225

**Table Two: Number of clients aged 25 and under in the Wellington Region receiving Emergency Housing Grants as at 31 July 2022, broken down by gender and age group.**

Housing Region / Gender		31 July 2022	
		20 and Under	21 - 25
		Number of Households	Number of Households
Wellington	Gender Diverse	0	S
	Female	12	30
	Male	9	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>

**Table Three: Number of clients aged 25 and under in the Wellington Region receiving Emergency Housing as at 31 July 2022, broken down by benefit group and age group.**

Housing Region / Benefit		31 July 2022	
		20 and Under	21 - 25
		Number of Households	Number of Households
Wellington	No Benefit	S	S
	Sole Parent Support	S	18
	Supported Living Payments related	S	S
	Jobseeker Support related	12	24
	Non Beneficiary	S	S
	Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment	S	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>

**Notes for Tables:**

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- The number of households is the number of distinct clients receiving Emergency Housing as at 31 July 2022.
- The number of adults and children is declared at the time of each individual grant.
- Children may be counted more than once as the Ministry is unable to verify if the child/children are included in more than one household living in emergency housing.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- Wellington Region has been defined as the following TLA:
  - Carterton District, Kapiti Coast District, Lower Hutt City, Masterton District, Porirua City, South Wairarapa District, Upper Hutt City, Wellington City.
- 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.
- 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.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed.
- Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.
- Jobseeker Support (JS) related includes JS Work Ready, JS Work Ready Hardship, JS Health Condition, Injury or Disability.
- Supported Living Payment (SLP) includes SLP Health Condition & Disability and SLP Carers.