



7 February 2023

Tēnā koe

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

- *I am currently working on developing a mobile health clinic to help address inequities in health in NZ. Supporting those living in emergency and transitional housing is a large part of the needs analysis I am writing currently, however am struggling to find research or data of the health outcomes of those living in these forms of housing. I was wondering if you might have some research or data in this area? Or know anyone who might? Any help you could offer would be highly beneficial.*

On 30 December 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advise that we did not hold the information in the format that you were wanting it as it was not centrally stored. It was also advised that the information would sit between at least three agencies.

On 9 January 2023, the Ministry contacted you to discuss your request for information and to clarify your request, to ensure that you receive the most helpful information for your initiative. On 10 January 2023, the Ministry received your email agreeing to the refined request for information under the Act, for the following information:

- *The number of Emergency Housing Special Need Grants paid to recipients of a benefit due to a disability or illness at the time of the grant*
- *Broken down to a regional level, and a national level*
- *Most recent quarterly data compared to the same period for the year before.*

Demand for affordable housing across New Zealand is growing and many 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.

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 and 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

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 in the **APPENDIX, Table One** which shows the number of EHSNGs granted to those in receipt of Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability (JSHC & D) and Supported Living Payment (SLP), broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) for the quarters ending 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2022.

Regarding the table provided, please note that the TLA is estimated based on the clients' address at the time of the grant. This TLA may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing supplier. Where the client address is not recorded, the location of the Ministry's service centre case managing the client has been used to approximate which TLA a client resides in. However, as the Ministry has switched to working from national queues, EH SNGs and other hardship grants could be granted by a case manager working anywhere in New Zealand. Therefore, in such cases, the TLA may not reflect the actual

client address or location. Due to the transient nature of people receiving EH SNGs, the recorded address for a client may also be that of a trusted family member or friend who receives mail on their behalf.

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'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, 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**

APPENDIX

Table One: Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants paid to Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Supported Living Payment, broken down by Territorial Local Authority for the quarters ending 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2022.

TLA Name	Quarter Ending	
	December 2021 Number of Grants	December 2022 Number of Grants
CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT	51	42
ASHBURTON DISTRICT	30	24
AUCKLAND SUPER CITY	4272	1623
BULLER DISTRICT	24	60
CARTERTON DISTRICT	12	S
CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT	S	S
CHRISTCHURCH CITY	837	918
CLUTHA DISTRICT	S	S
DUNEDIN CITY	15	21
FAR NORTH DISTRICT	72	S
GISBORNE DISTRICT	168	147
GORE DISTRICT	9	S
GREY DISTRICT	51	54
HAMILTON CITY	1335	1530
HASTINGS DISTRICT	231	120
HAURAKI DISTRICT	51	9
HOROWHENUA DISTRICT	111	30
HURUNUI DISTRICT	S	S
INVERCARGILL CITY	S	0

TLA Name	Quarter Ending	
	December 2021 Number of Grants	December 2022 Number of Grants
KAIKOURA DISTRICT	S	0
KAIPARA DISTRICT	9	0
KAPITI COAST DISTRICT	117	108
KAWERAU DISTRICT	45	45
LOWER HUTT CITY	228	219
MANAWATU DISTRICT	33	15
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT	117	90
MASTERTON DISTRICT	126	60
MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT	18	39
NAPIER CITY	390	249
NELSON CITY	63	48
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT	99	87
OPOTIKI DISTRICT	24	21
PALMERSTON NORTH CITY	444	267
PORIRUA CITY	114	147
QUEENSTOWN-LAKES DISTRICT	S	0
RANGITIKEI DISTRICT	21	S
ROTORUA DISTRICT	690	375
RUAPEHU DISTRICT	24	21
SELWYN DISTRICT	S	9
SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT	30	9
SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT	36	24
SOUTHLAND DISTRICT	0	S
STRATFORD DISTRICT	S	S

TLA Name	Quarter Ending	
	December 2021 Number of Grants	December 2022 Number of Grants
TARARUA DISTRICT	30	15
TASMAN DISTRICT	21	6
TAUPO DISTRICT	204	144
TAURANGA CITY	363	189
THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT	33	0
TIMARU DISTRICT	36	27
UPPER HUTT CITY	87	105
WAIKATO DISTRICT	15	24
WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT	6	0
WAIPA DISTRICT	99	48
WAIROA DISTRICT	9	21
WAITAKI DISTRICT	12	5
WAITOMO DISTRICT	5	0
WELLINGTON CITY	720	459
WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT	54	15
WESTLAND DISTRICT	12	21
WHAKATANE DISTRICT	42	33
WHANGANUI DISTRICT	39	18
WHANGAREI DISTRICT	132	60
UNKNOWN/OTHER	12	24
Total	11,862	7,641

Notes:

- 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.
- SLP is Supported Living Payment Health Condition & Disability and Supported Living Payment Carers.
- This table excludes Supported Living Payment Overseas (SLPO) grants.
- 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.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to 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.
- 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 or aggregated.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.
- Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.