



24 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 May 2024, requesting information on Emergency Housing eligibility that states or encourages staff to consider the region that applicant is based in when granting Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

EH SNGs are a discretionary hardship grant and applications for emergency housing are considered on a case-by-case basis. Ministry of Social Development (Ministry) staff consider the full circumstances of an applicant and their immediate family before making a determination to ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account.

When granting EH SNGs, the Ministry may consider if the applicant has unreasonably caused or contributed to their immediate housing need. If they have, the Ministry may not be able to pay an EH SNG for that applicant. For example, where a person leaves their existing housing and moves to another location without good reason and without first securing alternative accommodation they may be considered to have unreasonably contributed to their immediate emergency housing need. Note that this operational policy is not applied to applicants who are experiencing family violence. For more information, you may be interested in the following link to our Work and Income "Map" website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/emergency-housing/client-has-unreasonably-caused-or-contributed-to-their-immediate-need.html.

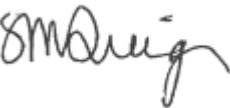
You may also be interested in the Principles clause of the Special Needs Grant Programme, which provides for the operational policy discussed above. A link to this clause can be found on our Work and Income "Map" website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/special-needs-grants-programme/clause-5-principles.html.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request regarding Emergency Housing eligibility, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services