



16 April 2025

Tēnā koe

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2025, requesting data on grants for sleeping bags and tents for clients unable to access Emergency Housing. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

When someone seeks housing assistance, the Ministry will work to ensure that they have a safe place to stay, this may include providing financial assistance to sustain an existing tenancy, help to identify suitable accommodation or a referral to Transitional Housing. Where those options are not available, and the person meets the eligibility criteria the Ministry may provide emergency housing assistance while staff support the person or whānau to identify suitable long-term housing. Tents and sleeping bags are not deemed as adequate to meet a client's short term housing requirements, and therefore, they are expenses for which the Ministry would not offer financial support.

Recently, a client was given a hardship grant to purchase a tent and bedding. This was done in error and should not have happened. As soon as the error was identified the client in question was contacted and assessed for their accommodation need and granted Emergency Housing the following day.

We are not aware of any other instances of grants being given for tents or sleeping bags as temporary accommodation.

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

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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

pp.

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**