



18 February 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 30 January 2025, requesting the following information:

A breakdown of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EHSNG) applications from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2024, by decline, age, region, children, and month.

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

Please find the information requested attached in **Appendix A**.

The Ministry's practice and data capture in respect of emergency housing declines has improved, with all applications now having the result recorded, providing greater transparency for clients. However, this makes it difficult to compare data pre/post implementation of the new rules for entry into emergency housing.

The variation in decline rates is expected. When people first present for emergency housing, staff test the availability of alternative accommodation options (e.g. staying with whanau and friends) to determine eligibility for the Emergency Housing Grant. It is important to note that over 85% of all people applying for emergency housing are granted support.

Where clients have been declined emergency housing, they may be offered other forms of assistance such as the Accommodation Supplement, Bond Grant, Moving Costs Grant, Costs (rent) in Advance Grant or Tenancy Costs Cover Grant (provides assurances to potential landlords that the Ministry will pay the applicant's outstanding costs at the end of the tenancy, if those costs exceed the amount of bond paid).

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 application data, 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. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services