



1 July 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 17 June 2025, requesting information about Emergency Housing Grants and Food Grants for 16 and 17 year-olds in the period 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2025.

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

I have also included some additional information about emergency housing.

Emergency housing is a last resort for those who truly have nowhere else to go. In most situations emergency housing is an inappropriate response for youth, especially if they are at risk.

The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) can help with financial support with Housing Support Products, Housing Broker or referral to contracted Housing Navigation service to assist clients into a home. The Ministry may also make a referral to Transitional Housing, some of which specialises in providing housing and support for youth.

Rangatahi supported accommodation provides interim housing and support services for young people aged 16-25 with significant habilitation/(re)integration needs. Because of the needs of the target population, housing and specialist social service provision is provided for as long as needed while Rangatahi are in the eligible age group and includes up to 6 months support after transition from the supported accommodation.

The Ministry encourages anyone with a housing need to approach us. However, people are free to decide whether they want assistance.

Please see the attached **Appendix**, detailing the total number of grants, amount granted, and number of declines for clients aged 16 and 17 for Food and Emergency Housing, from 1 January 2022 to May 2025, broken down by region and hardship type.

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 regarding Food Grants and Emergency Housing Grants, 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

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