



10 October 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) on 12 September 2025 from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, requesting information about the Temporary Accommodation Assistance (TAA) payment (formerly known as the North Island Weather Events – Temporary Accommodation Assistance).

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

TAA was established in August 2023 to help support people following the Auckland floods, Cyclone Gabrielle and then the South Island weather events. They faced two sets of housing costs – home ownership as well as rental accommodation.

In March 2024, homeowners were advised the support would be extended until 30 June 2025. This aligned with Crown funding for the Council buyout process that extended into 2025 for some regions.

- *Are you able to tell me how much was spent on this initiative? Was the \$10m spent, or more or less?*

The TAA payment was available between September 2023 and 30 June 2025. The \$10 million funding allocated for the assistance had two components and a separate amount of funding was allocated to each part.

- Establishment costs - \$1.113 million allocated
This covered communications and project delivery costs.
Spend as outlined below:
 - \$365,517.86 - IT changes
 - \$359,682.00 – FTE spend (for application processing staff)
- Expenditure direct to clients (the TAA payment) - \$8.887 million allocated.

- \$4.172 million was paid out to clients who were eligible for the TAA payment.

This means a total of \$4.898 million was spent on TAA. This is \$5.102 million less than the \$10 million allocated funding.

You can find more information about the payment (such as eligibility criteria, commencement date, interaction with other social security payments) at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-accommodation-assistance-niwe/index.html.

- *How many people used this benefit? Are some people still receiving it? If so, how many.*

Between September 2023 and June 2025, 165 clients were granted TAA. The TAA product ceased to be available from 30 June 2025. Since that date no one has been in receipt of the payment.

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, 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