

Emergency Housing Grants | Aug 2026

Emergency housing is short-term accommodation (usually in motels) for individuals who have an urgent need because they are unable to remain in their usual place of residence. Clients may be eligible for an Emergency Housing Grant if they cannot access accommodation and we have explored all the other options available to them. Grants can cover between one and 21 nights of accommodation at a time.



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Amount granted
Aug 2026

\$3.2M

\$0.2M less than last month

Monthly Emergency
Housing Grants

1,518

24 more than last month

Households in
emergency housing
as at 31 August

441

15 more than last month

↳ Adults in emergency
housing as at 31 Aug

486

12 more than last
month

↳ Children in emergency
housing as at 31 Aug

366

51 fewer than last month

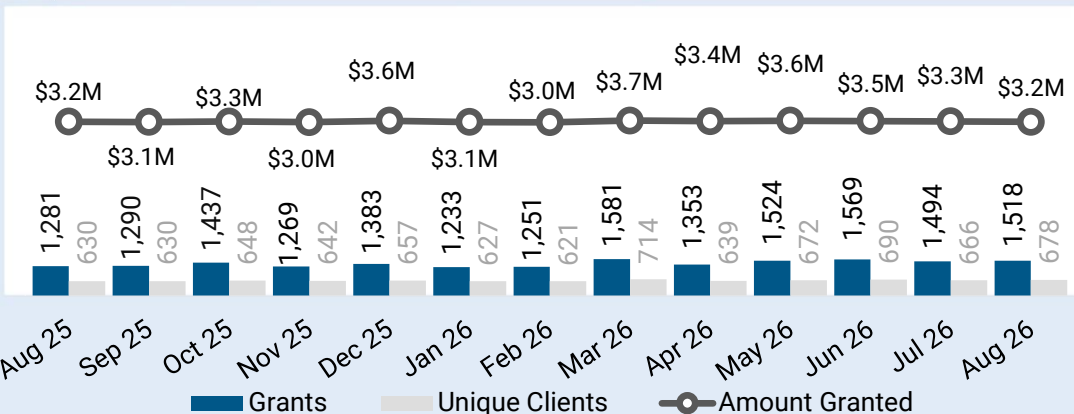
Households with
children in EH for
12 weeks+ as at
31 August

33

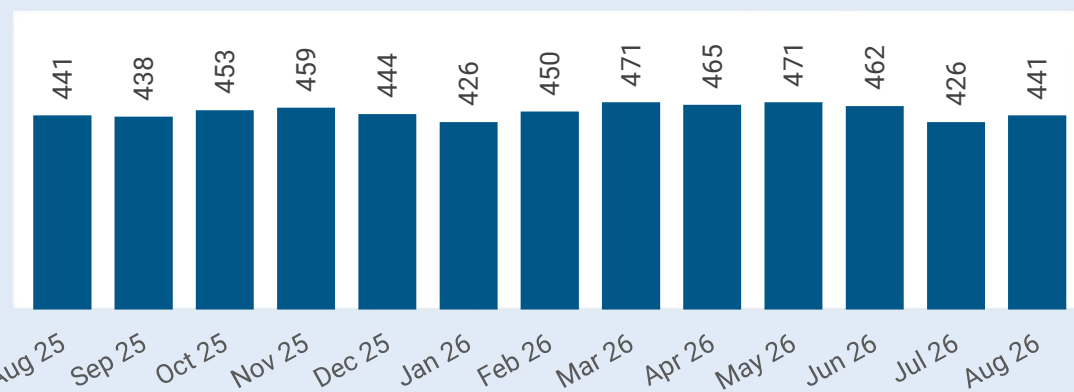
12 fewer than last month

Emergency housing – over the month and historic numbers

1 Grants/clients/amount granted over each month



2 Number of households in emergency housing – as at the end of each month



Commentary

There were 441 households in emergency housing (EH) as at the end of August 2026, 15 more than the previous month.

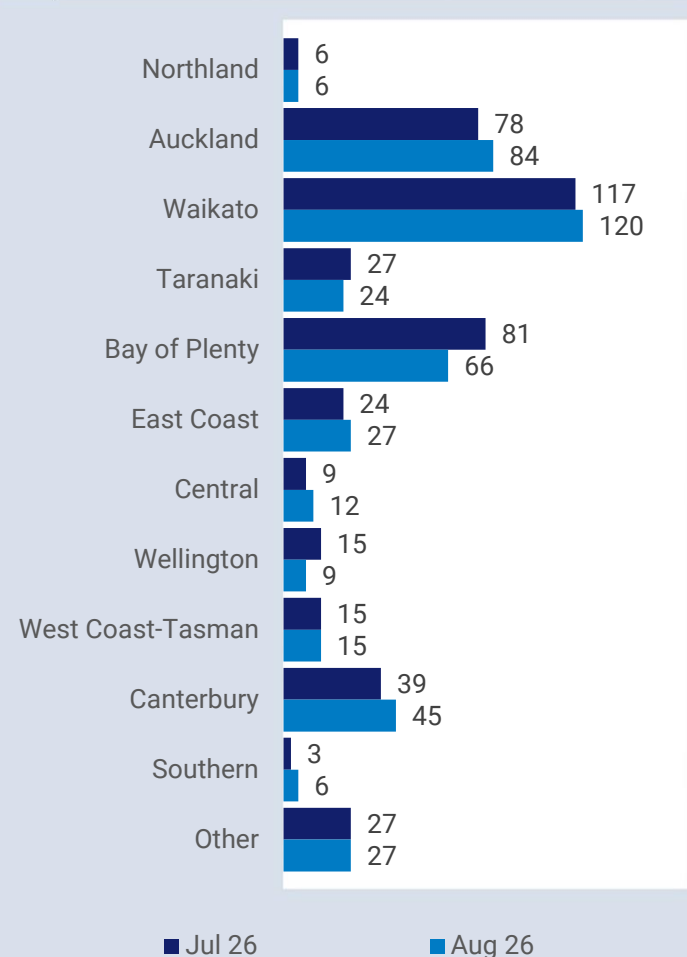
In most regions, the number of households in EH remained stable from July to August 2026. The largest change was in Bay of Plenty, which had 15 fewer households in EH.

As at the end of August 2026, the number of children in EH was 366, a fall of 51 from the previous month.

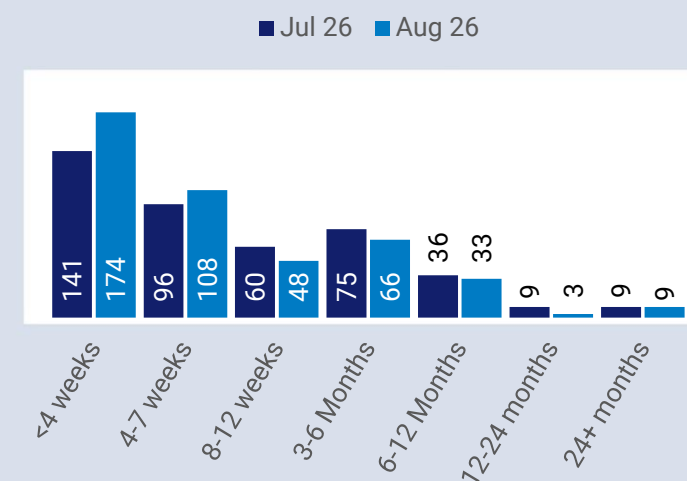
Note: Households living in Contracted Emergency Housing (CEH) in Rotorua are not included in this reporting. The new model is being piloted in Rotorua. Reporting of the number of households in CEH is currently unavailable. Random rounding has been applied to these figures. Figures in tables may not add up to the total due to random rounding.

Emergency housing – at the end of the month

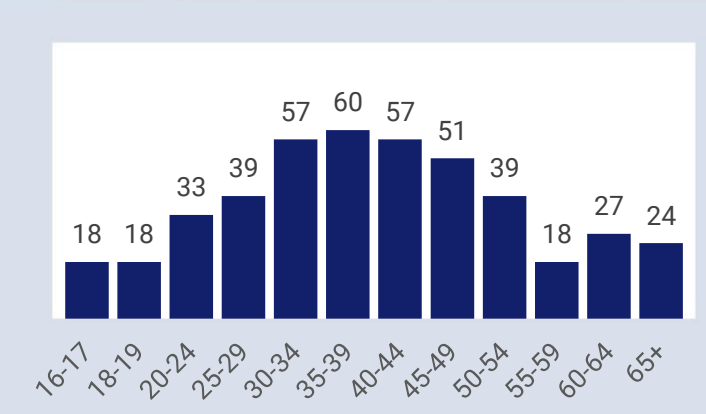
3 Households in emergency housing by MSD region – as at end of the month



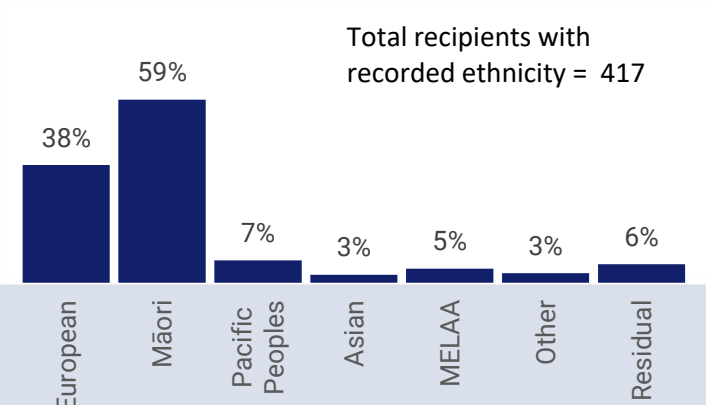
4 Households by duration in emergency housing – as at end of the month



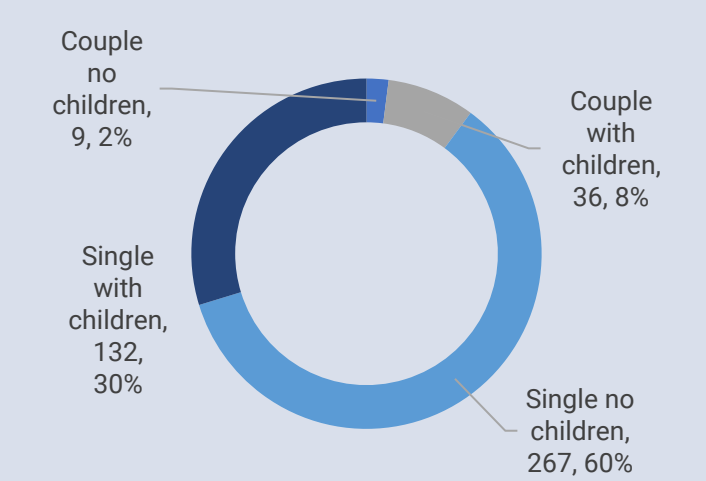
5 Age distribution of primary applicants in emergency housing – as at end of the month



6 Ethnicity* of primary applicant in emergency housing – as at end of the month



7 Household composition – as at end of the month



Social Housing Register | 31 Aug 2026

The Social Housing Register is a non-time-bound list of all applicants eligible to be placed in social housing. Applicants complete a social housing assessment which determines eligibility and priority for social housing against an agreed set of criteria, which is then used to assist the social housing provider in matching to the most appropriate property.



As at 31 Aug 2026

Housing Register
18,789
183 more than last month

Transfer Register*
5,208
96 more than last month

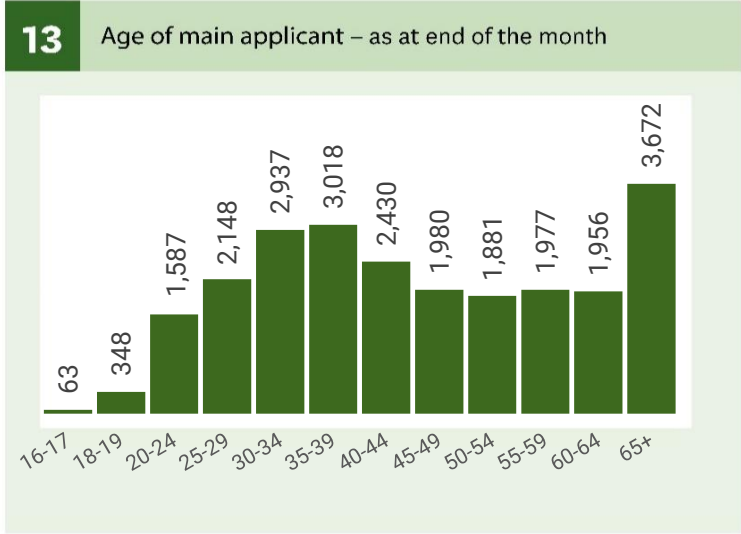
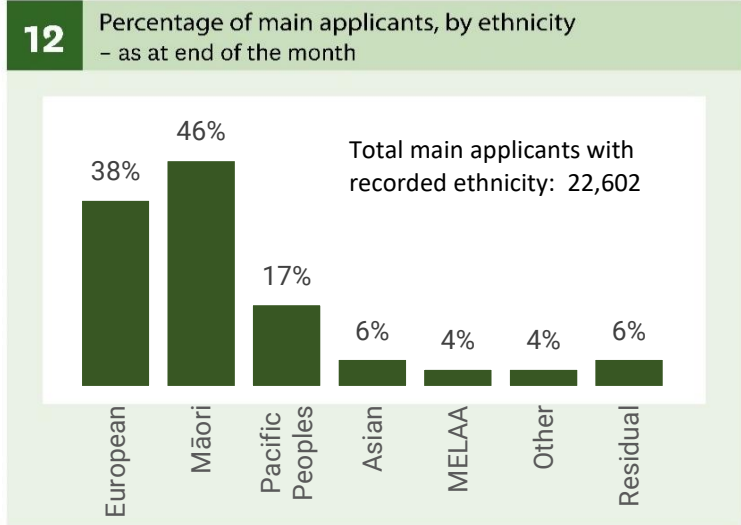
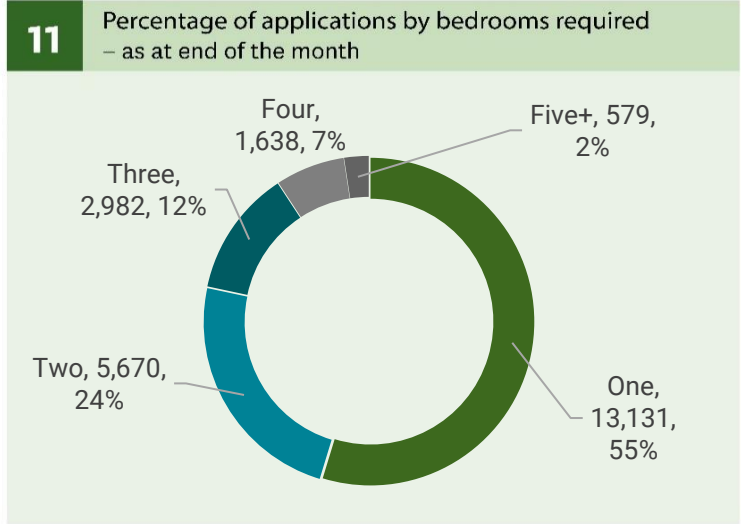
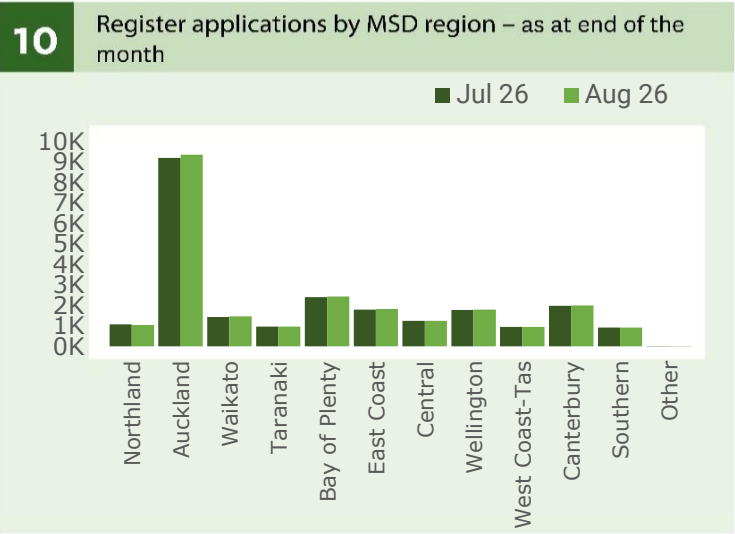
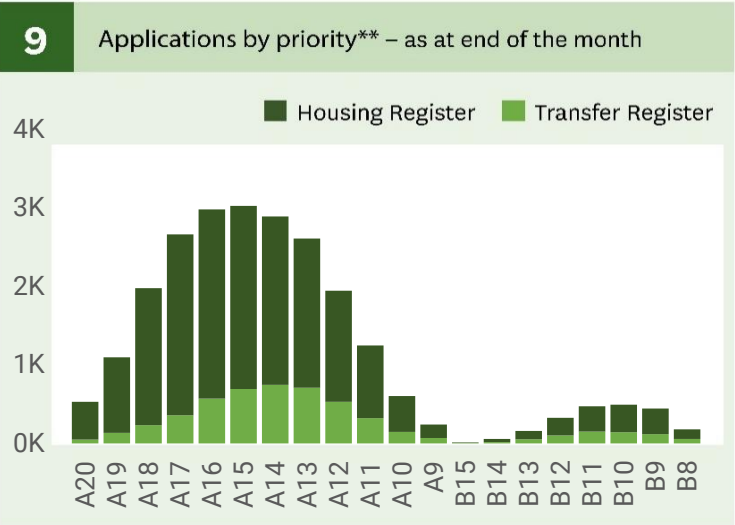
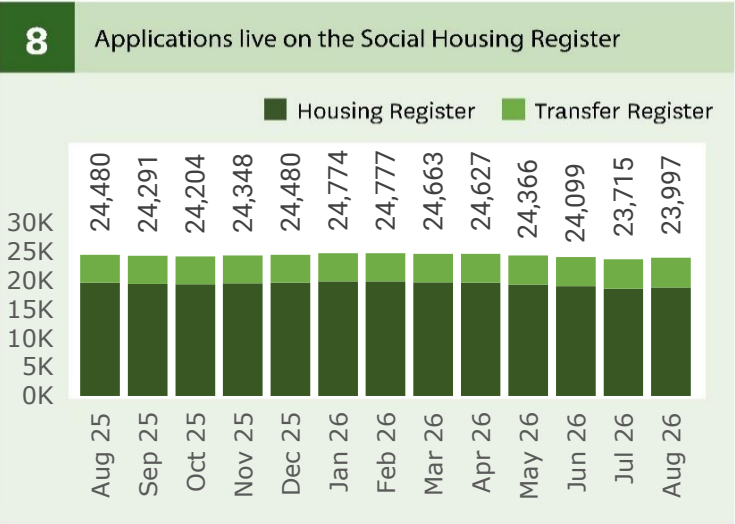
Social Housing Register
23,997
282 more than last month

New applications that entered the Social Housing Register
2,034
21 more than last month

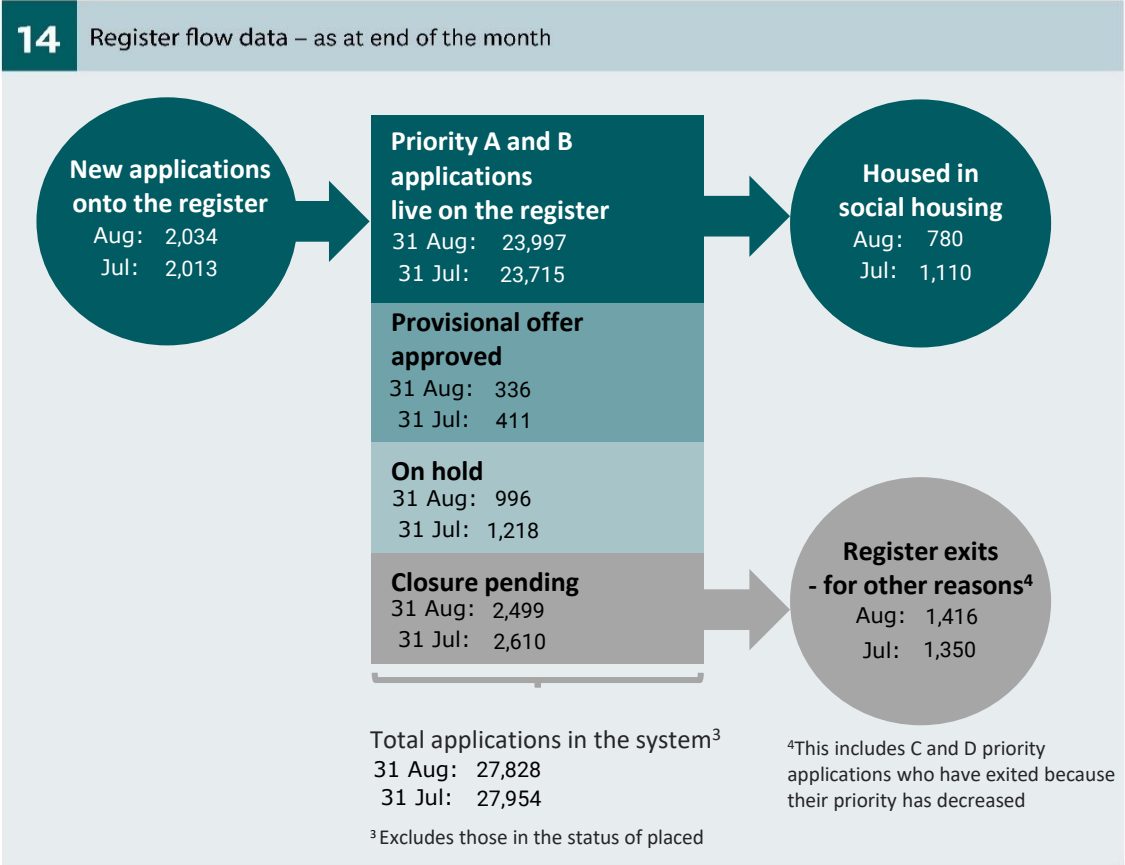
Housed in social housing
780
330 fewer than last month

Priority One Fast Track
Live on Register
42
Housed in Aug 26
6
Housed since May 24
1,143
Children housed since May 24
2,451

Social Housing Register numbers



Social Housing Register flow



Commentary

From July to August 2026, the number of applications on the Housing Register rose by 183.

The number of applications on the Social Housing Register remained stable in most regions. The largest month-on-month change was in Northland, down by 30.

**Graph 9 – Info on the SAS criteria used to determine eligibility and priority can be found here:
www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/index.html

*People who already live in social housing, but have applied and are eligible to transfer to another property are placed on the Transfer Register.

Random Rounding has been applied to these figures. Figures in tables may not add up to the total due to random rounding.

*MSD reports total response ethnicity. This means if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group and the sum of responses for all ethnic groups may exceed 100%. For more information www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/tools/how-we-report-ethnicity.html. Note, MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African.