

# Emergency Housing Grants | May 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.



Amount granted  
May 2026

**\$3.6M**

\$0.2M more than last month

Monthly Emergency Housing Grants

**1,524**

171 more than last month

Households in emergency housing as at 31 May

**471**

9 more than last month

Adults in emergency housing as at 31 May

**516**

3 more than last month

Children in emergency housing as at 31 May

**405**

18 fewer than last month

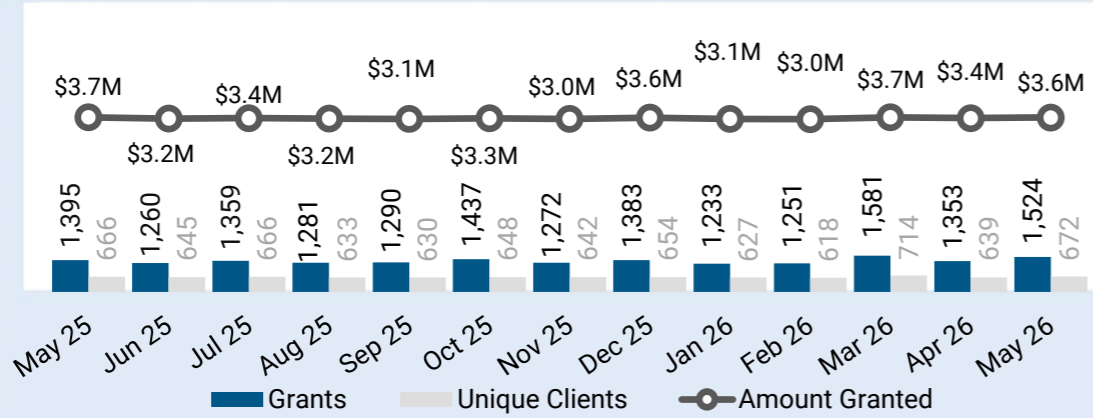
Households with children in EH for 12 weeks+ as at 31 May

**39**

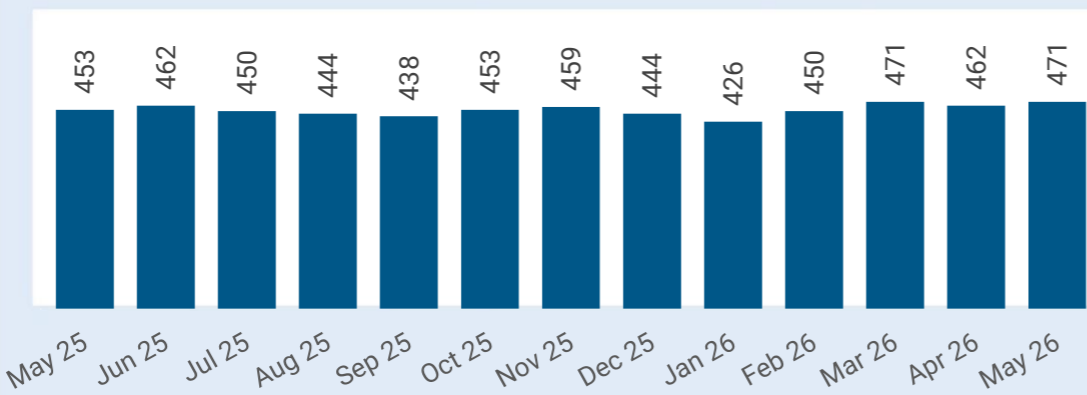
9 more than last month

## 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 471 households in emergency housing (EH) as at the end of May 2026, an increase of 9 or 2% from the previous month.

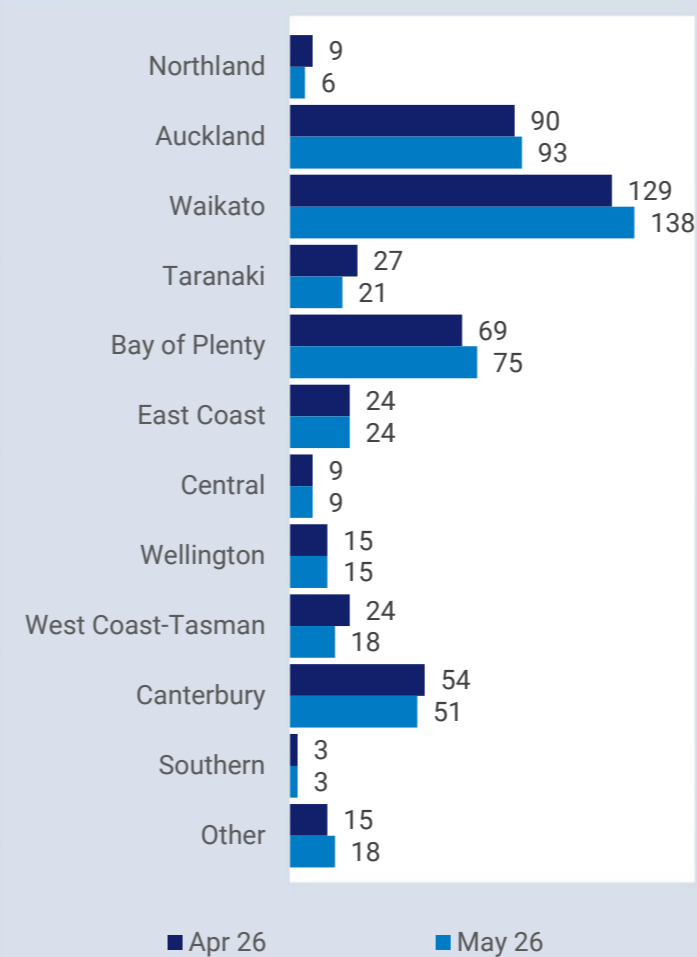
In most regions, the number of households in EH remained stable from April to May 2026. The largest change was in Waikato, which had 9 more households in EH, a rise of 7%.

As at the end of May 2026, the number of children in EH was 405, a decrease of 18 or 4% from the previous month.

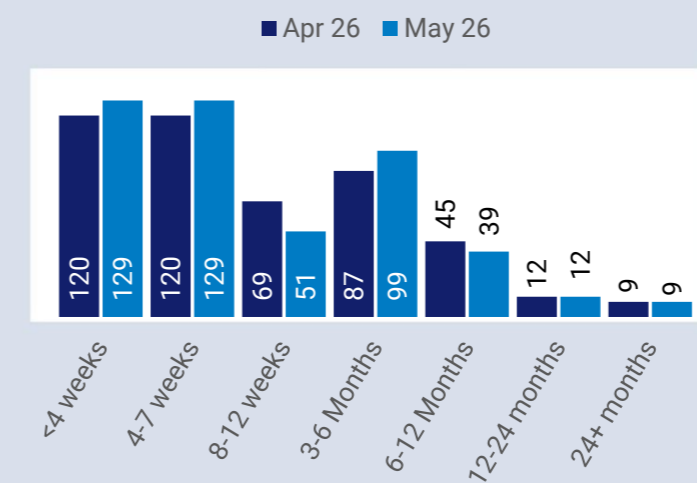
Note: Households living in Contracted Emergency Housing (CEH) in Rotorua are not included in this reporting. The new model is being piloted in Rotorua. Reporting of the number of households in CEH is currently unavailable. Random rounding has been applied to these figures. Figures in tables may not add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

## Emergency housing – at the end of the month

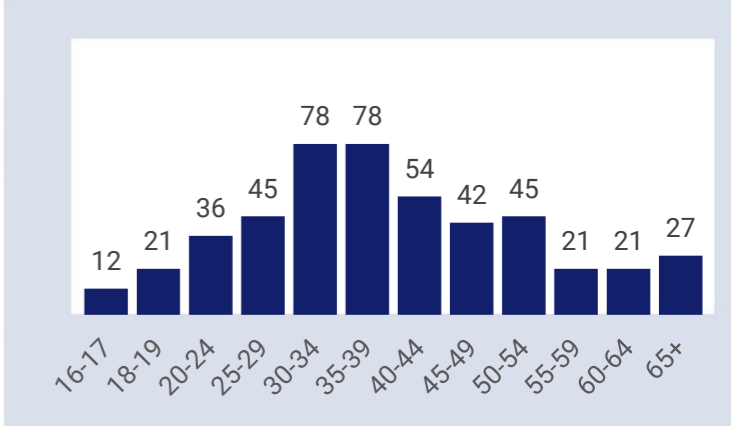
3 Households in emergency housing by MSD region – as at end of the month



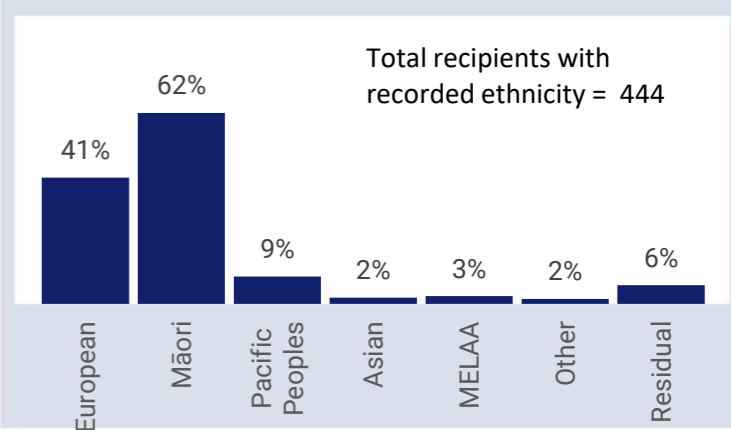
4 Households by duration in emergency housing – as at end of the month



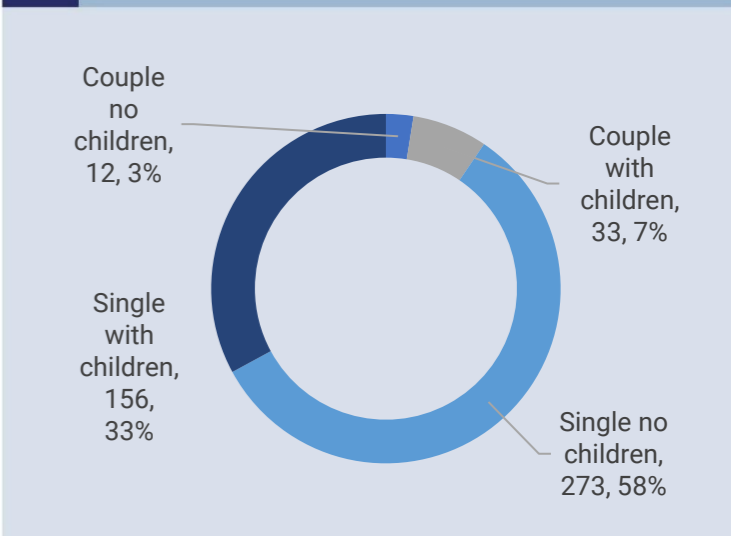
5 Age distribution of primary applicants in emergency housing – as at end of the month



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 May 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 May 2026

Housing Register

**19,332**

285 fewer than last month

Transfer Register\*

**5,034**

24 more than last month

Social Housing Register

**24,366**

261 fewer than last month

New applications that entered the Social Housing Register

**2,073**

195 more than last month

Housed in social housing

**909**

192 more than last month

Priority One Fast Track

Live on Register

**45**

Housed in May 26

**6**

Housed since May 24

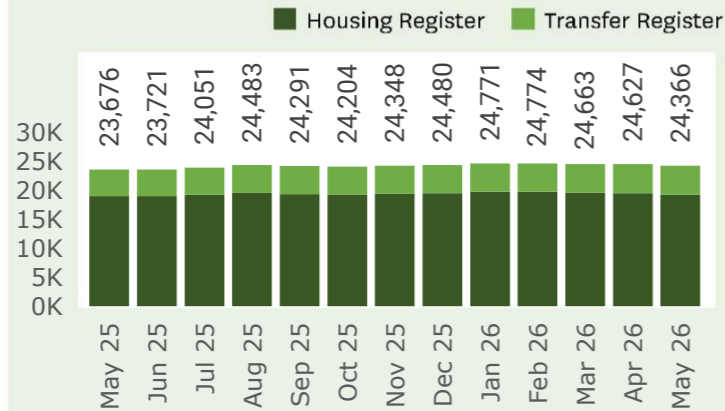
**1,113**

Children housed since May 24

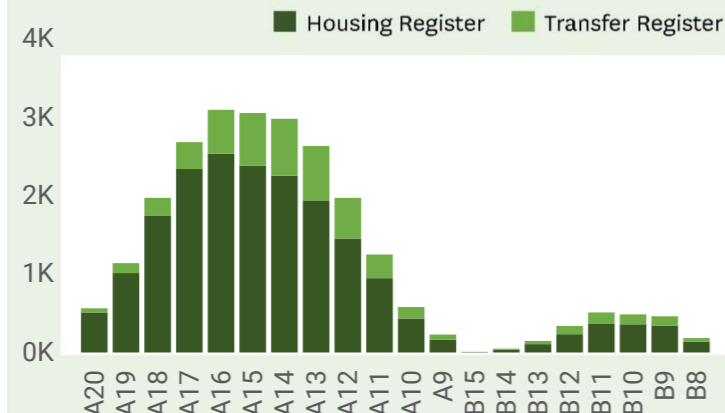
**2,388**

## Social Housing Register numbers

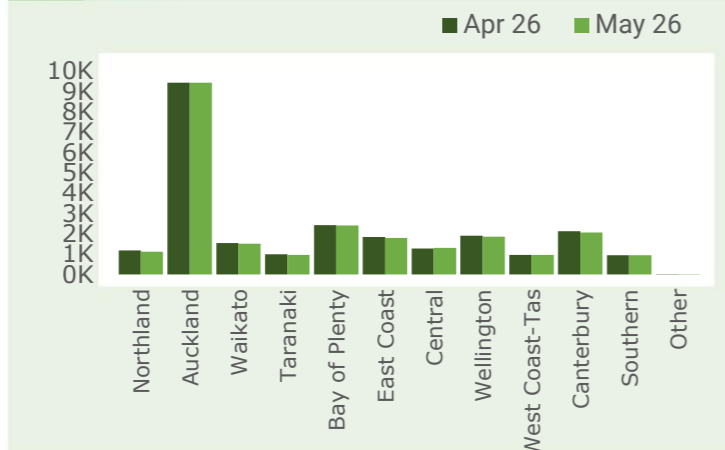
### 8 Applications live on the Social Housing Register



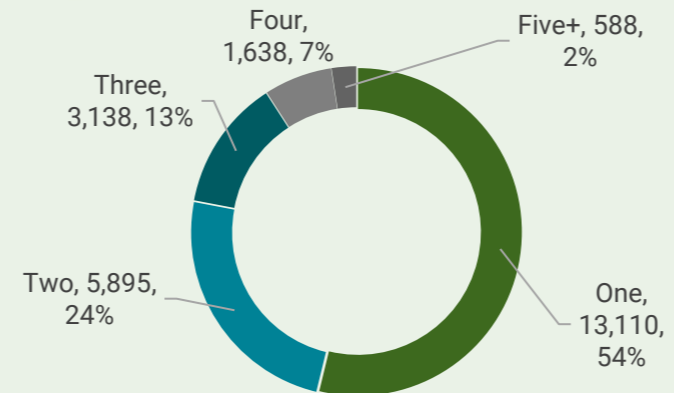
### 9 Applications by priority\*\* – as at end of the month



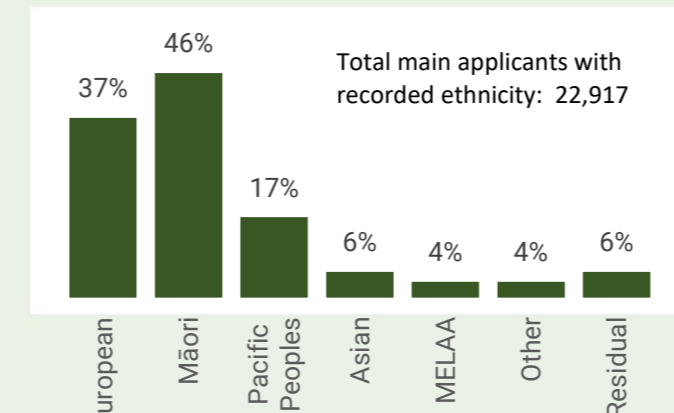
### 10 Register applications by MSD region – as at end of the month



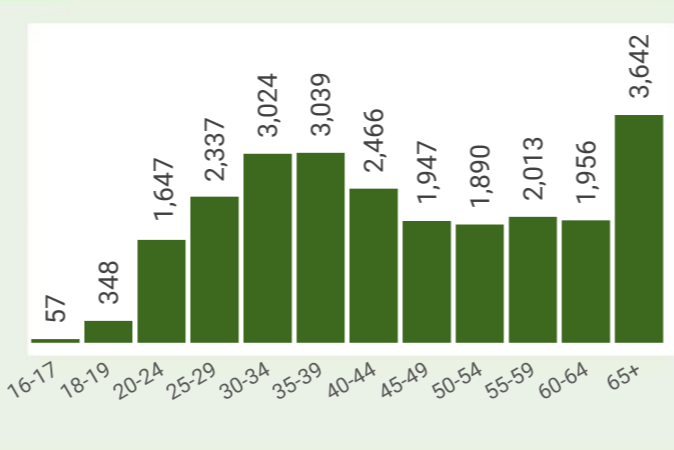
### 11 Percentage of applications by bedrooms required – as at end of the month



### 12 Percentage of main applicants, by ethnicity – as at end of the month

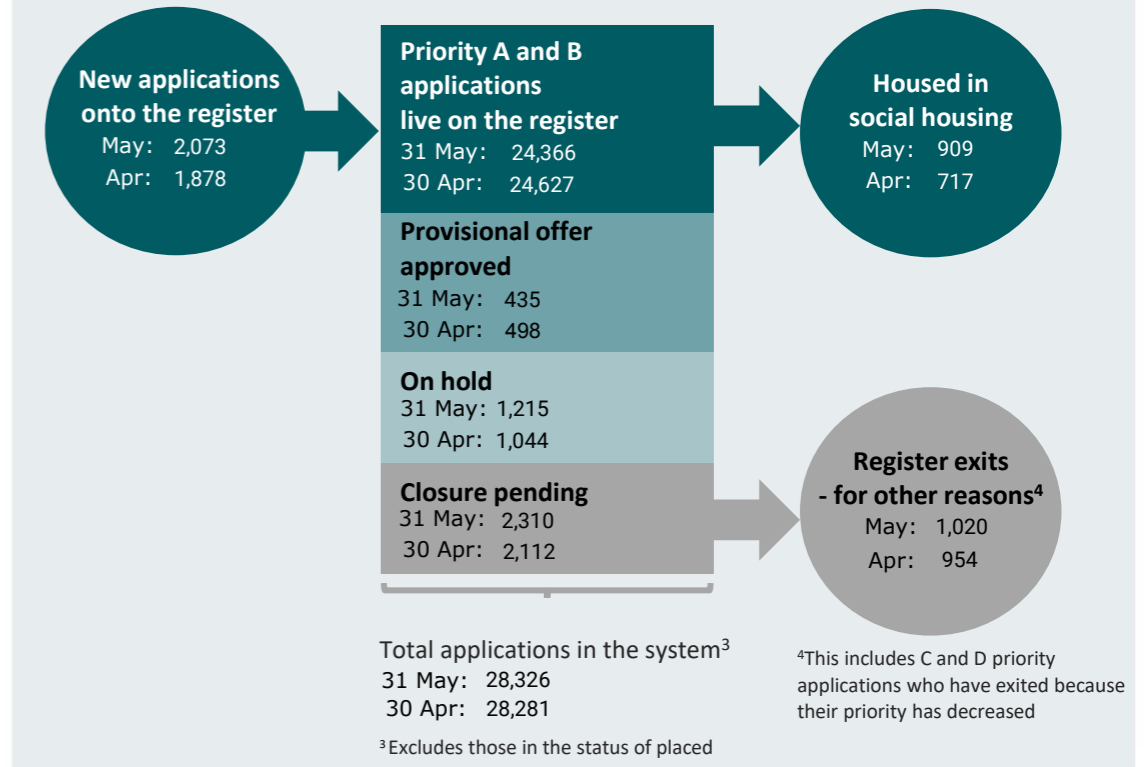


### 13 Age of main applicant – as at end of the month



## Social Housing Register flow

### 14 Register flow data – as at end of the month



## Commentary

From April to May 2026, the number of applications on the Social Housing Register fell by 261 or 1.1%.

The number of applications on the Social Housing Register remained stable in most regions. The largest month-on-month percentage change was in Northland, down by 51 or 4%.

\*\*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](http://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.

<sup>1</sup>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](http://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.