



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Dear [REDACTED]

On 18 April 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many people is the Ministry for Social Development currently paying to live in hotels or motels within the boundaries of the Kāpiti Coast District Council territorial authority while waiting for social housing to become available?*
- *What was that number for the previous two calendar years?*
- *How much did the Ministry for Social Development pay for people waiting for social housing to live in hotels and motels in the boundaries of the Kāpiti Coast District Council territorial authority in both 2017 and 2018?*
- *How much has the Ministry for Social Development paid for people waiting for social housing to live in hotels and motels in the boundaries of the Kāpiti Coast District Council territorial authority so far in 2019?*

Your request has been interpreted as referring to the provision of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (SNGs) to people on the Housing Register. As the Ministry records grant location by the Work and Income Service Centre at which the grant was granted, rather than the address of the hotel or motel, I have provided information about SNGs granted at the Kāpiti and Otaki Work and Income service centres from 1 January 2017 to 30 March 2019. Contextual information about Emergency Housing SNGs, Transitional Housing and the Housing Register is included below.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development publishes quarterly Housing Regional Factsheets, which include a Kāpiti Coast District regional overview. The latest Factsheet, for the quarter ending 31 March 2019, is available at

Please see below a table showing the number of Emergency Housing SNGs granted, number of distinct clients, and amount granted, in the Kāpiti Work and Income region by Housing Register status for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2019.

Year	Housing Register Status	Number of Grants	Number of Clients	Amount Granted
2017	Not on Register	95	57	\$75,443
	Register	58	26	\$47,411
	Total	153	78	\$122,854
2018	Not on Register	176	88	\$131,094
	Register	123	46	\$98,811
	Total	299	120	\$229,905
Quarter Ending 31 March 2019	Not on Register	21	17	\$14,894
	Register	17	9	\$12,020
	Total	38	25	\$26,914

Notes:

- 2017 and 2018 are full years, while the data for 2019 is only for the first quarter, ending 31 March 2019.
- This is a count of grants. A client can have more than one grant in the time period.
- A client may be counted more than once within a year, if they had emergency housing SNGs while on the Register and while not on the Register. As such the total number of distinct clients in a year will not be the same as the sum of number of clients in a year by register status.
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- This data is based on grants made through the Kāpiti and Otaki Work and Income sites. Site is based on the Work and Income site where the recommending case manager for the application was based at the time of the grant.
- Register status is as at the end of the week in which the emergency housing SNG was granted in. Register applications include those currently on the register and associated statuses such as "Provisional Offer Approved". The Register includes priority A and B applications on the Housing and Transfer Registers. The Register data is based on any applicant included in a register application.

Housing Register

When New Zealanders are in need of social housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The numbers of applications on both registers are published on a quarterly basis, and the combined register is referred to as the Social Housing Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in social housing but who have been assessed as eligible for social

housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in social housing but who have applied to be rehoused.

More information about the Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (SNG) was introduced on 1 July 2016 in order to fund temporary accommodation at places such as hostels and motels to meet people's immediate housing needs. This grant is paid to help meet the cost of short-term accommodation where no Transitional Housing is available. The Ministry acknowledges that motels are not a long-term housing solution, particularly for vulnerable people with complex needs, but they provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed.

The Ministry pays Emergency Housing SNGs directly to the accommodation provider. This grant is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights, but can be extended dependent on individual circumstances. In most cases, this does not need to be paid back, though this will depend on individual household circumstances.

More information about Emergency Housing SNGs is available here: www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-options/emergency-housing.html.

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing provides warm, dry, short-term accommodation housing for people and families who don't have anywhere to live. It can include support services to help people secure a longer-term home and get back on their feet so that they're in a stronger position to stay housed. Families and individuals stay in transitional housing for an average of 12 weeks or more.

Transitional Housing places are contracted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are managed by specialists who are skilled in providing a range of social and tenancy-related support.

More information about transitional housing is available here: www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/increasing-public-housing/transitional-housing/.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response regarding Emergency Housing SNGs in the Kāpiti Work and Income region, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cassandra Wise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cassandra Wise

Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery