



23 DEC 2020

Dear

On 24 November 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Data about clients in receipt of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG) in the Horowhenua District, by Territorial Local Authority boundaries. Specifically, the number of individual clients/ households who receive one or more EH SNG grant, for each month for the most recent 12-month period.*
 - *Can the data please be broken down by ethnicity of recipients, the age band of the recipient (16, 17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+) and the number in the household.*
- *Request to know the total expenditure on Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Horowhenua District (by TLA Area) for each month for the most recent 12-month period for which the data is available.*

The Ministry understands that demand for housing across New Zealand is growing, and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing, rising house prices, and rent growth. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs, and many seek financial help from the Ministry.

Across the government, there is a wider programme of work underway aimed at increasing the supply of public housing and improving housing affordability and supply. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) leads the programme of work relating to New Zealand's housing.

HUD's work includes planning, and with Kāinga Ora, delivering more public housing, transitional housing, and services to tackle homelessness. HUD is also working to improve housing affordability and supply for aspiring homeowners.

The Ministry's role is to assess eligibility for public housing, provide financial support to eligible people to access and sustain suitable housing, and to provide immediate assistance to meet emergency housing needs.

The EH SNG is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place or residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's need. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended, dependent on individual circumstances.

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time.

The year 2020 has seen a significant increase in demand for emergency housing as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic period with accommodation where they could safely self-isolate. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, people also could not easily move out of emergency housing into long-term accommodation which contributed to longer durations of stay and higher costs.

Please see attached **Appendix A** which includes eight tables to answer your request.

Please see **Table One** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs, the number of distinct clients and amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA in the period 01 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by month.

Please see **Table Two** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs, the number of distinct clients and amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA, broken down by quarters from December 2019 through to September 2020.

Please see **Table Three** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs, the number of distinct clients and the total amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020.

Please see **Table Four** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of distinct clients receiving EH SNGs and the amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

Please see **Table Five** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of distinct clients receiving EH SNGs and the amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA for the period 1 October 2019 to September 2020, broken down by age group.

You will note that in **Table Five** in **Appendix A** the data does not include all the age ranges that you requested; this is due to the numbers being suppressed for privacy reasons. The Ministry has instead, combined the age categories so that we can provide a number to you.

Please see **Table Six** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of distinct clients receiving EH SNGs and the amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA for the quarters ending December 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by age group.

Please see **Table Seven** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of distinct clients receiving EH SNGs and the amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLAs for the quarters ending June 2020 to September 2020, broken down by household composition.

You will see that **Table Seven** only includes two quarters. The Ministry started capturing information about household composition of EH SNG applicants from 1 April 2020, therefore the Ministry is refusing part of your request for household composition

for the dates 1 October 2019 through to 31 March 2020 under section 18(e) of the Act, of the Act as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. The Ministry, however, will provide you with data for the previous two quarters.

Please see **Table Eight** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of distinct clients receiving EH SNGs and the amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA in the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

It is important to note that some numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an 'S', in order to protect client privacy. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individual outweighs any public interest in the information.

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
- 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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 in the Horowhenua District, 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

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Karen Hocking
**General Manager
Housing**

Appendix A

Table one: Number of EH SNGs, number of distinct clients and amount granted in the Horowhenua District for the period 01 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, by month.

Month of grant	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020
Number of grants	109	74	110	99	89	118	100	100	104	126	130	141
Number of clients	35	29	35	40	33	43	52	54	50	51	51	53
Amount granted	\$112,786.00	\$82,734.00	\$129,476.00	\$123,958.70	\$107,474.40	\$163,338.00	\$207,428.00	\$170,727.00	\$188,441.50	\$191,615.05	\$212,192.50	\$191,868.36

Table Two: Number of EH SNGs, number of distinct clients and amount granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District for the quarters ending December 2019 to September 2020.

Quarter ending	December 2019	March 2020	June 2020	September 2020
Number of grants	293	306	304	397
Number of clients	63	76	88	81
Amount granted	\$324,996.00	\$394,771.10	\$566,596.50	\$595,675.91

Table Three: Number of EH SNGs, number of distinct clients and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020.

Number of grants	Number of clients	Total amount granted
1,300	211	\$1,882,039.51

Table Four: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNG and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

Ethnic group	Number of clients	Amount granted
Māori	121	\$172,814.90
NZ European	67	\$76,041.00
Other	9	\$9,495.00
Pacific Peoples	6	\$10,090.00
Unspecified	8	\$10,892.50

Table Five: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNG and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District for the period 1 October 2019 to September 2020, broken down by age group.

Age group	Number of clients	Amount granted
16-19	13	\$11,945.00
20-24	29	\$30,957.50
25-29	32	\$45,626.00
30-34	27	\$34,432.00
35-39	35	\$53,221.50
40-44	24	\$37,469.00
45-49	21	\$26,285.00
50-54	10	\$13,245.00
55-59	11	\$17,685.00
60+	9	\$8,467.00

Table Six: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNGs and the amounts granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA for the quarters ending December 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by age group.

Quarter ending	Age group	Number of clients	Amount granted
December 2019	16	S	\$2,520.00
	18-19	S	\$1,610.00
	20-24	14	\$10,535.00
	25-29	9	\$10,661.00
	30-34	S	\$9,415.00
	35-39	11	\$12,123.00
	40-44	8	\$8,299.00
	45-49	S	\$3,208.04
	50-54	S	\$835.00
	55-59	S	\$2,075.00
65+	S	\$1,025.00	
March 2020	16	S	\$750.00
	17	S	\$1,870.00
	18-19	S	\$2,590.00
	20-24	8	\$7,917.50
	25-29	10	\$18,111.00
	30-34	11	\$13,490.00
	35-39	16	\$26,736.00
	40-44	10	\$15,464.00
	45-49	8	\$14,273.00
	50-54	S	\$4,080.00
	55-59	S	\$1,680.00
	60-64	S	\$1,517.40
65+	S	\$3,150.00	
June 2020	17	S	\$2,400.00
	18-19	S	\$750.00
	20-24	13	\$16,782.50
	25-29	16	\$27,874.00
	30-34	9	\$20,365.00
	35-39	16	\$36,085.00
	40-44	12	\$21,371.00
	45-49	9	\$13,506.50
	50-54	S	\$7,490.00
	55-59	S	\$3,850.00
	60-64	S	\$825.00
65+	S	\$3,455.00	
September 2020	16	S	\$760.00
	17	S	\$2,065.00
	18-19	S	\$1,400.00
	20-24	6	\$7,840.00
	25-29	10	\$16,665.00
	30-34	14	\$15,592.00
	35-39	15	\$25,140.50
	40-44	9	\$23,520.00
	45-49	10	\$12,693.00
	50-54	S	\$4,095.00
	55-59	7	\$14,980.00
	60-64	S	\$910.00
65+	S	\$735.00	

Table Seven: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNG and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District for the quarters ending June 2020 to September 2020, broken down by household composition.

Quarter ending	June 2020				September 2020			
	Couple no children	Couple with Children	Single no Children	Single with Children	Couple no children	Couple with Children	Single no Children	Single with Children
Number of clients	7	6	38	37	S	S	39	35
Amount granted	\$11,395.00	\$22,903.00	\$48,233.50	\$72,222.50	\$7,700.00	\$11,115.00	\$49,030.50	\$58,550.00

Table Eight: The number of distinct clients with an EH SNGs and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Horowhenua District TLA in the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

Ethnic group	Quarter ending																			
	December 2019					March 2020					June 2020					September 2020				
	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Peoples	Unspecified	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Peoples	Unspecified	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Peoples	Unspecified	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Peoples	Unspecified
Number of clients	33	22	S	S	S	48	21	S	S	S	51	29	S	S	S	47	20	S	S	S
Amount granted	\$34,537.04	\$17,929.00	\$4,575.00	\$330.00	\$4,935.00	\$76,679.90	\$25,514.00	\$5,050.00	\$780.00	\$3,605.00	\$93,853.50	\$48,880.50	\$3,615.00	\$4,815.00	\$3,590.00	\$81,218.00	\$23,065.00	\$6,405.00	\$8,980.00	\$6,727.50

Notes for all tables:

- The tables contain a count of distinct clients and grants.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- Household composition has only been collected from the 30 March 2020 quarters; therefore, this is only reported on from the quarter ending June 2020.
- Household composition is based on the people staying in Emergency Accommodation and may not be reflective of the total household composition.
- Client demographics are based on the last grant in the quarter, household compositions may have changed over this period.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.
- Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Maori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples.
- NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller and politically significant ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups.
- A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.
- Distinct Clients can be counted in more than one month or one quarter if they have had grants in multiple months or quarters.
- TLA is estimated based on the clients address at the time of the grant. It may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing provider.
- The amount granted may not be the same as amount spent.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.
- Table four and five demographics and amounts are based on the last grant of a client during the reported period.