

Emergency Housing Grants | Feb 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
Feb 2026

\$3.0M

\$0.1M less than in November

Monthly Emergency Housing Grants

1,251

21 fewer than in November

Households in emergency housing as at 28 February

450

6 fewer than in November

Adults in emergency housing as at 28 Feb

489

6 fewer than in November

Children in emergency housing as at 28 Feb

345

42 more than in November 2025

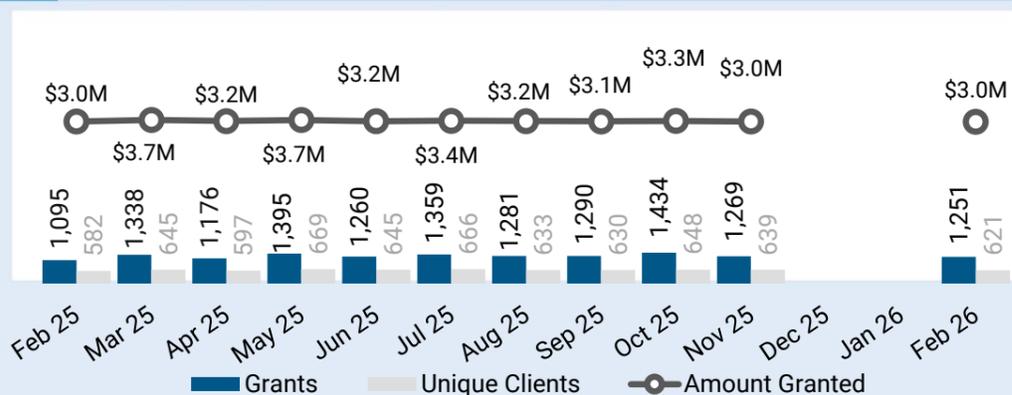
Households with children in EH for 12 weeks+ as at 28 February

33

9 more than in November

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 450 households in emergency housing (EH) as at the end of February 2026, a fall of 6 or 1% from November 2025.

In most regions, the number of households in EH remained stable from November 2025 to February 2026. The largest percentage change was in East Coast, which had 12 more households in EH, a rise of 80%.

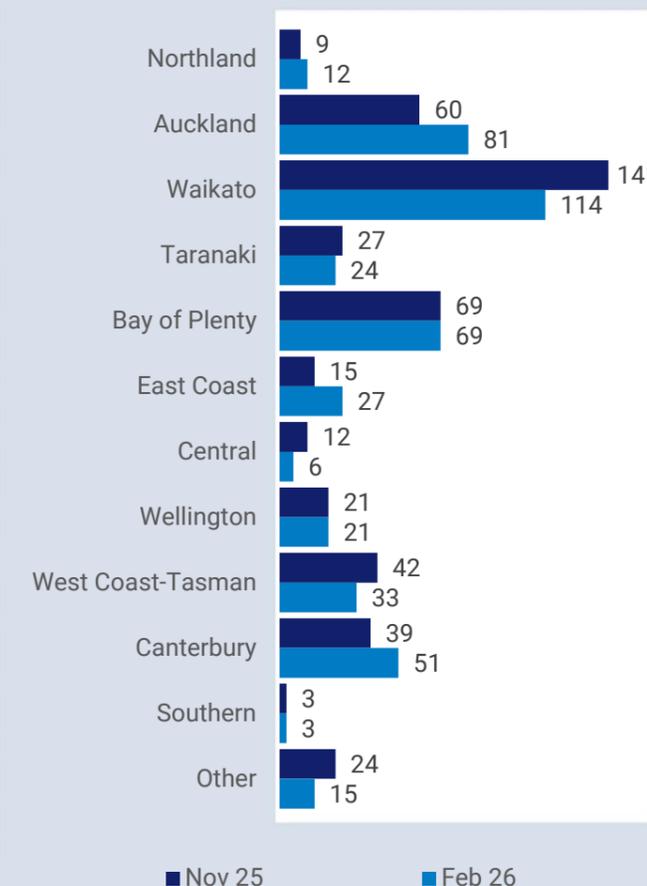
As at the end of February 2026, the number of children in EH was 345, a rise of 42 or 14% from November 2025.

*Data for December 2025 and January 2026 will be available in the next release, to be published on 10 April 2026.

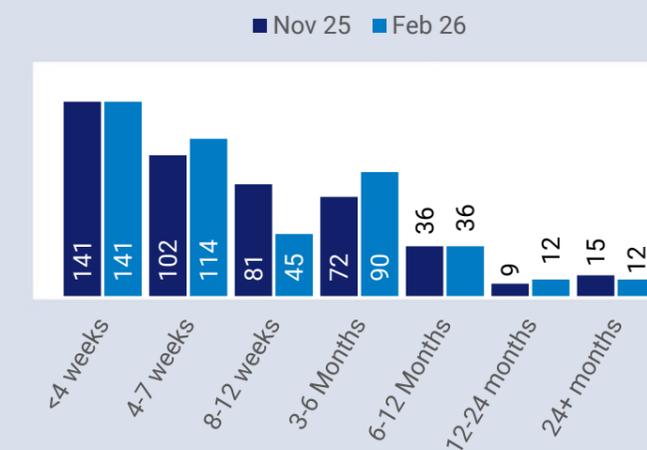
Note: Households living in Contracted Emergency Housing (CEH) in Rotorua are not included in this reporting. The new model is being piloted in Rotorua. Reporting of the number of households in CEH is currently unavailable. Random rounding has been applied to these figures. Figures in tables may not add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

Emergency housing – at the end of the month

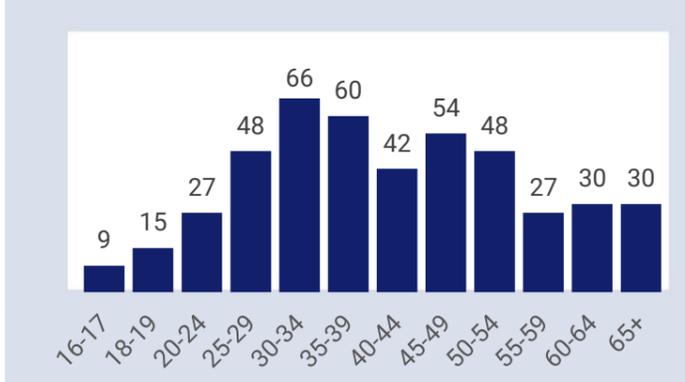
3 Households in emergency housing by MSD region – as at end of the month



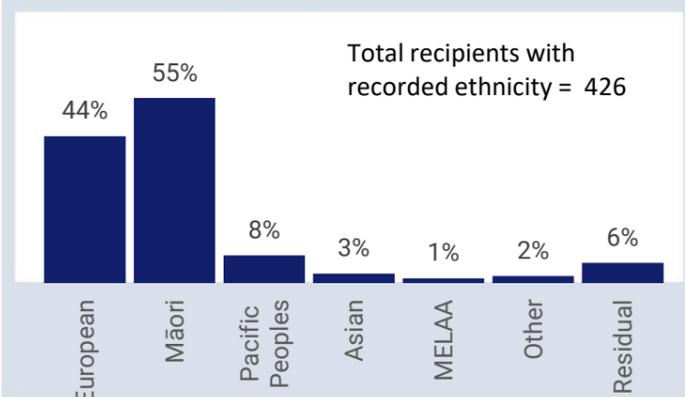
4 Households by duration in emergency housing – as at end of the month



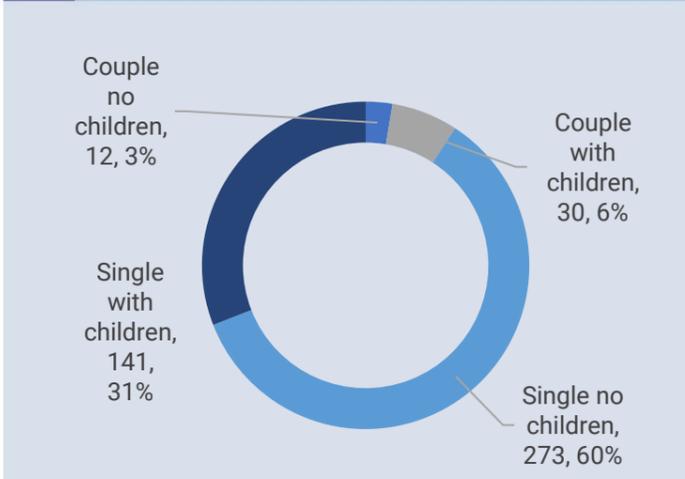
5 Age distribution of primary applicants in emergency housing – as at end of the month



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 | 28 Feb 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 28 Feb 2026

Housing Register

19,848

342 more than in November

Transfer Register*

4,926

84 more than in November

Social Housing Register

24,774

429 more than in November

New applications that entered the Social Housing Register

1,887

6 more than in November

Housed in social housing

786

108 more than in November

Priority One Fast Track

Live on Register

27

Housed in Feb 26

6

Housed since May 24

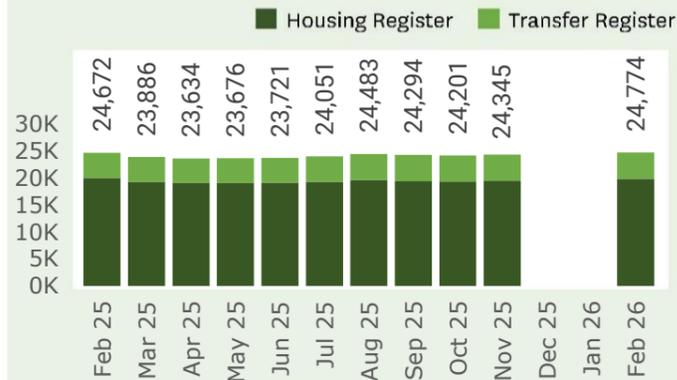
1,101

Children housed since May 24

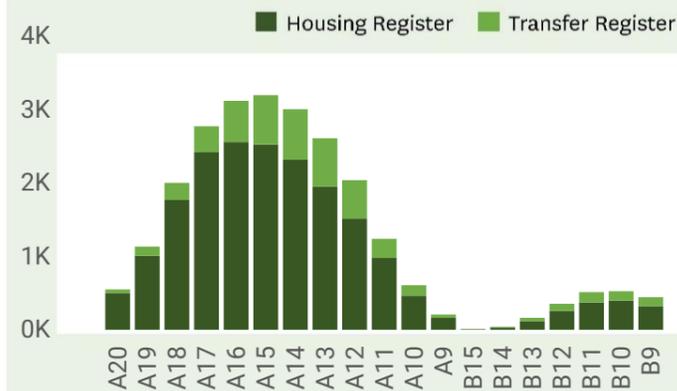
2,361

Social Housing Register numbers

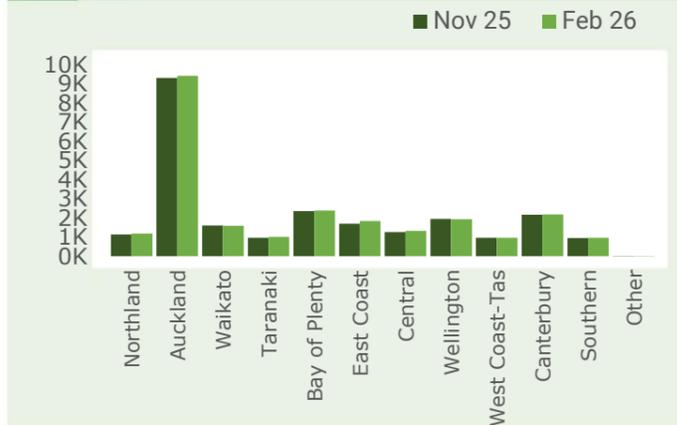
8 Applications live on the Social Housing Register*



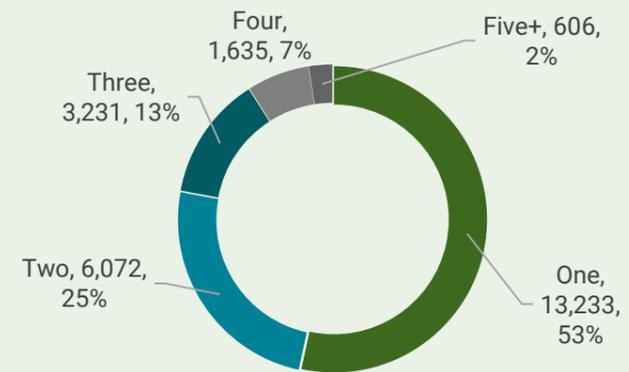
9 Applications by priority** – as at end of the month



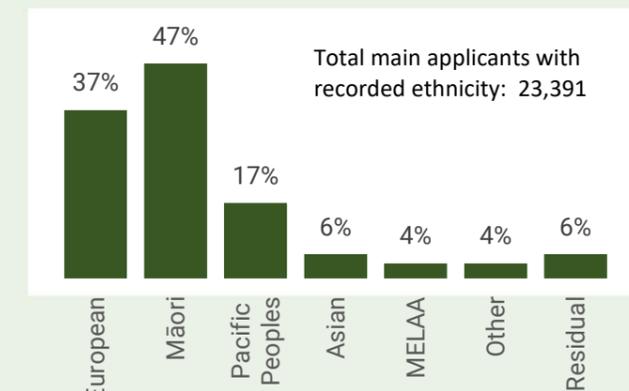
10 Register applications by MSD region – as at end of the month



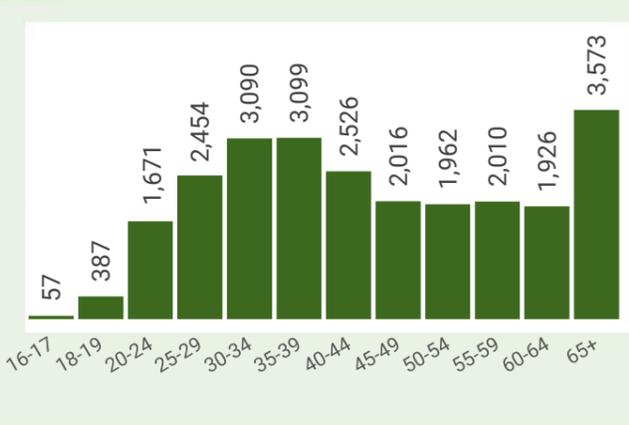
11 Percentage of applications by bedrooms required – as at end of the month



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

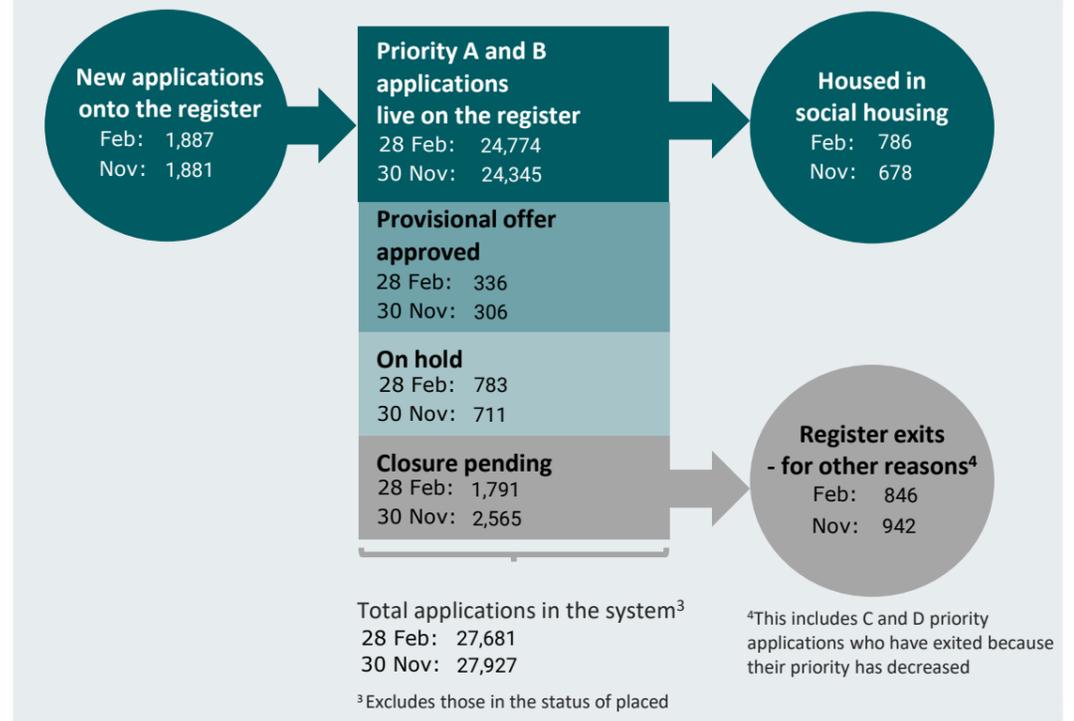


13 Age of main applicant – as at end of the month



Social Housing Register flow

14 Register flow data – as at end of the month



Commentary

In February 2026 there were 24,774 applications on the Social Housing Register, a rise of 429 or 2% from November 2025.

The number of applications on the Social Housing Register remained stable in most regions. From November 2025 to February 2026, the largest percentage change was in East Coast, up by 144 or 8%.

**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.

***Data for December 2025 and January 2026 will be available in the next release, to be published on 10 April 2026.**