Emergency Housing Grants | Oct 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
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Amount granted
Oct 2026

$3.3M

$0.0M less than last month

Monthly Emergency Housing Grants

1,536

87 fewer than last month

Households in emergency housing as at 31 October

435

3 fewer than last month

↳ Adults in emergency housing as at 31 Oct

474

6 fewer than last month

↳ Children in emergency housing as at 31 Oct

381

24 more than last month

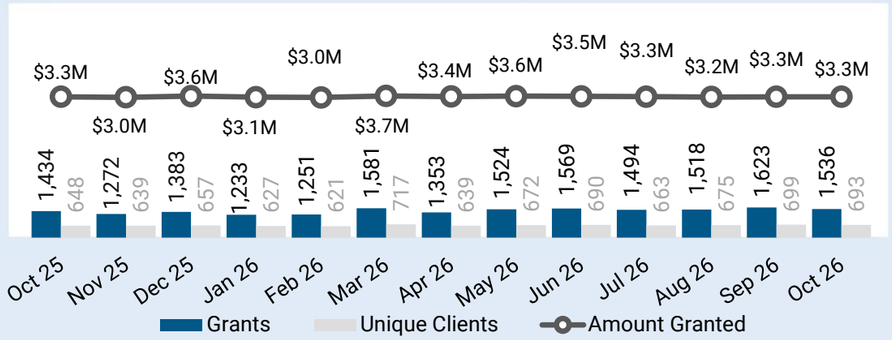
Households with children in EH for 12 weeks+ as at 31 October

36

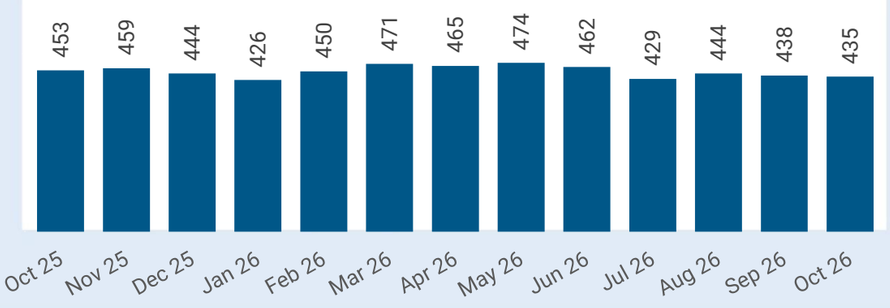
3 more than last month

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 435 households in emergency housing (EH) as at the end of October 2026, 3 fewer than the previous month.

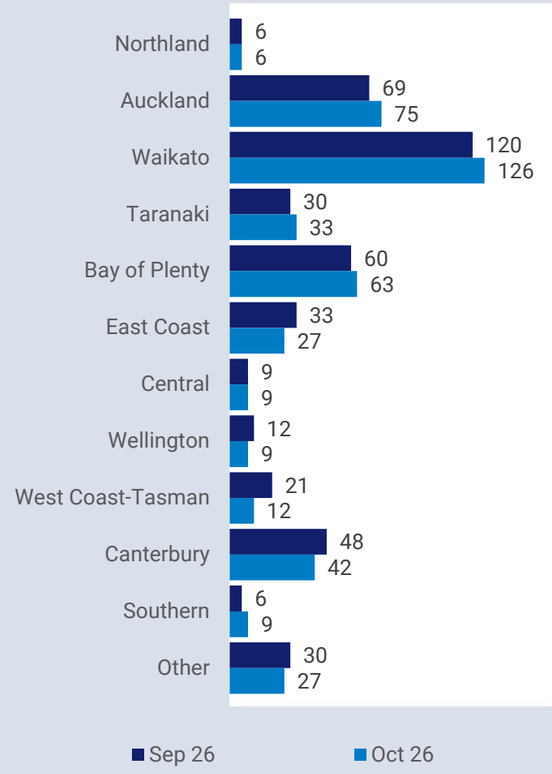
In most regions, the number of households in EH remained relatively stable from September to October 2026. The largest change was in West Coast-Tasman, which had 9 fewer households in EH.

As at the end of October 2026, the number of children in EH was 381, an increase of 24 from the previous month.

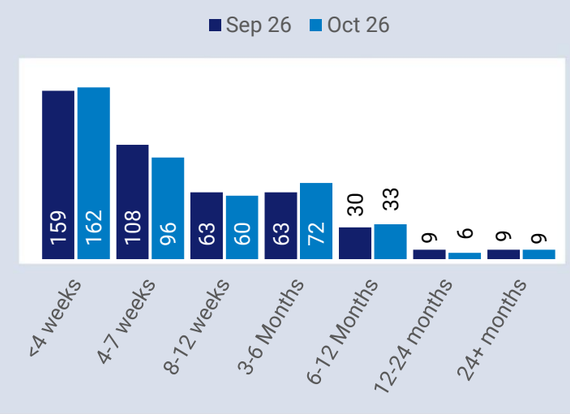
Note: Households living in Contracted Emergency Housing (CEH) in Rotorua are not included in this reporting. The new model is being piloted in Rotorua. Reporting of the number of households in CEH is currently unavailable. Random rounding has been applied to these figures. Figures in tables may not add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

Emergency housing – at the end of the month

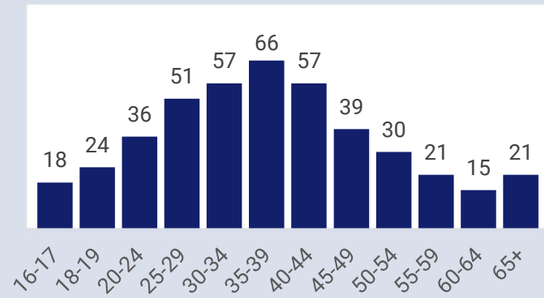
3 Households in emergency housing by MSD region – as at end of the month



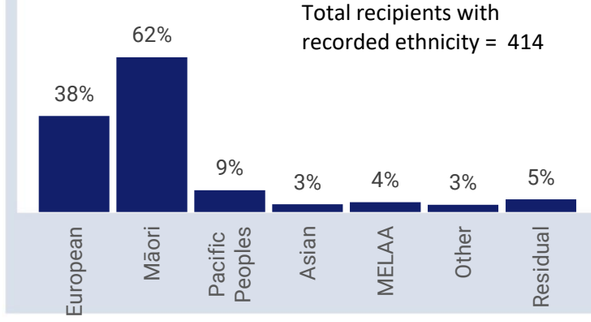
4 Households by duration in emergency housing – as at end of the month



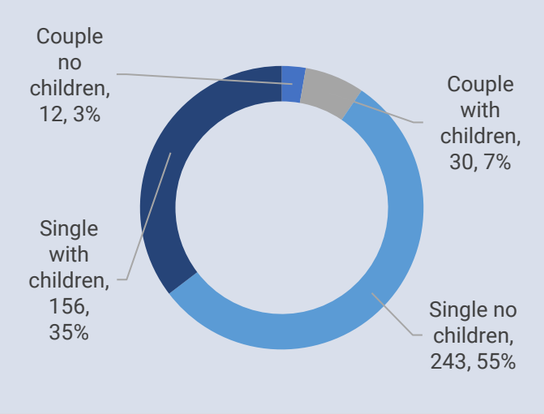
5 Age distribution of primary applicants in emergency housing – as at end of the month



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 Oct 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.

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As at **31 Oct 2026**

Housing Register
18,891
54 more than last month

Transfer Register*
5,361
87 more than last month

Social Housing Register
24,252
144 more than last month

New applications that entered the Social Housing Register
1,791
405 fewer than last month

Housed in social housing
813
69 more than last month

Priority One Fast Track
Live on Register
36

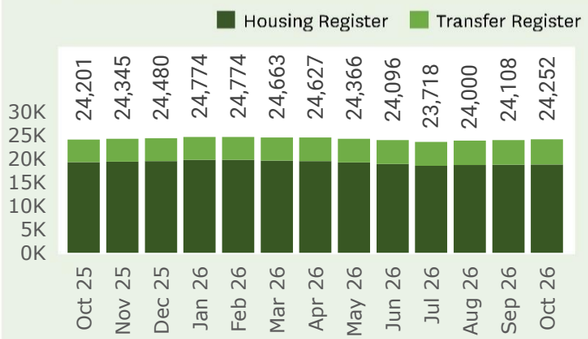
Housed in Oct 26
3

Housed since May 24
1,152

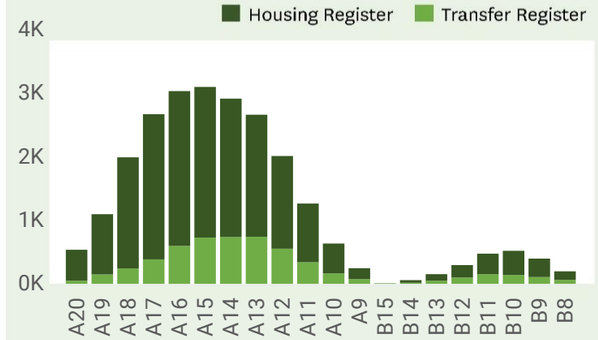
Children housed since May 24
2,475

Social Housing Register numbers

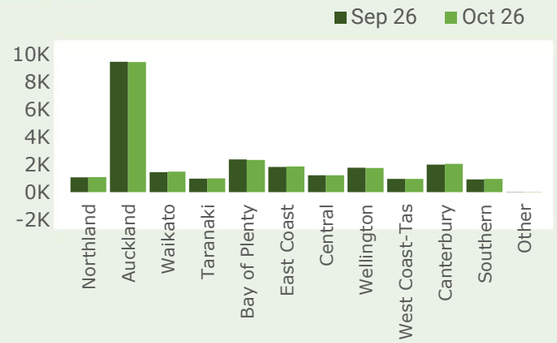
8 Applications live on the Social Housing Register



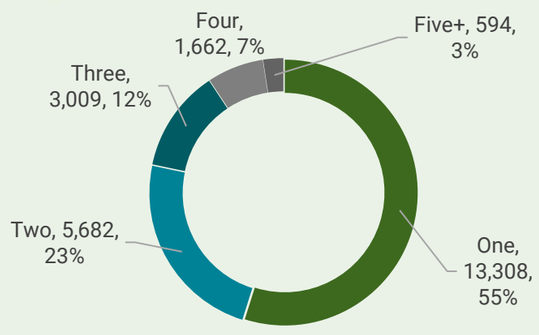
9 Applications by priority** – as at end of the month



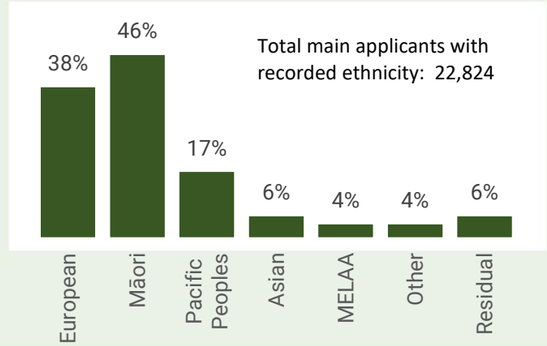
10 Register applications by MSD region – as at end of the month



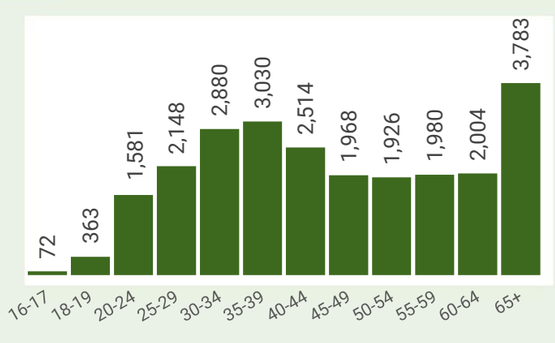
11 Percentage of applications by bedrooms required – as at end of the month



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

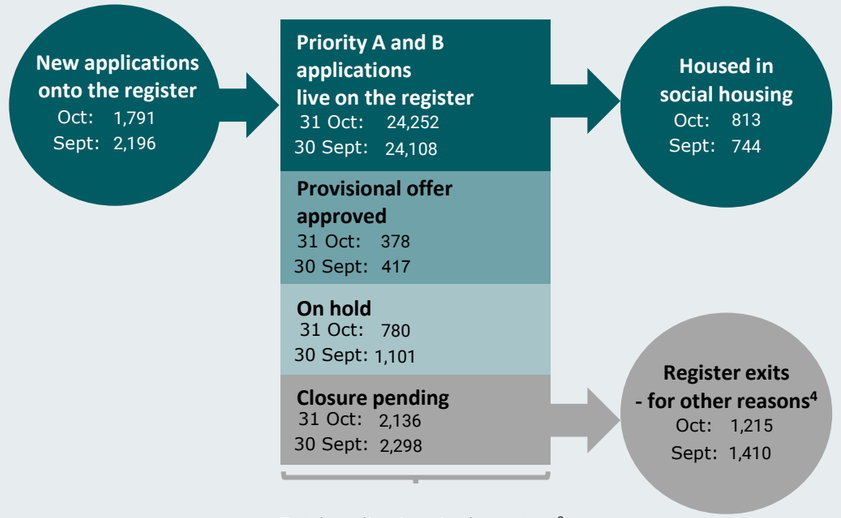


13 Age of main applicant – as at end of the month



Social Housing Register flow

14 Register flow data – as at end of the month



Total applications in the system[3]
31 Oct: 27,546
30 Sept: 27,924

[3] Excludes those in the status of placed

[4] This includes C and D priority applications who have exited because their priority has decreased

Commentary

From September to October 2026, the number of applications on the Housing Register rose by 54.

The number of applications on the Social Housing Register remained relatively stable in most regions. The largest month-on-month change was in Canterbury, up by 45.

**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.