



Transitional housing fact sheet

Transitional housing provides warm, dry and safe short-term accommodation for people in need, along with tailored support.

The programme is led by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) with collaboration from Housing New Zealand, transitional housing providers, and the wider housing sector.

It is managed by contracted providers who are responsible for making sure the homes are warm, dry and safe, and ensuring the properties are well-maintained. They also look after the individuals and families living there, help them access any support they need, such as budgeting advice or social services, and help them find longer-term housing.

Transitional housing is not the same as an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG). The EH SNG is a one-off grant to cover immediate housing costs for a period of seven days.

Who is transitional housing for?

Transitional housing provides short-term housing for individuals and families who don't have anywhere to live and have an urgent need for a place to stay.

They are likely to already live and work in the community, with children going to local schools.

Families could be in this situation for a number of reasons, such as the place they were renting being sold, or no longer being able to stay with family.

In all situations they will have struggled to find a place to rent, and will have been assessed by Work and Income as having the greatest priority.

Families and individuals stay in transitional housing for an average of 12 weeks or more while they are helped to find more permanent housing.

In most cases, they also receive a further 12 weeks support once they have found a more permanent place to live.

People living in transitional housing pay rent of up to 25% of their income, which is in line with income-related rents for public housing. The balance is subsidised to providers by MSD.

Where is transitional housing located?

There are more than 2,300 transitional housing places across New Zealand.

Transitional housing is diverse. In some cases individual, stand-alone residential homes can be used for transitional housing. In other cases it may be larger developments, such as former motels or purpose-built housing.

More information

More information on transitional housing is available on our website: www.msd.govt.nz; or you can email us at housing@msd.govt.nz.

People who need help with housing should contact Work and Income on 0800 559 009.