



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

22 FEB 2021

On 25 January 2021, 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 Hastings District (by Territorial Local Authority area). Specifically, the number of individual clients/ households who received one or more EH SNG grant, for each month for the most recent 12-month period for which data is available.*
- *Variables requested:*
 - *Ethnicity of recipients*
 - *Age bands of recipients [16, 17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+]*
 - *Number of people in the household (i.e. total number of adults and total number of dependent children).*
- *I would also like to know total expenditure on Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Hastings District (by TLA area) for each month for the most recent 12-month period for which 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 saw 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 for Hastings District Territorial Local Authority (TLA), from January 2020 to December 2020, broken down by month, number of grants, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Two** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from January 2020 to December 2020, broken down by quarter ending, number of grants, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Three** in **Appendix A**, which shows a summary of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from January 2020 to December 2020, by number of grants, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Four** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from January 2020 to December 2020, by ethnic group, quarter ending, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Five** in **Appendix A**, which shows the total number of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from January 2020 to December 2020, by ethnic group, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Six** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from January 2020 to December 2020, by age group, quarter ending, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Seven** in **Appendix A**, which shows the total number of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from January 2020 to December 2020, by age group, distinct clients, and amount granted.

Please see **Table Eight** in **Appendix A**, which shows the number of EH SNGs for Hastings District TLA, from June 2020 to December 2020, by household composition, quarter ending, distinct clients, and amount granted.

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 Ministry has not provided a monthly breakdown for each variable requested, as to do so would return a low number of results in some of the tables and the information would need to be suppressed. Therefore, some of the tables provide quarterly data only.

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 persons receiving EH SNGs in the Hastings 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



Karen Hocking
General Manager
Housing

Appendix A

Table One: Number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs), number of distinct clients and amount granted in the Hastings District Territorial Local Authority (TLA), for the period January 2020 to December 2020, by month.

Month ending	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Grants	139	102	137	180	251	292	274	254	248	227	227	184
Distinct clients	52	34	51	97	131	126	113	112	110	97	105	87
Amount granted	\$171,816.45	\$129,987.00	\$212,770.00	\$332,241.47	\$408,503.06	\$457,028.00	\$469,593.98	\$419,758.00	\$439,915.75	\$324,562.84	\$399,165.00	\$430,822.92

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

Quarter ending	March 2020	June 2020	September 2020	December 2020
Grants	378	723	776	638
Distinct clients	91	219	189	159
Amount granted	\$514,573.45	\$1,197,772.53	\$1,329,267.73	\$1,154,550.76

Table Three: Number of EH SNGs, number of distinct clients and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Hastings District TLA for the period January 2020 to December 2020.

Total number of grants	Total distinct clients	Total amount granted
2,515	452	\$4,196,164.47

Table Four: Number of distinct clients and amount granted by the Ministry in the Hastings District TLA for the quarters ending March 2020 to December 2020.

Ethnic Group	March 2020		June 2020		September 2020		December 2020	
	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted
Māori	68	\$107,240.00	153	\$257,119.62	124	\$203,988.75	81	\$173,299.00
Pacific Peoples	6	\$11,075.00	8	\$11,570.00	7	\$13,860.00	12	\$24,398.00
NZ European	15	\$26,975.00	43	\$76,989.50	39	\$69,825.00	45	\$93,386.52
Other	S	\$690.00	6	\$10,805.00	10	\$18,950.00	15	\$32,859.82
Not specified	S	\$1,155.00	9	\$15,080.00	9	\$10,065.00	6	\$9,710.00

Table Five: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNG and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Hastings District TLA for the period January 2020 to December 2020, broken down by ethnic group.

Ethnic Group	Distinct Clients	Amount granted
Māori	294	\$741,647.37
Pacific Peoples	26	\$60,903.00
NZ European	95	\$267,176.02
Other	21	\$63,304.82
Unspecified	17	\$36,010.00

Table Four and Five Notes:

- Please note the ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity.
- Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry.
- The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct. While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).

Table Six: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNG and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Hastings District TLA for the quarters ending March 2020 to December 2020, broken down by age group.

Age Group	March 2020		June 2020		September 2020		December 2020	
	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted
<18	S	\$1,330.00	S	\$2,685.06	6	\$5,375.00	7	\$5,597.52
18-24	20	\$33,993.50	49	\$79,166.23	41	\$54,295.50	32	\$56,652.00
25-39	36	\$55,344.00	95	\$165,508.33	92	\$163,567.25	73	\$161,272.00
40-54	22	\$34,277.50	47	\$77,583.50	28	\$53,146.00	25	\$50,084.50
55-64	S	\$18,370.00	16	\$26,706.00	10	\$19,505.00	11	\$26,320.00
65+	S	\$3,820.00	S	\$19,915.00	12	\$20,800.00	11	\$33,727.32

Table Seven: Number of distinct clients with EH SNG for Hastings District TLA for the period January 2020 to December 2020, by age group.

Age Group	Distinct clients	Amount granted
<18	12	\$14,987.58
18-24	93	\$224,107.23
25-39	212	\$545,691.58
40-54	90	\$215,091.50
55-64	28	\$90,901.00
65+	19	\$78,262.32

Table Eight: Number of distinct clients with an EH SNG and the amount granted by the Ministry in the Hastings District TLA for the quarters ending June 2020 to December 2020, by household composition.

Household Composition	June 2020		September 2020		December 2020	
	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted	Distinct clients	Amount granted
1 adult no children	119	\$163,651.62	94	\$139,877.00	69	\$148,525.02
1 adult with one or more children	66	\$128,587.50	59	\$110,096.25	49	\$103,183.00
2 adults no children	15	\$32,345.00	11	\$16,565.00	11	\$21,849.82
2 adults with one or more children	17	\$38,780.00	25	\$50,150.50	30	\$60,095.50
Unknown	S	\$8,200.00	0	\$0	0	\$0

Table Eight Notes:

- Household composition of EH SNGs applicants was not captured prior to 1 April 2020. Therefore, household composition is reported only from the quarter ending June 2020.
- Household composition is based on the last grant in each quarter.
- Household composition is based on the people staying in the Emergency Housing - and may not be reflective of their actual family size.

Notes for all tables:

- These tables contain counts of distinct clients and grants.
- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- Client demographics are based on the last grant in the quarter issued in a specific TLA.
- Distinct clients can be counted in more than one quarter if they have had grants in multiple quarters.
- The count of distinct clients is only relevant to the particular table that they appear in, as data extracted across differing periods of time will result in different distinct client counts. This is because families could be counted once, or, multiple times in each period of time if they have received more than one payment (week/month/year).
- Distinct clients should not be summed up across TLAs as they may be represented in multiple TLAs if regularly changing their address.
- 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.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a TLA through suburb and city details have an unknown TLA.
- The amount granted may not be the 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'.