



27 August 2020

DOIA20/21070455

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email to Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Health, dated 14 July 2020 regarding the total amount spent on mental health as part of Budget 19.

As you were advised by the Ministry of Health, part of your request was transferred to other government agencies, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry), to respond to. Specifically, this part of your request was transferred to us:

*Could the Minister's office please fill in the missing information in the attached excel spreadsheet, which outlines the Wellbeing Budget items for mental health broken down by year. (The yellow boxes with question marks are what we ask you please populate with information relating to how much has been allocated by year and the total spent so far. Please feel free to correct any figures that we have listed incorrectly.)*

**Transitional Housing: Funding for the continued provision of Transitional Housing to support those in need**

Transitional housing provides warm, safe and dry short-term accommodation and tailored housing related support services. Families and individuals stay in Transitional Housing for around 12 weeks, or more if necessary. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks of support services once they have found a more permanent place to live. Each Transitional Housing place can support up to four households or whānau every year.

Budget 2019 provided \$169.9 million over four years to continue funding for more than 2,800 Transitional Housing places (at that point in time) throughout New Zealand. While the Ministry tracks the cost of places provided, it does not attribute the costs back to individual Budget initiatives so the specific spend information you have requested is not available in this case. Instead, we can provide how much, in total, has been spent on Transitional Housing for the same period. Note, that on 30 June 2020, 3,234 transitional housing places were available; and following Budget 2020, the Ministry is funded to provide approx. 6,000 long-term Transitional Housing places over the next four years.

	2018/19*	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Funding	\$152.7m	\$150.7m	\$264.8m	\$238.8m	\$269.3	\$1,076.3m
Spend	\$101.0m	\$142.0m	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$243.0m

\* For the period 1 October 2018 to 30 June 2019. HUD was established on 1 October 2018 and does not hold information on funding or spend for periods before that date

## Maintaining and strengthening the Housing First Programme as a response to ending homelessness

Housing First is an initiative that houses and supports people who have been homeless for a long time or who are homeless and face multiple and complex issues. Housing First recognises it is much easier for people to address issues, such as poor physical or mental health, once they are housed. The approach is simple - provide housing quickly then offer tailored support for as long as it is needed to help people stay housed and lead better lives.

Budget 2019 provided \$194.1 million over four years to increase the number of Housing First places to 2,700 places in high need cities and regions. Of the \$194.1 million, \$87 million provides for the Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS) associated with these Housing First clients; the remaining \$107.1 million provides for the wrap-around support Housing First clients receive. On 30 June 2020, 1,271 households were engaged in Housing First.

While the Ministry tracks the cost of wrap-around support provided to all Housing First clients it does not attribute those costs back to individual Budget initiatives. Also, the Ministry does not track the IRRS cost of specific places therefore the specific spend information you have requested is not available in this case. Instead, we can provide how much, in total, has been spent on providing wrap around services to all Housing First clients for the same period.

	2018/19*	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Funding	\$16.9m	\$31.9m	\$42.1m	\$38.2m	\$37.4m	\$584.4m
Spend	\$15.6m	\$27.8m	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$43.4m

\* For the period 1 October 2018 to 30 June 2019. HUD was established on 1 October 2018 and does not hold information on funding or spend for periods before that date.

### What the support includes

Transitional Housing and Housing First providers are skilled in supporting households with a range of social and tenancy-related needs. The support includes, but is not limited to, budgeting or employment advice and connecting people to specialist services, such as medical facilities or mental health and addiction services.

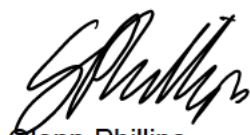
I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry at [OIA\\_Requests@hud.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@hud.govt.nz).

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Yours sincerely



Glenn Phillips  
Chief Financial Officer