



9 November 2020

DOIA20/21100488

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated 13 October 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The number of people in supportive housing in New Zealand (across all supportive housing methods utilised in Aotearoa including; Housing First, CPP)*
- *The demographic/ethnicity breakdown of tenants in supportive housing across New Zealand*
- *Criteria qualifying individuals for supportive housing in New Zealand + does such qualification criteria vary across supportive housing initiatives such as between Housing First and CPP*

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) provides a number of housing support initiatives. While these initiatives are not classified as “supportive housing” as is the Grey’s Avenue development in Auckland, they do still support people in housing. The information provided in this response therefore is about supported housing - the broader housing system in New Zealand - as opposed to ‘Supportive Housing’ the individual housing model. Supportive Housing is a Kāinga Ora initiative and you can read more about that here <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/developments-and-programmes/what-were-building/greys-ave/what-is-supportive-housing/>

The Ministry’s initiatives that support people in housing are detailed below, along with any qualifying criteria, followed by data where it is available.

Transitional housing provides warm, dry, short-term accommodation for people and families who don’t have anywhere to live and have an urgent need for a place to stay. It includes support services to help people secure a longer-term home and get back on their feet so that they are in a stronger position to stay housed. Families and individuals stay in transitional housing while they are helped to find more permanent housing. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks support once they have found a more permanent place to live.

Housing First is a proven, internationally recognised approach to housing and supporting people who are experiencing homelessness and multiple, high and complex needs. It recognises that it is much easier for people to address complex needs, such as mental health and addiction, once they are housed. The approach is to provide housing quickly, then offer tailored support for as long as it is needed to help people stay housed and address the underlying support needs that led to their homelessness. It does not require people to meet certain conditions (such as sobriety or mental health treatment) before they qualify for a home.

Creating Positive Pathways is a programme being trialled in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development and the Department of Corrections. It houses and supports ex-offenders reintegrating back into the community. The trial began in Auckland in August 2018 and aims to offer 250 places in Auckland, Northland and Wellington for people recently released from prison, along with services to help them stay housed and keep their lives on a positive track.

Sustaining Tenancies is the Ministry's main homelessness prevention service which funds community-based providers to support individuals and whanau to sustain their tenancies. It began in 2017 as a trial to support 940 people in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The Ministry added 650 places from October 2019 to June 2020, and (as part of the Aotearoa/New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan), Ministers approved the redesign and expansion of the Sustaining Tenancies programme to provide an additional 1,550 places per year for three years to June 2023. Community-based providers around the country started delivering the redesigned Sustaining Tenancies programme around the country from July 2020 and data will be available from December 2020.

Data for specific initiatives

The total number of **Transitional Housing** places as at 30 June 2020 was 3,234. Note that one place can support one individual or one household. There is no ethnicity breakdown for this data, so this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information does not exist.

At 30 June 2020, the total number of households that had been accepted into the **Housing First** programme (since funding began) was 2,114. At this point there were 1,271 still engaged in the service. The ethnicity breakdown is shown below.

Table one: Ethnicity of households accepted into Housing First as at 30 June 2020

	Māori	European	Pacific Peoples	Choose not to answer/ not asked	Middle Eastern/ Latin American/ African	Asian	Other ethnicity	Total
Currently engaged	717	306	122	75	26	18	7	1,271
Total accepted	1,193	508	203	125	43	30	12	2,114

**Note that ethnicity is self-reported*

The number of people housed through **Creating Positive Pathways** as at 30 June 2020 was 62. There is no ethnicity breakdown for this data, so this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information does not exist.

The Ministry regularly publishes a series of resources and shares information on public housing supply, homelessness programmes and other housing support. Information is published monthly and quarterly for regions across New Zealand. You can find these resources here: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/>

I trust you find this information useful. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry at OIA_Requests@hud.govt.nz.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Anne Shaw
Deputy Chief Executive
Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships