



DOIA20/21060589

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email on 29 June 2021 to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) about children in emergency and transitional housing. Your request for the following information was transferred to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) to respond under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

How many children are currently in the care of people in transitional housing in each of all six Bay of Plenty TLAs?

Transitional housing is temporary accommodation and support for individuals or families who are in urgent need of housing. It provides warm, dry, short term housing for people and families who have an urgent need for a place to stay.

Whānau could be in this situation for a number of reasons, such as the place they were renting being sold, or where they can no longer stay with family. In addition to temporary accommodation, people in transitional housing are provided with support services to help them address their needs and move back into long-term accommodation.

We know that there is a lack of permanent accommodation for people and whānau which is why we are building more public, affordable and market housing. In the meantime, we are also conscious that more purpose-built transitional housing is needed so that we can reduce the need for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, and ensure that people are appropriately supported with wrap around services until they find longer-term housing. That is why the government has made investments that will see 18,000 extra public and transitional homes made available by 2024.

Transitional housing data is based on information provided to the Ministry from contracted providers, which means numbers could be underreported. Reporting on this data requires significant manual processing which is currently underway. We expect to have more up to date data available soon.

We are always looking to improve the quality and timeliness of our data and, under the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan, we are working to improve our data and evidence on homelessness. This includes working with providers to better understand the outcomes for people and whānau who use transitional housing and other housing support services.

The following table shows the percentage of households in transitional housing that were reported to have one or more children as at 30 June 2020 (which is the latest data available), broken down by the requested Territorial Authorities.

Territorial Authority	Percentage of households with child(ren)
Rotorua	30.8%
Tauranga	25.3%
Western Bay of Plenty	N/A
Total for Bay of Plenty	26.2%

There are no transitional housing places in the Western Bay of Plenty District.

A child, for this purpose, is defined as any household member below the age of 18. This is determined using dates of birth for each occupant given to us by the provider. However, this is not always provided in the occupancy reporting, particularly for children, and increases the potential undercounting of children. This is also why the data has been presented as percentages, rather than actual totals.

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



Anne Shaw
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Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships