

19 May 2023

HUD2023-002163

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 1 May 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

“... we want to get information on how many people the policy has helped into fulltime housing that's not including emergency housing the NZ government spent 788 million dollars in two years on emergency housing then you guys say in a report how to fix the NZ housing Crisis...”

I note your other comments about the impact of increased demand for housing created by immigration. However, Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) has no responsibility for those matters.

The Ministry does not keep data on the number of individuals that has been helped into full-time housing. Therefore, as the information does not exist, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

I can inform you that the Homelessness Action Plan 2020-2023 (HAP) sets out a vision that homelessness is prevented where possible, and when it does happen, is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. Building towards that vision, it focuses on four main areas:

- Supply
- Support
- Prevention
- System enablers

Under the HAP, government agencies have worked closely together, and with housing providers, to implement actions across all four areas. There has been a significant increase in the availability of public housing over the past three years, as well as a range of other accommodation provided for those in need. A focus under the HAP has been to provide people with accommodation and relevant support, to help them transition into stable public or private housing. There has also been a focus on local and Māori-led solutions to homelessness.

Since February 2020 when the Homelessness Action Plan began, there are:

- Over 7,000 additional public housing places
- Over 2,800 additional transitional housing places
- Over 11,000 homes built by Kāinga Ora or registered Community Housing Providers
- Over 1,700 households housed through Housing First
- Over 1,500 participants in Sustaining Tenancies.

The focus on prevention of homelessness and wider system support also includes:

- 17 projects funded through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund to provide local solutions to homelessness
- \$25 million investment in Kaupapa Māori responses to homelessness
- Accommodation and support provided for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care, people transitioning from acute mental health units, returned offenders from overseas, and women leaving prison
- Provision of Housing Brokers and Intensive Case Managers for people engaging with the Ministry of Social Development.

You can find more information, and six-monthly progress reports, on the Homelessness Action Plan at <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/aotearoa-new-zealand-homelessness-action-plan-2020-2023/>.

Information on the housing dashboard can be found at <https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/the-government-housing-dashboard/housing-dashboard-at-a-glance/>

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 at: 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Goodman', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kate Goodman
Head of Government Services