

8 October 2024

HUD2024-005414

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will respond to each part of your request as follows:

1. *Details of any government programmes or funding allocations aimed at addressing homelessness among Māori, and any evaluations of their effectiveness since January 2020 and year to date.*

The Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development (GPS-HUD) sets a direction for housing and urban development in Aotearoa New Zealand. The GPS-HUD was developed alongside MAIHI Ka Ora – the National Māori housing strategy, which was developed in partnership with Māori to enable Māori-led local housing solutions to achieve Māori housing aspirations. The GPS-HUD and MAIHI Ka Ora will be implemented side by side.

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) delivers or administers several programmes and funding allocations that seek to address homelessness and the housing crisis in this country, particularly among Māori. These include:

Homelessness Action Plan

Budget 2019 set aside \$24 million funding via the Homelessness Action Plan to specifically address Māori homelessness. This funding was used to support kaupapa Māori approaches to address homelessness and Māori housing needs over three years (from 2019/20 to 2021/22), mostly related to activities during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Of this, \$20 million was allocated for initiatives that:

- engage kaupapa Māori approaches to reduce homelessness for whānau Māori
- support Māori Community Housing Providers and other Māori and iwi providers to expand the supply of houses
- work with Māori, iwi and marae to prevent homelessness through whenua-based initiatives.

The remaining \$4 million was allocated to lift the capability of Māori housing providers. This fund has been fully committed with 136 homes contracted and 126 homes delivered. No additional funding has been allocated since Budget 2019, therefore the programme will cease once all the houses are completed. Details of these funding decisions can be found in the following proactively released Cabinet paper: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Cabinet-paper-Aotearoa-New-Zealand-Homelessness-Action-Plan.pdf.

Emergency Housing System Review

In 2022, as part of the Emergency Housing System Review, Cabinet agreed to allocate funding to action 7. This action focused on investing in 'by Māori, for Māori' initiatives to reduce demand for, or provide alternatives to, emergency housing for Māori in areas where there are high levels of housing deprivation amongst Māori but currently few suitable options.

This included an investment of \$114 million for 'by Māori, for Māori' initiatives. Of the \$114 million invested, \$69 million was allocated for Māori housing solutions across the motu, \$15 million for place-based approaches in Te Tairāwhiti, and \$30 million for place-based approaches in Te Tai Tokerau. Details of these funding decisions can be found in the following proactively released Cabinet paper: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Cabinet-papers/Cabinet-Paper-Delivering-the-Emergency-Housing-Reset-and-Redesign-Place-based-Plans-for-Wellington-and-Hamilton-and-Programme-Update-REDACTED.pdf.

He Ara Hiki Mauri

As part of the Budget 2022 funding for actions under the Homelessness Action Plan, \$24.7 million was allocated for the provision of kaupapa Māori wrap-around support services to support the delivery of He Ara Hiki Mauri – a tangata whenua-led response to homelessness. He Ara Hiki Mauri supports Māori whānau who do not currently have a house to live in, as well as individuals with complex needs. This might include chronic health issues, mental health needs including addictions, or whānau on low incomes who are moving in and out of homelessness.

One of the guiding principles of He Ara Hiki Mauri is Mana Motuhake, which is about recognising the strength and ability of all whānau to steer their own course. This will ensure He Ara Hiki Mauri provides the right kind of support for each person, in a way that is whānau-led and focused on strengthening wellbeing, healing and care.

The delivery of He Ara Hiki Mauri is led by an experienced group of tangata whenua organisations. Arohanui ki te Tangata is a tangata whenua collective who currently deliver housing support services to whānau Māori and who are supported by Te Matapihi (national peak body for Māori housing).

An external evaluation of this funding, led by Dr Grace Walker (who is working alongside Aroha Ki te Tangata and Te Matapihi), is in its early stages.

MAIHI Partnerships Programme

The MAIHI Partnership Programme makes it easier for hapū, iwi, and Māori housing providers to find and access all of the support that is available from different government agencies for Māori-led housing solutions, such as funding for progressive home ownership or to build on Māori whenua. More information can be found at: www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/maihi-partnerships-programme.

Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga

Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga is a four-year, \$730 million programme administered by the Ministry and Te Puni Kōkiri to speed up the delivery of Māori-led housing. It funds both small-scale Māori housing projects and larger developments, from repairing existing homes to building new ones. You can learn more about Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga at: www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/whai-kainga-whai-oranga.

He Taupae and He Taupua Fund

He Taupae funds projects that increase the technical skills and resources of Māori organisations to build housing on their whenua. He Taupua funds projects that strengthen Māori organisations' ability to deliver kaupapa Māori housing on their whenua.

Progressive Home Ownership

A \$400 million Progressive Home Ownership Fund will help between 1,500 and 4,000 families buy their own homes by enabling low to median income households to partner with a progressive home ownership provider to access shared ownership, rent to buy, or leasehold arrangements to step into home ownership.

The Fund has a specific aim to address housing affordability issues for three priority groups: Māori, Pacific peoples, and families with children. The Fund will focus on places in New Zealand where housing affordability issues are most severe and where progressive home ownership can best help to address this. You can learn more about the fund at: www.hud.govt.nz/news/progressive-home-ownership.

Other programmes that address Māori homelessness

The Ministry contracts providers to deliver programmes to address homelessness (for example, Housing First and Rapid Rehousing). While these are not specifically aimed at Māori, many of the providers that are appointed are iwi and/or Māori providers and will operate from a te ao Māori perspective. You can find more information on these programmes at: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/housing-first> and <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/rapid-rehousing>

2. Any evaluations or assessments of government policies or initiatives specifically targeting Māori homelessness since January 2020 and year to date.

GPS-HUD and MAIHI Ka Ora

The Ministry has developed He Oranga Kāinga, He Oranga Hapori – Housing and Urban Development Indicators to track progress towards the long-term goals set out in the GPS-HUD and MAIHI Ka Ora. These indicators are designed to show progress over the next five to ten years.

The indicators include information on homelessness, housing support, transport and urban areas, as well as on whānau, housing providers, funding, and the relationship between Māori and the Crown. Where data is available, the Ministry reports figures for whānau Māori, Pacific peoples, and disabled people, as well as for the general population. You can view the indicators at: www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/system-indicators/about-the-indicators.

We have also published the latest Housing and Urban Development System Update, which reports on how the system is tracking to meet the outcomes and priorities set out in the GPS-HUD and MAIHI Ka Ora. This update reports on progress as at 30 June 2023, including initial progress against the indicators and progress against the priorities areas in the GPS-HUD. You can view the latest update at: www.hud.govt.nz/about-us/housing-and-urban-development-system-update-to-30-june-2023.

Te Whare Hīnātore review

The Ministry contracted Auckland City Mission to lead Te Whare Hīnātore, a transitional housing initiative that aims to enhance the Hauora, or wellbeing, of wāhine experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

Pūrangakura Ltd was contracted to carry out a review of Te Whare Hīnātore. The review focused on the needs and aspirations of wāhine in transitional housing accommodation. The aim is to better understand their lived experiences, stories, and the intergenerational implications of this service for whānau. This review can be found at: www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/te-whare-hinatore-review-report.pdf.

Homelessness Action Plan

The Ministry provides six-monthly updates that report on progress against the key indicators, as well as a full progress update and review of the plan after 18 months. These include indicators to assess how effectively the Ministry is partnering with supporting Māori providers to deliver kaupapa Māori-based services. The next draft evaluation is currently being finalised for publication, which we expect to occur later this year. You can view the most recent 36 month progress report at: www.hud.govt.nz/documents/6-month-public-report-on-the-aotearoa-homelessness-action-plan-from-september-2022-february-2023.

Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga

The Ministry is currently conducting an evaluation of the Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga programme and we expect this evaluation to be completed in 2025.

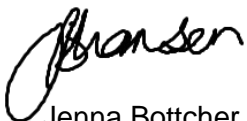
Other programmes that address Māori homelessness

In 2023, the Ministry released a phase two evaluation of the Housing First programme and a review of the Rapid Rehousing programme. This evaluation and review assessed the delivery of services by kaupapa Māori and iwi providers, as well as outcomes for Māori. You can view this report at: www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/housing-first.

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



Jenna Bottcher Hansen
Manager Government Services
Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development