



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 FEB 2015

Brendon Mills

[fyi-request-2400-2b73e5f0@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2400-2b73e5f0@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Mills

Thank you for your email enquiry of 14 January 2015 to the Ministry about the number of benefit recipients that currently have their address listed as *no fixed abode* and how many of these have children in their care. The Chief Executive has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Work and Income provides social housing assessment services throughout New Zealand. For people who have housing difficulties, Work and Income is able to provide advice regarding a range of services available from both government and non-government agencies.

To answer your specific questions regarding numbers of people, I can confirm that the number of working age clients receiving a main benefit with 'no fixed abode' recorded in their residential address field as at the end of December 2014, totalled 114. The number of working age clients receiving a main benefit with 'no fixed abode' recorded in their residential address field with children included in their benefits as at the end of December 2014 totalled 23. With regard to these two totals, please note that:

- Working age is 18 to 64 years
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit
- Where 'no fixed abode' is recorded in the residential address field this may not be a reflection of homelessness.

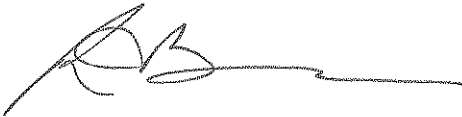
You may have seen reference in the media to the social housing reform programme announced by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key, on 28 January 2015.

As part of the work on the housing reform programme, the Government is taking several steps to ease pressure on emergency housing. A one-off cash injection of \$500,000 will be made to Ministry-funded emergency housing providers across New Zealand. Alongside this, the Ministry is currently contributing to a review of funding for emergency housing providers. This will consider the targeting of emergency housing – including the objectives of current funding – as well as the adequacy of current funding throughout the country and how it might

be optimised. The review will take six months and officials will report back to the Minister of Social Housing by the end of July 2015. It is envisaged the review findings and recommendations will inform future work on options for emergency housing funding.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Brown', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Brown  
General Manager  
Office of Corporate and Governance