

# An important change on 19 October for young people getting emergency housing support

*September & October 2020*

## **Your emergency housing costs**

From 19 October 2020, people who've been in emergency housing more than seven nights will start paying a contribution towards their accommodation costs.

Your Emergency Housing Contribution will be 25% of your net weekly income (and your partner's income if you have one).

This is similar to the cost other people pay in transitional housing or public housing. Your Youth Coach will work out and tell you the exact amount you'll pay if you apply for an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant on or after 19 October.

We'll still pay the rest of your emergency housing costs in most cases.

## **Supporting you with this change**

We know this will be a big change, especially if you've been living in emergency housing a while. We want to support you all we can.

If you're worried, talk to your Youth Coach when you apply for an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.

If you need help to budget or manage your costs, you can get free advice from MoneyTalks online or phone 0800 345 123.

## Questions and answers

### ***Do I have to pay the Emergency Housing Contribution?***

Everyone needs to pay the contribution if they've been in emergency housing for more than seven nights. People who are new to emergency housing or haven't needed it for quite a while won't need to pay for their first seven nights, in most cases.

### ***Why is it 25% of my income?***

25% of your income is similar to what people pay for transitional or public housing, so it puts you on a more equal footing with other people getting housing support. It also prepares you for the move back to longer-term housing where you'll need to pay rent, power and other bills.

### ***What if I can't afford it?***

Talk to your Youth Coach. If you're in serious hardship or you have other urgent and essential costs to pay, they'll see if you can get other financial assistance to help out.

If you want help with budgeting or managing your costs, you can get free advice from MoneyTalks online or phone 0800 345 123.

### ***Why is this happening?***

Paying the Emergency Housing Contribution puts people on a more equal footing with people getting other housing support like transitional housing or public housing.

It also prepares people for the move back to longer-term housing where they'll need to pay rent, power and other bills.

### ***When does it start?***

If you've been in emergency housing more than seven nights, it will start when you apply for a further Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant on or after 19 October 2020.

### ***Exactly how much will I pay?***

If you apply for an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant on or after 19 October, your Youth Coach will tell you how much your Emergency Housing Contribution will be.

You'll pay 25% of your net weekly income (and your partner's income if you have one) each week you're in emergency housing. Depending on what you get, your income could include payments from us, wages, salary or other income, or Family Tax Credits.

For example, a young person receiving Youth Payment of \$213.10 per week (as at 01 April 2020), the total contribution per week \$53.27 or \$7.61 per night.

A young parent receiving Young Parent Payment of \$375.17 per week (18-19 Solo parent) (as at 01 April 2020) and Family Tax Credit of \$113.04 per week, the total contribution per week \$122.08 or \$17.44 per night.

***Who do I pay it to?***

Your emergency housing contribution will come directly from your payments.

***Will I need to pay more than 25% of my income?***

The only time you'd need to pay more than the Emergency Housing Contribution is if:

- you've contributed to your need for emergency housing,
- you're not trying to find another place to live, or
- you haven't paid an earlier Emergency Housing Contribution.

***For more information***

Visit the website [www.youthservice.govt.nz](http://www.youthservice.govt.nz) or [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

Or talk with your Youth Coach at your next appointment if you need to apply for an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.