

1 March 2024

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Thank you for your email of 18 January 2024 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) the following information:

*“Please could you send us your written policies around getting a job when you are a Kainga Ora Tenant. Is there anything that stops persons from being employed if they are in hardship and can’t cover weekly outgoings?”*

*“What are the policies around being self employed and running a business from home please. Could you treat this inquiry as urgent as we have issues of hardship.”*

Kāinga Ora does not hold policies relating to Kāinga Ora tenants suffering hardship or in employment. However it is stipulated in our Tenancy Agreements (T319) to notify the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) “if there are income changes within the household” as a result of employment. MSD will reassess your income related rent.

You will need to refer to MSD’s website <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/live-in-home/live-in-public-housing/calculating-rent-payments.html> for more information.

Under the Residential Tenancies Act a tenant has an obligation to ensure that the premises are occupied principally for residential purposes.

If you want to use a part of the premises for a home business, and maintain the majority of the premise for residential use, you should check your tenancy agreement and discuss this matter further with your Housing Support Manager. In all instances, if you choose to operate a business from a Kāinga Ora property, you will need to meet all your obligations as a tenant under the Residential Tenancies Act.

Within some MSD boundaries, you can use the property to run a business from your home, but MSD must be notified of the change in your circumstances, as this change in income can affect a person’s Income Related Rent

If you would like to have your rent amount reassessed or would like to report a ‘change in circumstances’, please contact your Housing Support Manager who will refer you to MSD for further assistance.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases its responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/>, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DAB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Badman  
**Acting Manager Government Relations**