

**Before Independent Hearings Commissioners
Rotorua Lakes Council**

**In the matter of 13 applications for resource consent for
contracted emergency housing by Te Tūāpapa
Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban
Development**

**Statement of evidence by
Bharat Chandnaani**

11 October 2022



Counsel

Nick Whittington
Hawkestone Chambers
PO Box 12091, Thorndon,
Wellington 6144
+64 21 861 814
nick.whittington@hawkestone.co.nz

Statement of evidence by Bharat Chandnaani

1 Introduction

1.1 My name is Bharat Chandnaani and I am the owner of the Apollo Hotel.

1.2 I would like the 13 applications for resource consent, for contracted emergency housing, by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to be approved.

2 Apollo Hotel Rotorua

2.1 This conservative hotel beside Whakarewarewa, a Maori village, is a block from Arikikapakapa Reserve and 3 km from the lakeside Polynesian Spa. I took it over the business in 2008 and have operated the business for over 14 years

2.2 Prior to becoming a contracted EH provider the Apollo guests stayed for one and two nights in normal course. These were tour groups from overseas and NZ tourists. There were some guests staying for 3-4 days as well. The odd corporate bookings to do work in Rotorua, ended up staying for a week to 10 days, but these were just 4-5 groups a year. Since Covid, business declined drastically to having just 2-3 rooms booked and we were finding it hard to survive and would have ended up bankrupt.

3 Contracted Emergency Housing

3.1 MHUD began contracting this accommodation from 01 July 2021. Prior to contracting with HUD there were only a few guests that stayed via MSD.

3.2 We entered the contract to provide us with the stability of the contract and ensuring we would be financially viable over a very difficult time.

3.3 If we hadn't signed the contract, we would still provide support to MSD customers while accepting corporate and tourism customers simultaneously. Any single type of customer can't ensure this size of motel survival in today's market conditions. However, I don't think we would have survived long enough due to the minimal bookings and would have had no option but to close down.

Date: 11 October 2022

Bharat Chandnaani
.....