



Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category

Portfolio Immigration

On 9 August 2017, the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI):

Background

1 **noted** that:

- 1.1 on 13 June 2017, Cabinet approved in principle the piloting of a community organisation refugee sponsorship category, as an alternative form of admission for 25 refugees in 2017/18, to complement the refugee quota [CAB-16-MIN-0271];
- 1.2 the above in-principle decision was subject to a report back to EGI on the proposed details of the pilot;

Objectives

- 2 **agreed** that the objectives of the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category be to:
 - 2.1 provide an opportunity for community organisations to more actively engage in supporting successful refugee settlement and to build local communities that welcome refugees;
 - 2.2 enable sponsored refugees, with the support of community organisations, to quickly become independent and self-sufficient so that they are able to enter the labour market, navigate their communities, and access mainstream services without requiring additional support;
 - 2.3 provide an alternative form of admission for refugees to complement the Refugee Quota and, in doing so, to demonstrate New Zealand's response to the scale of refugee movement, and commitment to international responsibility sharing;

Criteria for refugees to be approved for residence under the new category

- 3 **agreed** that the pilot intake consist of 25 individuals, with the ability to allow for a total of up to 30 individuals to enable family groups to be resettled together;

- 4 **agreed** that in order to be approved for residence under the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category, principal and secondary applicants must:
- 4.1 be mandated as refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention;
 - 4.2 pass the same security, risk and settlement assessment that is required for refugees in the Refugee Quota Programme;
 - 4.3 have the same acceptable standard of health that is required of residence class visa applicants; and
 - 4.4 not be eligible to be sponsored for residence under any family category, including the Refugee Family Support Category;
- 5 **agreed** that in order to be approved for residence under the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category, principal applicants must:
- 5.1 demonstrate English language ability that is sufficient so that the candidates can read, understand and respond to basic questions in English;
 - 5.2 have a minimum of three years' work experience (in the same occupation or within the same or related sector) or a qualification requiring a minimum of two years' tertiary study; and
 - 5.3 be aged between 18 and 45 years;

Criteria for the sponsoring community organisations

- 6 **agreed** that in order to be eligible to sponsor refugees under the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category, community organisations must:
- 6.1 be a registered legal entity (registered or otherwise corporate in nature);
 - 6.2 have demonstrated experience of working successfully with refugees or other vulnerable people;
 - 6.3 have the financial capacity to meet their settlement responsibilities;
 - 6.4 have the capability and capacity to deliver settlement services for sponsored refugees, particularly in regards to the capacity of the organisation to arrange suitable accommodation and support sponsored refugees to enter the labour market and secure meaningful and sustainable employment; and
 - 6.5 enter into an outcomes agreement with Immigration New Zealand for the provision of identified services to agreed standards;

Responsibilities of sponsoring community organisations

- 7 **agreed** that:
- 7.1 sponsoring community organisations will be able to nominate a specified number of refugee candidates for the pilot intake;
 - 7.2 if they do not wish to nominate refugee candidates to sponsor, candidates will be referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

- 8 **agreed** that sponsoring community organisations be responsible for providing the following resettlement services to sponsored refugees:
- 8.1 domestic travel for refugees from the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to the settlement location;
 - 8.2 the arrangement of privately-funded accommodation and the provision of core furniture and other household goods that will be available on the refugees' arrival in New Zealand;
 - 8.3 community orientation and settlement assistance and services, including connecting sponsored refugees to services they need to settle in the community (such as schooling, health services and English language classes); and
 - 8.4 placing sponsored refugees at an early stage after arrival in meaningful and sustainable employment, the provision of training for employment if necessary, and the provision of advice and assistance that will enable them to continue to secure employment;
- 9 **agreed** that sponsoring community organisations be responsible for providing settlement services to sponsored refugees for up to two years;
- 10 **agreed** that sponsored refugees be eligible to access the same government-funded welfare and housing support, education and health services as other New Zealand residents and citizens;
- 11 **agreed** that the government be responsible for providing:
- 11.1 on- and off-shore assessment by Immigration New Zealand;
 - 11.2 off-shore health screening for refugee candidates;
 - 11.3 international travel costs for successful sponsored refugees to travel to New Zealand;
 - 11.4 a reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre;

Other matters relating to settlement under the new category

- 12 **agreed** that sponsored refugees be required to settle outside of Auckland;

Evaluation criteria for the new category

- 13 **noted** that the detailed design of an initial evaluation of the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category will be developed, and will include consideration of:
- 13.1 whether the process for the selection of community organisations and refugees has worked effectively;
 - 13.2 the capacity and capability of community organisations to take on responsibility to provide settlement services to sponsored refugees;
 - 13.3 any initial reflections on the category from sponsoring community organisations or sponsored refugees;
- 14 **noted** that the implications of the pilot on income-related rents will be kept under review;

- 15 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to report back to Cabinet on the results of the initial evaluation of the pilot intake when the next three-year refugee quota programme (2019/20 – 2021/22) is proposed;

Financial implications of the pilot intake

- 16 **agreed** to increase expenditure to provide for costs associated with the implementation of the pilot intake of sponsored refugees, with the following impact on the operating balance:

	\$m - increase				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2022 and outyears
Operating Balance Impact	0.889	0.616	0.575	0.522	0.513
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.889	0.616	0.575	0.522	0.513

- 17 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision to implement the pilot intake:

	\$m - increase				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2022 and outyears
Vote Labour Market Minister of Immigration Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Immigration Services MCA: Departmental Output Expense: Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Immigrants (funded by revenue Crown)	0.254	-	-	-	-
Vote Health Minister of Health Non-departmental Output Expense: Public Health Service Purchasing	0.023	-	-	-	-
Mainstream Health Funding	0.083	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.249
Vote Health Total	0.106	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.249
Vote Social Housing Minister for Social Housing Benefits or Related Expense Accommodation Assistance	0.049	0.039	0.030	0.030	0.030

Proactively released consistent with the Official Information Act

Vote Social Development Minister for Social Development Multi-category Expenses and Capital Expenditure					0 0
Community Support Services MCA: Departmental Output Expense: Community Support and Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075
Benefits or Related Expenses: Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit	0.097	0.077	0.060	0.060	0.060
Sole Parent Support	0.011	0.009	0.007	0.007	0.007
Supported Living Payment	0.017	0.014	0.011	0.011	0.011
Hardship Assistance	0.005	-	-	-	-
Vote Social Development Total	0.205	0.175	0.153	0.153	0.153
Vote Education Minister of Education Non-departmental Other Expenses: Primary Education	0.045	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035
Secondary Education	0.089	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Outcomes for Target Student Groups MCA: Departmental Output Expense: Interventions for Target Student Groups (funded by revenue Crown)	0.039	-	-	-	-
Non-departmental Other Expense: Learning Support	0.049	0.019	0.009	0.009	-
Total for Outcomes for Target Student Groups MCA	0.088	0.019	0.009	0.009	-
Vote Education Total	0.222	0.100	0.090	0.090	0.081
Vote Tertiary Education Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Tertiary Tuition and Training MCA Non-departmental Output Expense: Community Education	0.053	0.053	0.053	-	-
Total Operating	0.889	0.616	0.575	0.522	0.513

- 18 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2017/18 above be included in the 2017/18 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 19 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 17 above be a charge against the between-Budget operating contingency, established as part of Budget 2017;

Publicity

- 20 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, in consultation with the Office of the Minister of Immigration, will develop a communications strategy for the announcement of details of the new category;

Implementation

- 21 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration may certify immigration instructions required to implement the new category or make minor policy decisions as necessary in line with the intent of the above paragraphs.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Steven Joyce (Chair)
Hon Simon Bridges
Hon Amy Adams
Hon Michael Woodhouse
Hon Anne Tolley
Hon Nathan Guy
Hon Dr Nick Smith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Alfred Ngaro
Hon Nicky Wagner
Hon David Bennett
Hon Tim Macindoe
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Peter Dunne
Hon Te Ururoa Flavell

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for EGI

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Immigration

Proactively released consistent with the Official Information Act