



BRIEFING

Final draft Cabinet papers: New Zealand Residence Programme and the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category)

Date:	5 December 2018	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	1985 18-19

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway Minister of Immigration	Note the feedback on the draft Cabinet papers from ministerial consultation. Agree to lodge the Cabinet papers on 6 December 2018 for consideration at the Economic Development (DEV) Cabinet Committee on 12 December 2018.	6 December 2018 10am
Hon Kris Faafoi Associate Minister of Immigration	Note the contents of this briefing.	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 3855	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Chris Pound	Senior Advisor, Immigration Policy	04 916 6066	N/A	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
N/A

- Minister's office to complete:**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



BRIEFING

Final draft Cabinet papers: New Zealand Residence Programme and the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category)

Date:	5 December 2018	Priority:	High
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Purpose

This paper provides you with a summary of feedback from your coalition partners on two draft Cabinet papers:

- *New Zealand Residence Programme: New objectives and approach to managing residence numbers; and*
- *Changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category).*

Your agreement is sought to lodge the attached Cabinet papers for consideration at the Economic Development (DEV) Cabinet Committee on 12 December 2018.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** that the papers have been amended to reflect the feedback received from the ministerial consultation and some of the data and statistical analysis has been updated (highlighted versions of the papers with changes are attached for your reference)

Noted

- b **Agree** to lodge the attached Cabinet papers by 10am on Thursday 6 December 2018 for consideration at the DEV Cabinet Committee on 12 December 2018

Agree / Disagree

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour and Immigration Policy, MBIE

05 / 12 / 2018

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration

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Summary of feedback from ministerial consultation

1. On 26 and 27 November 2018, you met with your coalition partners and ministerial colleagues to discuss these two Cabinet papers. The main feedback is outlined below.
2. The feedback did not indicate that substantial changes need to be made to the papers.
3. The papers had previously been consulted to government agencies in October 2018 with The Treasury, Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Social Development providing comments and feedback. We advised you on agency feedback on 1 November 2018 [BN 1499 18-19 refers].

New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP)

4. Coalition partners' feedback raised two key points:
 - Constitutional conventions
 - Monitoring and reporting of residence trends.

Constitutional conventions

6. Forecasting, monitoring, analysis and reporting of migration trends for each residence category is crucial for the management and visibility of the total number of forecast and actual new residents. MBIE proposes to develop its existing capability over the next year to enable it to forecast residence numbers, monitor and analyse trends, including from future policy changes, to ensure the management requirements of this new approach can be met. The outcomes of the analysis would then be reported to Ministers, identifying any pressures or gaps that need to be addressed. This is noted in the Cabinet paper.
7. Subject to you agreeing to submit the papers, we will provide you with an outline of a possible reporting regime in the talking points to support you at DEV next week.
8. Other amendments made to this paper are:
 - The net permanent and long term (PLT) migration forecast has changed from 51,000 new residents for the June 2020 year (as noted in earlier drafts of the paper) to 57,000 for year to September 2020. This means that the net PLT migration is forecast to continue to decline but at a slower rate than was projected in the June 2018 quarter. This forecast change is driven by the recent positive labour market information (lower unemployment rate and higher wage growth) and revised forecasts taken into account in this latest update [BN 1735 18-19 refers].
 - The forecast residence visa numbers table in Annex One reflect Cabinet's decisions on the commencement of the increase in the Refugee Quota from 2020/21 onwards.

Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category)

9. Free and frank opinions

10. The other area of feedback was whether migrants that sponsor parents should be required to take their parents with them if they leave New Zealand. This is to address the potential issue of parent migrants being stranded in New Zealand if their children leave.
11. We have been unable to find information in any other jurisdiction that explicitly details this as a requirement. Any requirement to move parents is complicated by the fact that the parent/s hold residence status meaning they would potentially have to be forcibly deported or have a visa condition indicating that their sponsor must remain in the country. Additionally, this proposal assumes that the parent's key relationship with and ties to their families is through their direct sponsors, which may not always be the case. For example, the parent migrants may wish to remain in New Zealand to support their grand-children, if their grand-children are old enough to live independently and wish to stay, should the grand-children's sponsoring parents choose to leave New Zealand.
12. There is also a question about what would happen after the sponsorship period expires: would parent migrants still be required to leave if their sponsors did after 10 or 15 years (as would be expected if the policy objective was to reduce the cost burden of aging parent migrants on NZ). This could be problematic especially if the parent migrant had independently established themselves with their families, in their communities and, potentially, in work.
13. We have added a new section to the paper to cover the above discussion. Other minor amendments have been made to clarify and update some of the data and statistical analysis.

Next steps

14. Subject to your agreement, officials will lodge the papers, and provide talking points to your office to support you at Cabinet Committee.
15. In order to be considered at the Economic Development Cabinet Committee on Wednesday 12 December 2018, the draft Cabinet papers will need to be lodged with Cabinet office by 10am on Thursday 6 December 2018.
16. Should this date not be met, there are no further Cabinet committee meetings this year and so decisions on these papers would be deferred until early 2019.
17. Ruth Isaac, General Manager Labour and Immigration Policy, and Siân Roguski, Manager Immigration Policy, will be available to support you at DEV.

Annexes

- Annex One: Cabinet paper – New Zealand Residence Programme: New objectives and approach to managing residence numbers (Clean version and one with changes highlighted in yellow)
- Annex Two: Cabinet paper – Changes to the Parent Resident Visa (Parent Category) (Clean version and one with changes highlighted in yellow)
- Annex Three: Annexed to both papers – Summary of Progress in the Immigration Portfolio