



## BRIEFING

### Emergency allocation change: Extending the application time following the death of a close relative from 7 to 14 days

<b>Date:</b>	30 December 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-2263

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Agree</b> to extend the amount of time that people have to apply for an Emergency Allocation under Category 3 (death of a close relative) from 7 to 14 days.	2 January 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	✓

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments



# BRIEFING

## Emergency allocation change: Extending the application time following the death of a close relative from 7 to 14 days

<b>Date:</b>	30 December 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-2263

### Purpose

This briefing seeks your agreement to extend the amount of time that people have to apply for an Emergency Allocation under Category 3 (death of a close relative) from 7 to 14 days as soon as practicable.

### Recommended action

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

- a **Note** emergency allocation category 3 (death of a close relative) was introduced on 3 September and provides a pathway for New Zealand citizens or residents who have suffered the bereavement of a close relative to enter or depart New Zealand.  
*Noted*
- b **Note** that this category currently requires people to apply within 7 days of the relative's death in order to be eligible for an emergency allocation.  
*Noted*
- c **Note** that we have identified a number of applications where people would have been eligible for an Emergency Allocation but have had to be declined due to their application being received between 8-14 days after the close relative's death.  
*Noted*
- d **Note** that we recommend extending the application period for this category from 7 to 14 days  
*Noted*
- e **Agree** to update category 3 to read:

*New Zealand citizens or residents who have suffered the bereavement of a close relative within 14 days of the date of application and urgently need to:*

*a) return to New Zealand where the close relative died in New Zealand; OR*

*b) travel to another country, and return to New Zealand, where the close relative died in that other country, including for the purposes of accompanying the body of the deceased to New Zealand:*

- *where timely return travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System.*

*Agree / Disagree*

f **Agree** that MBIE implement this change as soon as practicable (estimated to be early January)

Agree / Disagree

g **Agree** that this briefing be proactively released with appropriate withholdings under the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Kara Isaac  
**General Manager**  
MIQ Policy, MBIE

30 / 12 / 2021



Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**

30 / 12 / 21

## Background

---

1. On 3 September 2021 category 3 was introduced as a new Emergency Allocation category. This category provides a pathway for New Zealand citizens or residents who have suffered the bereavement of a close relative to enter or depart New Zealand and requires that the application be made within 7 days of the relative's death.
2. As of 26 December, there have been 368 emergency allocations approved under this category. 189 applications for people to enter New Zealand and 179 applications for people to depart New Zealand to travel to where the close relative has died.
3. As part of our ongoing review of emergency allocation criteria, we have identified a number of applications where people would have been eligible for an Emergency Allocation but had to be declined due to their application being received between 8-14 days after the close relative's death. In some instances this has been due to things outside of the applicant's control such as a delay of receiving the required evidence in the other jurisdiction.
4. In response, and given the recent decision around the delay of changing border settings under Reconnecting New Zealanders, we recommend extending the application timeframe for category 3 from 7 to 14 days.

## Updating category 3 to increase application timeframe

---

5. We propose to update category 3 read:

*New Zealand citizens or residents who have suffered the bereavement of a close relative within 14 days of the date of application and need to:*

*a) return to New Zealand where the close relative died in New Zealand; OR*

*b) travel to another country, and return to New Zealand, where the close relative died in that other country, including for the purposes of accompanying the body of the deceased to New Zealand:*

- *where timely return travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System.*

6. Based on previous applications, we expect that the increase in approvals from the application timeframe will be under 20 applications per month. This can be accommodated within the existing emergency allocation of 800 rooms per month.

## Next steps

---

7. If you agree to this change, MBIE intends to implement it as soon as reasonably practicable (estimated to be early January).