

INDICATORS FOR PERMANENT MIGRANTS FROM THE PACIFIC

August 2012

Why is this important?

Pacific people have a long history of settlement in New Zealand, with several waves of migration from various parts of the Pacific throughout the last century and a half. In recent times, New Zealand established special immigration policies, such as the Samoan Quota (SQ) and Pacific Access Category (PAC), with some of the Pacific countries. These policies have more relaxed requirements for skills, qualifications and income compared to other immigration policies, especially for skilled migrants.

The 2011 Migrants Survey interviewed migrants aged 18 years and over who were approved for residence through the Skilled/Business stream or Family streams, or who were granted a work visa.¹ Permanent migrants who were approved through the International/Humanitarian stream were excluded from the 2011 Migrants Survey because of low response rates in previous surveys. Therefore, a separate survey (2011 PAC/SQ Survey) of principal migrants² who were approved through PAC and SQ was conducted in 2011 to understand the settlement outcomes of these migrants.

The indicators presented in this report relate to permanent migrants³ from the Pacific with emphasis on PAC and SQ migrants. The group '2011 PACIFIC' in this report relates to migrants from the Pacific who came through the Skilled/Business stream or Family streams and responded in the 2011 Migrants Survey. Results from the 2011 PAC/SQ Survey are denoted by '2011 PAC/SQ'.

¹ Migrants in the residence streams had been granted their residence visas or arrived in New Zealand in the 12 months prior to the survey. Migrants with temporary work visas would have been granted their visas or arrived in New Zealand in the six months prior to the survey.

² Only principal migrants were included in the 2011 PAC/SQ Survey rather than their family members, who were considered to be secondary migrants.

³ The term 'migrants' in the remainder of the report refers to permanent migrants.

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Methodology

For the 2011 Migrants Survey, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Labour Group provided a list of migrants invited to participate in the survey.

The MBIE Labour Group also provided a list of principal migrants invited to participate in the 2011 PAC/SQ Survey together with addresses of the migrants' employers. In order to achieve 200 interviews, employers and principal migrants who had already been traced from the list were used to 'snowball' others who might be eligible for the survey. The snowball effect can lead to potential selection bias because migrants who were employed were more likely to be interviewed in the 2011 PAC/SQ Survey than migrants who were not employed. The likely impact of the selection bias will be noted in the following indicators.

Given the differences in sampling selection approaches the characteristics of the respondents are described in the following table.

Table 1: Characteristics of migrants from the Pacific

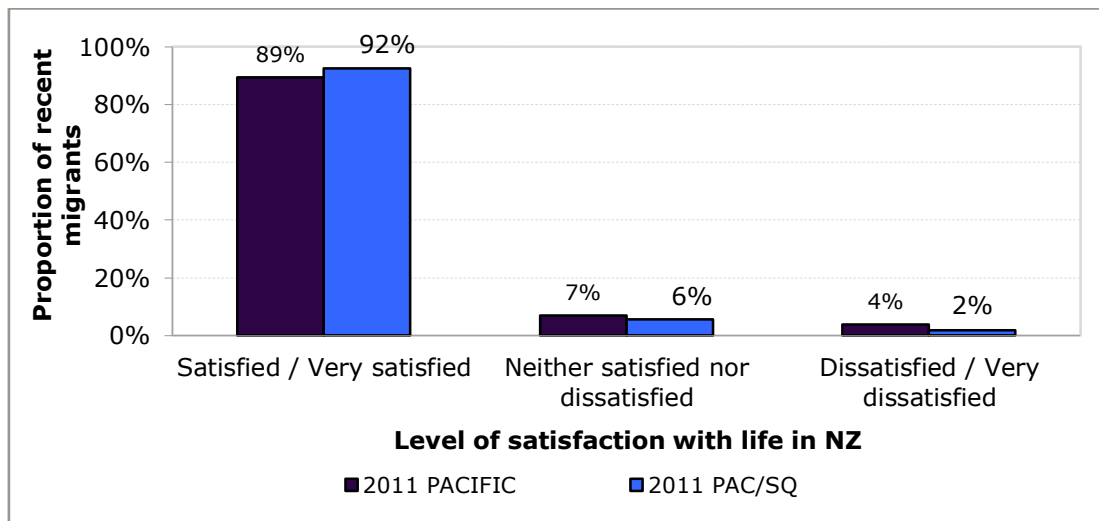
Characteristic	2011 PACIFIC	2011 PAC/SQ
Gender		
Male	50%	57%
Female	50%	43%
Total	162	213
Age group		
Under 30	35%	32%
30-39	29%	37%
40+	36%	31%
Approval category		
Skilled migrants	39%	
Partner	40%	
Parent	21%	
PAC and SQ		100%

What we found

Satisfaction with life in New Zealand

About nine out of ten recent migrants from the Pacific were satisfied or very satisfied with life in New Zealand.

Figure 1: Pacific migrants' level of satisfaction with life in New Zealand

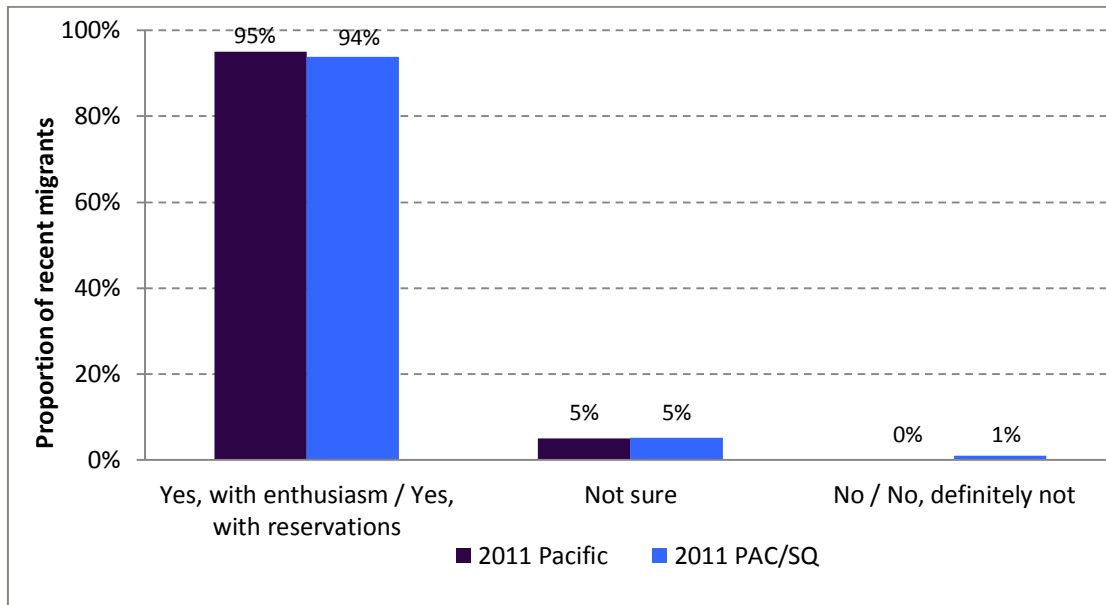


Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Willingness to recommend New Zealand

Almost all migrants from the Pacific would recommend New Zealand to friends and family in 2011.

Figure 2: Pacific migrants who would recommend New Zealand



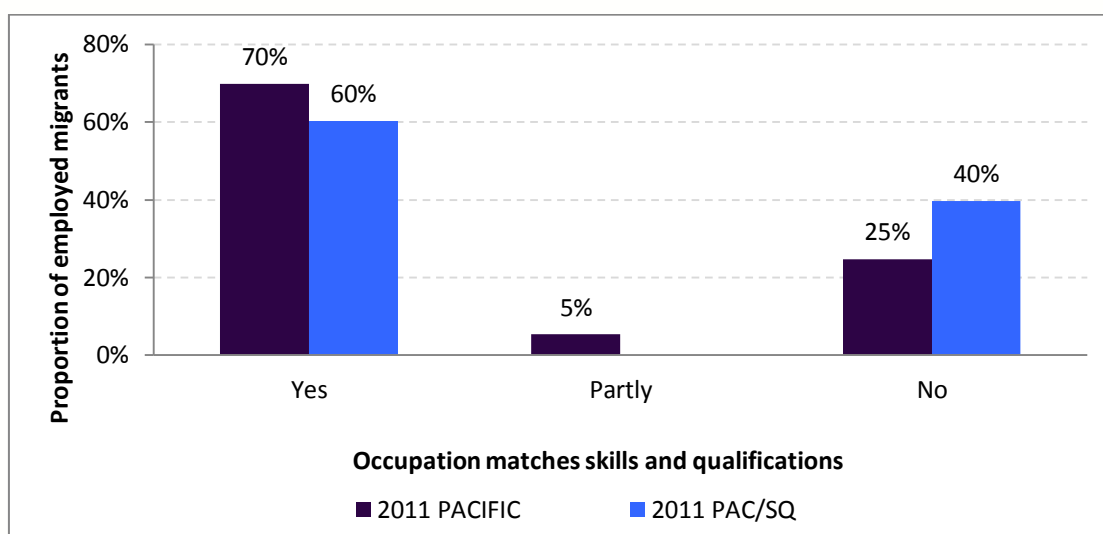
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Employed migrants whose occupation matched their skills and qualifications

Sixty percent of employed PAC and SQ migrants stated that their occupation matched or partly matched their skills and qualifications. This is lower than the proportion for migrants who came through the Skilled/Business stream or Family streams, perhaps reflecting the relaxed requirements for skills in the PAC and SQ policies compared to other immigration policies.

Figure 3: Proportion of employed Pacific migrants whose occupation matched their skills and qualifications



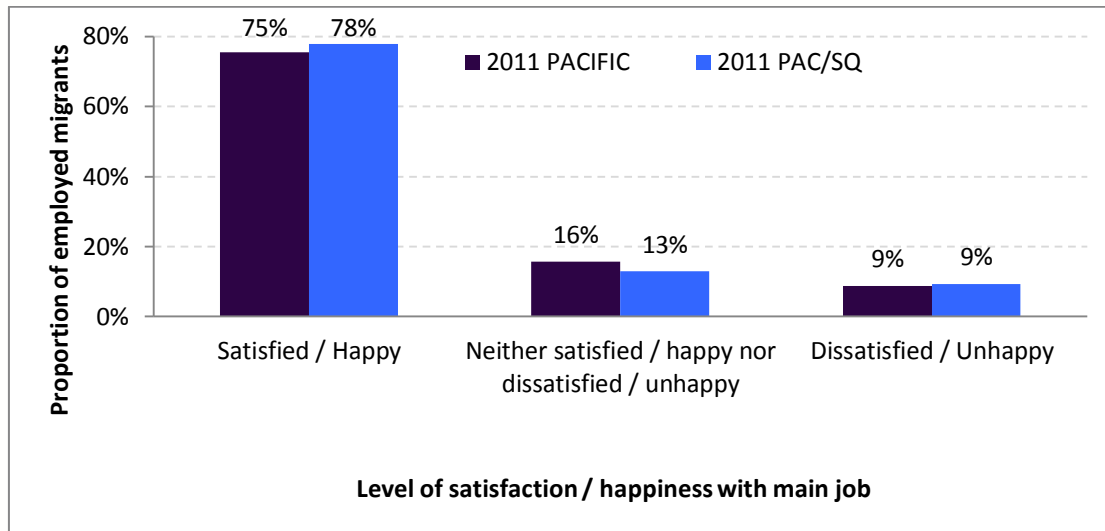
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Employed migrants' satisfaction with their main job

A scale of happiness was used in the 2011 PAC/SQ Survey rather than satisfaction with their main job, in order to keep the language as simple as possible for those with English as a second language. It was considered highly probable that most people in this category would see the two words effectively as synonyms. Despite the change in wording, the results are similar for Pacific migrants who came through PAC and SQ policies and Pacific migrants who came through the Skilled/Business Migrants stream or Family streams.

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Figure 4: Employed Pacific migrants' satisfaction with their main job

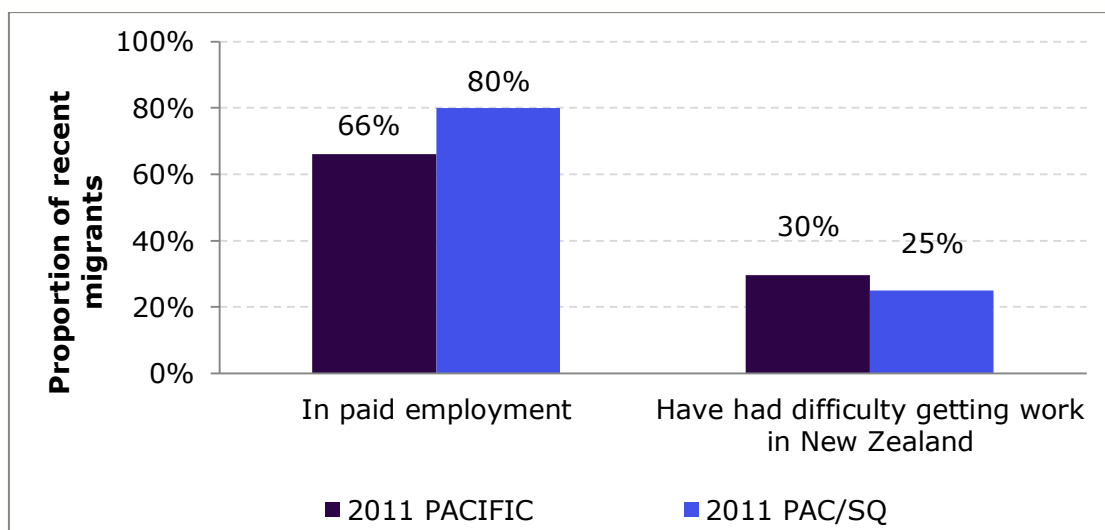


Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Migrants' experiences of finding work

The higher proportion of PAC and SQ migrants in paid employment relative to Pacific migrants who came through other immigration policies could be skewed by the 'snowball' sampling approach used in the 2011 PAC/SQ Survey, which favours migrants who are employed to be interviewed. Nonetheless, about one in four migrants from PAC and SQ had difficulty finding work in New Zealand.

Figure 5: Pacific migrants' experiences of finding work



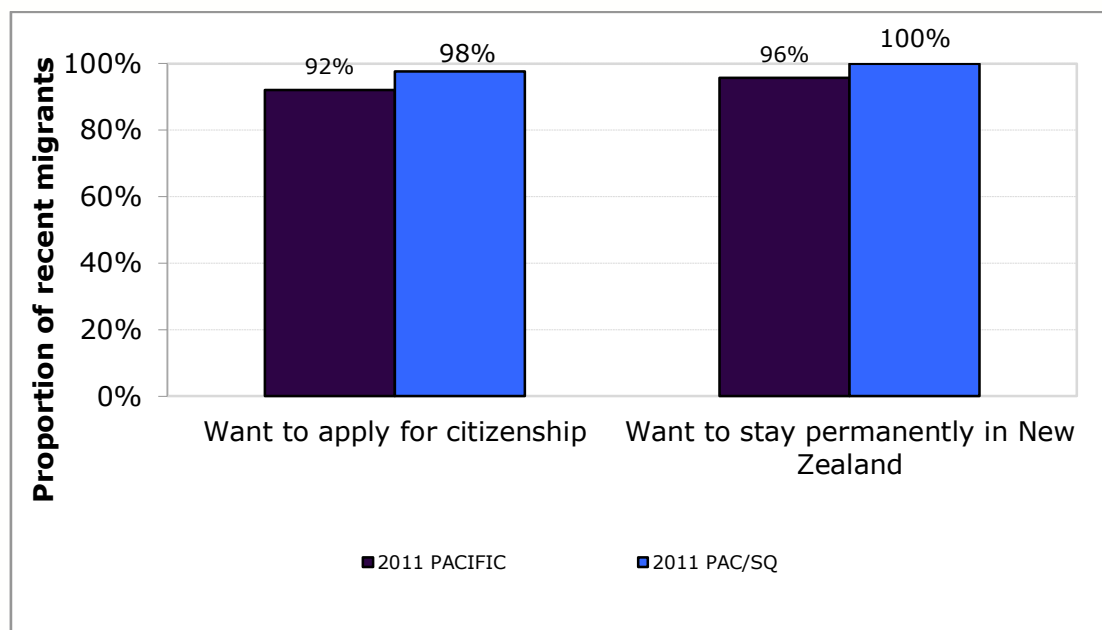
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Migrants' commitment to New Zealand

Almost all migrants from the Pacific wanted to either stay permanently in New Zealand or apply for citizenship.

Figure 6: Pacific migrants' intentions on staying in New Zealand



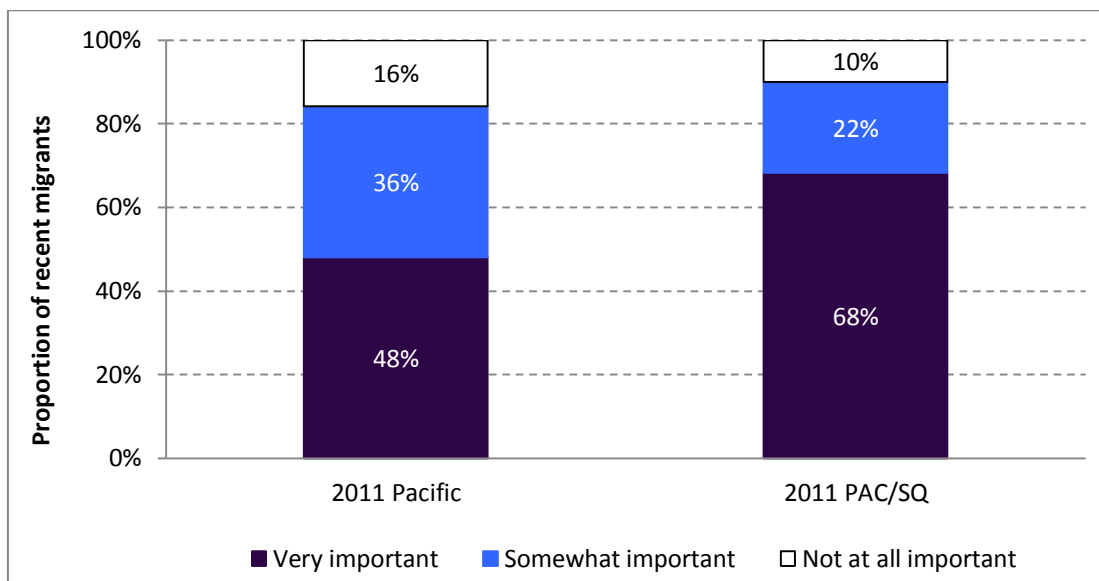
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Importance of sponsoring family to New Zealand

About two-thirds of PAC and SQ migrants said that being able to sponsor family was very important when they chose to migrate to New Zealand.

Figure 7: Importance to Pacific migrants of being able to sponsor family when deciding to migrate to New Zealand



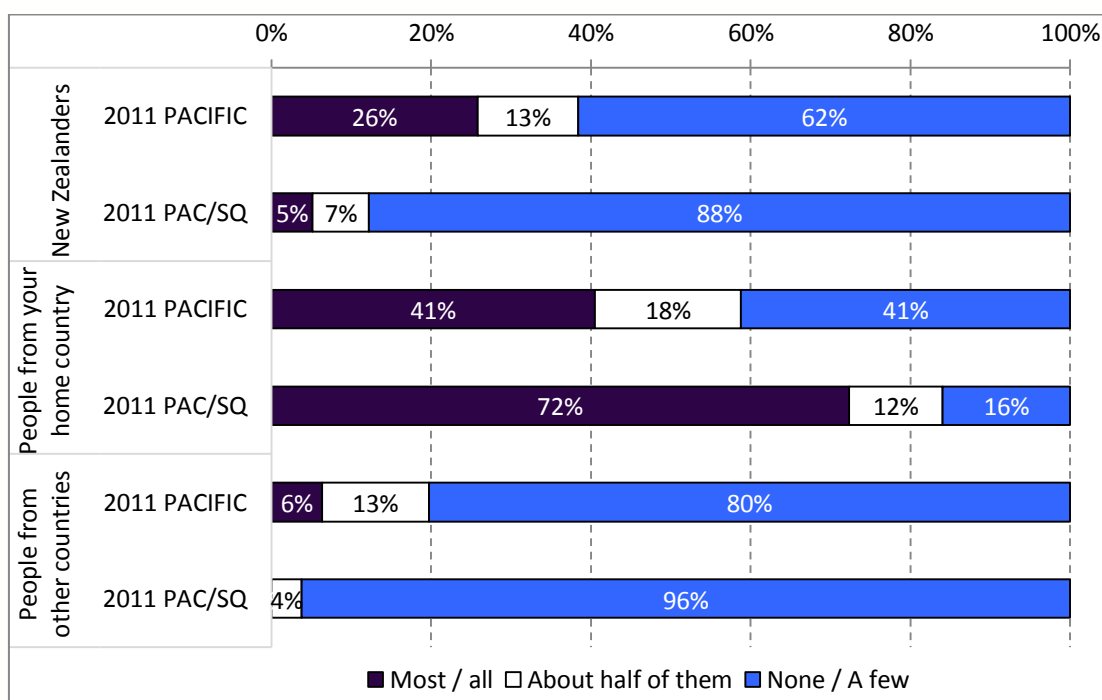
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Making friends in New Zealand

Migrants who came through the PAC and SQ policies were less likely to have friends who were not from their home country relative to Pacific migrants who came through other immigration policies. This is probably a reflection of the PAC and SQ policies, with relaxed requirements for skills and qualifications, which might lead to slower integration into New Zealand society and exposure to those outside their home country.

Figure 8: Pacific migrants' proportion of friends from various groups



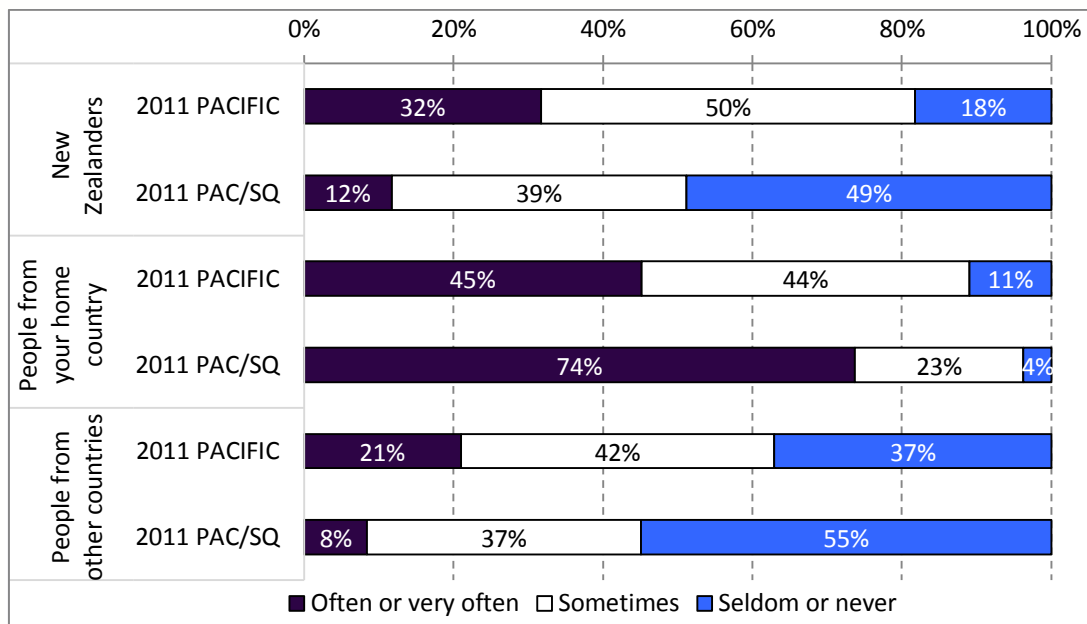
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Socialising with people in New Zealand

Migrants who came through the PAC and SQ policies were more likely to socialise with people from their home country relative to Pacific migrants who came through other immigration policies. Similar to making friends, the policy settings PAC and SQ might lead to slower integration into New Zealand society and exposure to people who were not from their home country.

Figure 9: Amount of social time Pacific migrants spent with various groups



Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants Survey 2011 and the 2011 survey of migrants from the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota

The purpose of the Immigration Settlement Monitoring Programme is to improve our understanding of migrants’ settlement and labour market outcomes, employers’ experience with migrants, and community attitudes towards immigration.

These indicators are available at:

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/research/migration/ism/ism indicators.asp>

Contact the Labour and Immigration Research Centre at research@dol.govt.nz or visit us at www.dol.govt.nz/research.