



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Andrew Little	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Refreshing the Refugee Resettlement and Migrant Settlement strategies	Date to be published	15 September 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2023	Refreshing the Refugee Resettlement and Migrant Settlement strategies	Office of the Minister of Immigration
19 July 2023	Refreshing the Refugee Resettlement and Migrant Settlement strategies DEV-23-MIN-0147 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of confidential advice to Government.



Cabinet Economic Development 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.

Refreshing the Refugee Resettlement and Migrant Settlement Strategies

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 19 July 2023, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

Background

- 1 **noted** that in March 2012, Cabinet agreed to establish the current New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy (NZRRS), including an overarching outcome, five integration outcomes, success indicators and targets [CAB Min (12) 8/12];
- 2 **noted** that in July 2014, the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee agreed to establish the current New Zealand Migrant Settlement and Integration Strategy (NZMSIS), including an overarching outcome, five integration outcomes and success indicators [EGI Min (14) 15/8];
- 3 **noted** that since the NZRRS and NZMSIS were agreed, there have been changes to migration, immigration settings and increasing views from communities that the strategies do not reflect their aspirations for successful settlement in Aotearoa New Zealand;

Vision statement and outcome areas

- 4 **agreed** to replace the existing overarching outcomes of the NZRRS and NZMSIS with these vision statements:
 - 4.1 for the NZRRS: ‘Former refugees and their families settle successfully, achieve their goals, and thrive in Aotearoa New Zealand. This includes feeling safe and well, having a sense of belonging and being able to participate in and contribute to all aspects of life (social, economic, cultural, and civic)’;
 - 4.2 for the NZMSIS: ‘Recent migrants and their families settle successfully, achieve their goals, and thrive in Aotearoa New Zealand. This includes feeling safe and well, having a sense of belonging and being able to participate in and contribute to all aspects of life (social, economic, cultural, and civic)’;
- 5 **agreed** that both the NZRRS and NZMSIS replace the existing integration outcomes with the following settlement outcomes:
 - 5.1 Participation and inclusion: Former refugees / recent migrants and their families are welcomed and have a strong sense of belonging and acceptance in their communities and in Aotearoa New Zealand. They feel confident and safe to participate in different aspects of their lives;

- 5.2 Health and wellbeing: Former refugees / recent migrants and their families achieve their health and wellbeing goals and thrive in their lives;
 - 5.3 Housing: Former refugees / recent migrants and their families live in homes and in communities that meet their long-term needs and goals;
 - 5.4 Education, training and English language: Former refugees / recent migrants and their families achieve their education, training and English language goals;
 - 5.5 Employment and self-sufficiency: Former refugees / recent migrants and their families achieve their employment and self-sufficiency goals, building on their skills and experiences;
- 6 **agreed** to publicly release the new strategic frameworks for the NZRRS and NZMSIS, as attached in Annex Two and Annex Three to the paper under DEV-23-SUB-0147;

Success indicators

- 7 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to report back to Cabinet by August 2024 on new success indicators and data sources required to measure progress against the outcome areas agreed in paragraph 5 developed in conjunction with Ministers with portfolios related to the outcome areas;

Coverage of the strategies

- 8 **noted** that although the NZRRS currently only applies to Quota Refugees, there are other refugee and refugee-like cohorts in Aotearoa New Zealand who have similar settlement challenges and needs;
- 9 **agreed** to change the definition of coverage under the NZRRS to ‘former refugee and refugee-like resident visa holders (including partners and dependents) who have been living in Aotearoa New Zealand for five years or less’;
- 10 **agreed** to amend coverage under the NZRRS to:
- 10.1 Convention Refugees and Protected Persons;
 - 10.2 Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category Resident Visa holders (including any partners and dependants) and future complementary pathways that may be introduced;
 - 10.3 Refugee Family Support Category Resident visa holders (including partners and dependents); and
 - 10.4 Afghan Evacuees and Interpreters resident visa holders (including any partners and dependants) and any other one-off humanitarian residence categories that may emerge in the future);
- 11 **noted** that although the NZMSIS currently applies to all recent migrants, the monitoring and reporting framework focuses on priority groups who can make the largest potential economic contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand;
- 12 **agreed** that the NZMSIS coverage be changed to recent migrant cohorts with the ability to settle permanently in Aotearoa New Zealand (determined through immigration status, particularly visa type, purpose and duration);

- 13 **agreed** that priority groups under the monitoring and reporting framework be changed from those who may make the largest economic contribution to those with the greatest settlement needs;
- 14 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration, in consultation with other Ministers where relevant, to take decisions on which groups should be prioritised under the NZMSIS, based on advice to be provided by officials before the end of 2023;

Support for those covered under the strategies

- 15 **directed** officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and other relevant agencies to identify the immediate needs of those individuals newly covered by the strategies, and to report back to the Minister of Immigration and other relevant Ministers as required by December 2023;
- 16 **directed** officials from MBIE and other relevant agencies to undertake a comprehensive review of the services and support underpinning the new strategies when these are fully developed and embedded, and to report back to the Minister of Immigration and other relevant Ministers as required by 2025;

Settlement funding review

- 17 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration has asked officials to investigate options for ongoing and sustainable funding streams for settlement services and support in the context of the initial service expansion and the next review of Immigration Fee and Levy rates anticipated for 2024;
- 18 **directed** officials from MBIE to report back to the Minister of Immigration on options to ensure funding sustainability by the end of 2024;

Support for those not covered under the strategies

- 19 **directed** officials from MBIE and the Ministry of Social Development in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies to do further work on the support needs of asylum seekers during their claim process and report back to the Ministers of Immigration and Social Development and Employment by December 2024;
- 20 **agreed** in-principle to reprioritise \$1 million of anticipated departmental output expense (Crown-funded) underspends within the Immigration Services Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA) in Vote Labour Market for 2022/23 towards the next two years to meet core and operational costs to provide welfare support for asylum seekers while further cross-government work is progressed;
- 21 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Immigration jointly to increase the Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants category (departmental output expense) within the Immigration Services MCA in Vote Labour Market for 2023/24 by up to \$1 million, following completion of the 2022/23 audited financial statements, with no impact on the operating balance and net debt across the forecast period;

Embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori into the strategies

- 22 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration has asked officials to prioritise engagement with iwi on settlement practice through leveraging existing and new relationships through the Welcoming Communities programme;

- 23 **directed** officials from MBIE to report back on proposals to embed the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori into the strategies by 2025;

Welcoming Communities funding

- 24 **noted** that funding of \$1.6 million is currently appropriated annually for the Welcoming Communities Programme through to 30 June 2023 but that due to COVID-19 impacts, there is \$2.5 million of underspends from the 2022/23 financial year;
- 25 **noted** that ongoing funding currently appropriated for the Welcoming Communities Programme reduces to \$500,000 per annum from 1 July 2023;
- 26 **noted** that this reduction in funding would only allow for ongoing administrative support and would not cover work currently underway with iwi partners, the development of complementary programmes with Council and iwi and may impact on MBIE's ability to deliver on its action of 'Increasing the visibility of the Welcoming Communities Programme' as part of Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion strategic framework;
- 27 **noted** that the Welcoming Communities Programme will have increased funding for one year from reprioritised funding **Confidential advice to Government**
- 28 **agreed** to an in-principle expense transfer in the Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants category of the Immigration Services MCA to fund contractual payments for the second and third years of funding for the 26 councils that joined the Welcoming Communities programme in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years of up to:
- 28.1 \$1.450 million from the 2022/23 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year; and
- 28.2 \$1.050 million from the 2022/23 financial year to the 2024/25 financial year;
- 29 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Immigration jointly to increase the Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants category of the Immigration Services MCA in Vote Labour Market for 2023/24 by up to 1.450 million and for 2024/25 by up to 1.050 million, following completion of the 2022/23 audited financial statements, with no impact on the operating balance and net debt across the forecast period;
- 30 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Immigration jointly to increase the Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants category of the Immigration Services MCA in Vote Labour Market for 2023/24 by up to \$0.720 million for the 2023/24 financial year following completion of the 2022/23 audited financial statements, with no impact on the operating balance and net debt across the forecast period;

Language Assistance Programme funding

- 31 **agreed** to an in-principle expense transfer of up to \$0.720 million from the 2022/23 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year for the Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants category of the Immigration Services MCA.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Hon Kieran McAnulty
Hon Ginny Anderson
Hon Barbara Edmonds
Hon Rino Tirikatene
Hon Rachel Brooking

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV