



COVERSHEET

Proactive release of Cabinet paper: Strengthening immigration health screening for dependent children of temporary visa holders

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Cabinet paper	Strengthening immigration health screening for dependent children of temporary visa holders	Date to be published	17 March 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
November 2024	Strengthening immigration health screening for dependent children of temporary visa holders	Office of the Minister of Immigration
20 November 2024	SOU-24-MIN-0143 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO [select one]

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.

Information has been redacted on the following grounds:

- Maintenance of the law
- Confidential advice to Government
- Legal professional privilege



Cabinet Social Outcomes 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.

Strengthening Immigration Health Screening for Dependent Children of Temporary Visa Holders

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 20 November 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that a number of schools have reported concerns about the number of dependent children of migrants enrolling in schools who have significant learning needs;
- 2 **noted** that the requirements for residence class visas provide that a number of conditions are expressly deemed not to meet the acceptable standard of health standard, including any severe developmental disorders or severe cognitive impairments where significant support is required, including but not exclusive to:
 - 2.1 physical disability;
 - 2.2 intellectual disability;
 - 2.3 autistic spectrum disorders;
 - 2.4 brain injury;
- 3 **agreed** that the acceptable standard of health standard for residence applications, as set out in paragraph 2, apply to any application for a visitor or student visa as a dependent of a temporary visa holder (and would not apply to foreign full fee-paying students, general visitors, or other visa applicants who do not need to meet health requirements under current immigration instructions);
- 4 **agreed** that an immigration officer be enabled to waive the requirements set out in paragraph 3 for visitor and student visas as a dependent of a temporary work visa holder who fails the new acceptable standard of health requirement;
- 5 **agreed** that the medical waiver process be applied in line with the ability to waive the acceptable standard of health standard requirements for residence applications with the potential contribution of the visa applicant's family being able to be taken into account;

- 6 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to certify immigration instructions giving effect to the decisions under SOU-24-MIN-0143, including by making any minor and technical changes.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Karen Chhour

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Minister of Immigration