

# Summary of Upcoming Cabinet Papers in the Immigration Portfolio

The Government's vision is to improve the wellbeing and living standards of New Zealanders, including through productive, sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The immigration system supports this vision by:

Vision

- Improving New Zealand's labour market outcomes including by filling skill and labour shortages and raising overall skill levels
- Encouraging investment and supporting innovation and exports
- Supporting foreign relations objectives and New Zealand's international and humanitarian commitments
- Supporting social inclusion, including through family reunification
- Protecting the security of New Zealanders and the border

Government Priorities

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Other Government priorities with implications for immigration include:

- Refreshing New Zealand's approach to the Pacific islands region, including developing deeper partnerships and adopting principles of engagement based on mutual understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, collective ambition, and sustainability
- Deepening cooperation with Australia to enhance New Zealand's security and prosperity, including by streamlining trans-Tasman travel and working together s 6(a)
- Supporting the rules-based international system and increasing New Zealand's overseas development contribution and improving responses to global emergencies and issues

2018 Immigration portfolio priorities

**Better match the skills New Zealand needs with the skills New Zealand gets and ensure that the immigration, education and welfare systems work together to improve labour market outcomes for New Zealanders\***

\*below are the first steps of immigration's contribution to wider work to better align labour market systems and to address skill and labour shortages that is underway

**Tackle the exploitation of migrants, particularly of international students and temporary workers**

**Review New Zealand's approach to Pacific migration issues**

**Increase New Zealand's refugee intake**

**Make immigration system improvements and contribute to the security of New Zealand's borders**

Upcoming papers

**Changes to the Labour Market Test and Accredited Employer policy**

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

**Changes to immigration settings to facilitate the KiwiBuild programme**

Sets out the key elements of an immigration package for KiwiBuild and seeks agreement to consult

**Regionalisation of labour market policies**

MBIE to provide initial advice on how immigration can better support the needs of regional labour markets

**New Zealand Residence Programme**

Seeks agreement to the next iteration of the New Zealand Residence Programme, which sets out who gets residence in New Zealand

**Changes to immigration settings for international students**

Seeks agreement to consult on proposed changes to restrict access to post-study work visas to higher qualified former international students and tighten access to work and student visas for family members of students

**Establishing an inquiry into temporary migrant worker exploitation**

To seek agreement to establish an inquiry into temporary migrant worker exploitation (including international students) to make recommendations to mitigate migrant vulnerability and reduce exploitation

**Pacific migration Review**

Seeks agreement to a proposed immigration policy work programme from 2018-2020 for Pacific immigration policies

**Increasing the Annual Refugee Quota to 1,500 Places**

Seeks Cabinet agreement to increase the annual Refugee Quota to 1,500

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

**Proposal to develop an Electronic Travel Authority**

Seeks agreement to consult on a proposal to introduce an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA), which would be mandatory for most people who currently travel to or transit New Zealand visa free

**Removal of departure card**

Seeks agreement to the removal of the requirement that travellers complete a physical departure card at the border (Statistics New Zealand has developed new measures which do not depend on departure card data)

Expected impacts

s 9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i)

Would target more facilitative visa settings at construction occupations whilst ensuring better labour market outcomes for the domestic construction workforce

Unknown - Impacts will depend on the decisions made by Cabinet

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The changes would reduce the number of students who stay and work here after study and may reduce the number of international students

s 9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Increase in number of permanent residence visas granted (by 500 annually)

s 9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i)

An estimated 1.3 million visa free visitors per annum would be required to hold an ETA

Would facilitate border processes for all passengers departing New Zealand

Status / Timing

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Visa approvals ↑  
Cabinet paper due DEV 23 May 2018

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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