



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Establishment of a Special Permanent Resident Visa Category for New Zealand-based Families affected by the Christchurch Mosques Terror Attack

Portfolio Immigration

On 25 March 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **agreed** to make available a special permanent resident visa category to the following people if they were normally living in New Zealand at the time of the Christchurch mosques terror attack of 15 March 2019:
 - 1.1 the immediate family of any individual who died in the terrorist attacks;
 - 1.2 individuals injured and requiring immediate hospital treatment at the times of the terrorist attacks and their immediate family normally residing in New Zealand; and
- 2 **agreed** that those included in the scope of 'family' for the purpose of eligibility for this visa includes:
 - 2.1 Group A: the individual and:
 - 2.1.1 (for adults) their married or de facto partner, and any dependent children of the individual or their partner;
 - 2.1.2 (for a dependent child) their parents and other dependent siblings;
- 3 **deferred** consideration of the proposals in recommendations 1.3, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 of the paper under CAB-19-SUB-0121;
- 4 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to report back to Cabinet on 1 April 2019 with:
 - 4.1 further advice on the proposals referred to in paragraph 3 above, following consultation with relevant Ministers;
 - 4.2 updated information on the estimated numbers of those likely to be offered permanent residence under the proposals;
- 5 **agreed** that the new visa category be specified under the humanitarian stream of the New Zealand Residence programme and open for applications for the next 2 years (to March 2021);

- 6 **agreed** to relax the medical and financial requirements for this visa, while retaining the high threshold for security checking and identity verification required for New Zealand permanent residence;
- 7 **noted** that no fees or levies will be charged for permanent residence applications under this category
- 8 **agreed** that costs for fees and medical checks, estimated as between \$430,000 and \$690,000, be met by the Crown;
- 9 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Immigration to take decisions on the changes in appropriations necessary to give effect to the decisions agreed to above and any subsequent decisions on the remaining elements of the proposals referred to in paragraph 3 above;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to take decisions on the visa category design and conditions to achieve the policy intent;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will certify Immigration Instructions to give effect to this permanent resident visa category.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

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Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Finance
Minister of Immigration

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