



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	Portfolio	Immigration
Name of package	Christchurch Response (2019) Visa	Date of issue	23 May 2019

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
25 March 2019	<i>Cabinet Paper: Establishment of a special permanent resident visa category for New Zealand-based families affected by the Christchurch terror attack</i>	Office of the Minister of Immigration
25 March 2019	<i>Cabinet Minute: Establishment of a special permanent resident visa category for New Zealand-based families affected by the Christchurch terror attack</i>	Cabinet
15 April 2019	<i>Cabinet Paper: Update on Christchurch Response (2019) Visa</i>	Office of the Minister of Immigration
15 April 2019	<i>Cabinet Minute: Update on Christchurch Response (2019) Visa</i>	Cabinet

Information withheld

Some parts of this information release are not appropriate to be released and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified and are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Section of the Act	Reason for withholding
6 (c)	<i>The making available of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial</i>
9(2)(a)	<i>Withholding of this information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</i>



Cabinet

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.

Update on Christchurch Response (2019) Visa

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 15 April 2019, Cabinet:

1 **noted** that on 25 March 2019, Cabinet:

1.1 agreed:

1.1.1 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 terrorist attacks of 15 March 2019:

1.1.1.1 the immediate family of any individual who died in the terrorist attacks; and

1.1.1.2 individuals injured and requiring immediate hospital treatment at the times of the terrorist attacks and their immediate family normally living in New Zealand;

1.1.2 that those included in the scope of ‘family’ for the purpose of eligibility for this visa includes at least the individual and:

1.1.2.1 (for adults) their married or de facto partner, and any dependent children of the individual or their partner; and

1.1.2.2 (for a dependent child) their parents and other dependent siblings;

1.1.3 to relax the medical and financial requirements for the visa while retaining the high threshold for security checking and identity verification required for New Zealand permanent residence;

1.1.4 that no fees or levies will be charged for permanent residence applications under this category, and that costs of fees and medical checks (estimated as between \$430,000 and \$690,000) would be met by the Crown;

1.2 deferred decisions on whether:

1.2.1 the visa category would be available to all those who were present in the mosques at the time of the attacks and normally living in New Zealand, and their families;

- 1.2.2 to expand the definition of immediate family for the purpose of eligibility for this visa to include parents of adults (and grandparents of children) who were normally living in New Zealand;
- 1.2.3 non-dependent children and adult siblings who were normally living in New Zealand;

[CAB-19-MIN-0121]

- 2 **agreed** that, to recognise the significance of mental harm as a result of the attacks, the visa category be made available to those who were present in the mosques at the time of the attacks and normally living in New Zealand but not physically injured, and their families;
- 3 **agreed** that, to recognise the significance of social and practical support that parents can provide, the definition of immediate family be expanded to include parents (and parents-in-law) of adults, and grandparents of children, who were normally living in New Zealand at the time of the attack;
- 4 **agreed** to take decisions on the funding now to give effect to the above proposals, rather than authorising joint Ministers to make appropriation changes as previously agreed;
- 5 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the above proposals, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance:

Vote Immigration Minister of Immigration	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2023/23 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Immigration services MCA Departmental Output Expense: Assessment and Processing Services	0.400	-	-	-	-

- 6 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2018/19 above be included in the 2018/19 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 7 **agreed** that the expenses incurred above be charged against the between-Budget contingency established as part of Budget 2018;
- 8 **noted** that there is uncertainty about the timing of uptake of this policy, which may require the in-principle transfer of up to the following maximum amount of operating funding from 2018/19 to 2019/20 of:

Vote Immigration Minister of/for Portfolio	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Immigration services MCA Departmental Output Expense: Assessment and Processing Services	(0.400)	0.400	-	-	-

- 9 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to take decisions on the visa category design and conditions to achieve the policy intent;

- 10 **directed** the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to report to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Immigration by the end of 2019/20 on the volume of applications processed under this policy at that point, and forecasts for future years, to return any funding not required, or to agree to seek further funding if needed;
- 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:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Immigration