



BRIEFING

Three-year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 – 2021/22: Draft Cabinet Paper

Date:	14 March 2019	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2523 18-19 (Briefing) 2525 18-19 (Cabinet Paper)

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Iain Less-Galloway Minister of Immigration	Agree to provide any initial feedback on the attached Cabinet paper to officials Agree to consult on the Cabinet paper with your Ministerial colleagues and provide final feedback to officials	18 March 2019 1 April 2019
Hon Kris Faafoi Associate Minister of Immigration	For your information	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 3855	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Victoria Hodgson	Policy Advisor	Privacy of natural persons		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Internal Affairs (Office of Ethnic Communities), Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children, the Treasury, the Security and Intelligence Service, the New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Social Development, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

- Minister's office to complete:**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



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Purpose

To provide you with a draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement to establish the next three-year planning cycle (2019/20 to 2021/22) for the Refugee Quota Programme.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

- a **Note** that on 1 February 2019 MBIE provided you with options for the next three-year planning cycle of the Refugee Quota Programme (briefing 1857 18-19 refers) and that on 7 March 2019 you responded with your preferred options.
- b **Note** that officials have prepared the attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One) for consideration by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 20 March 2019, which includes your preferred options that:
- a. the regional allocations for the next three-year Refugee Quota Programme shall be 40 per cent of places to the Asia-Pacific region, and 20 per cent of places each to the Americas, Middle East, and Africa regions
 - b. the family link requirement for refugees resettled from the Middle East and Africa, whereby those refugees must have a family member already in New Zealand to be resettled, will be changed so that it does not apply to refugees who meet the requirements for the 'women at risk' sub-category, or to refugees who are part of a family group (i.e. children and their families)
 - c. when the number of places within the annual Refugee Quota Programme increases from 1000 to 1500 in July 2020:
 - i. the number of refugee quota places set aside for large-scale refugee crisis situations increases from 100 places per year to 200 places per year
 - ii. the number of refugee quota places set aside for refugees from Australia's offshore asylum processing centres remains at 150 places per year
 - iii. the sub-category for women at risk increases from a minimum of 75 places per year to a minimum of 150 places per year
 - iv. the sub-category for refugees with medical conditions or disabilities remains at up to 75 places per year, including up to 20 places per year for refugees with HIV/AIDS
 - v. the sub-category for urgent and emergency resettlement of refugees remains at 35 places per year

Noted

d. Cabinet make an in-principle decision that should Australia not require the 150 places set aside in a given year, the places will be reallocated according to the Cabinet-agreed international regional allocations.

Noted

c. **Note** that the draft Cabinet paper states that it will be proactively released on MBIE's website in accordance with the new requirements within 30 days of Cabinet consideration.

Noted

d. **Agree** to provide officials with any initial feedback on the draft Cabinet paper by 18 March 2019, noting that if you request changes, MBIE will provide a revised version to your office

Agree / Disagree

e. **Agree** to consult on the draft Cabinet paper with your Ministerial colleagues, and provide any final feedback to officials by 1 April 2019.

Agree / Disagree

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

14 / 03 / 2019

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration

01 / 04 / 19

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Background

The Government decides the settings for the Refugee Quota Programme in three-year cycles

1. New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme is decided in three-year planning cycles. 2018/19 is the last year of the current three-year programme, and so Cabinet decisions are required for the three year period beginning July 2019.
2. On 1 February 2019, MBIE officials provided you with a briefing which outlined options for the regional allocations of the quota (including changing or removing the 'family link' requirement) and changing the size of some of the sub-categories (briefing 1857 18-19 refers). On 7 March 2019 you responded with your preferred options.

The draft Cabinet paper

MBIE has prepared a draft Cabinet paper containing your recommendations on the next three-year programme

3. The attached draft Cabinet paper contains your preferred options as indicated in your response to that briefing. It proposes that:
 - a. for the next three years of the refugee quota programme (2019/20 to 2021/22) the regional allocations of places within the refugee quota will be 40 per cent to the Asia-Pacific region, and 20 per cent each to the Americas, Middle East and Africa regions
 - b. to allow the allocations to the Middle East and Africa regions to be met, the family link requirement will be changed so that it no longer applies to refugees who meet the requirements of the 'women at risk' sub-category, or those who are travelling as part of a family group (i.e. with dependent minors)
 - c. when the quota increases from 1000 to 1500 places per year from July 2020, the following changes to the size of the sub-categories will take place:
 - i. the number of places within the quota for large-scale refugee crisis situations will increase from 100 to 200 places per year (+/- ten per cent)
 - ii. the number of places within the quota for refugees who have been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation will remain at 150 places per year (+/- ten per cent)
 - iii. the number of places within the quota for women at risk will increase from a minimum of 75 to a minimum of 150 places per year
 - iv. the number of places for people with medical conditions and disabilities will remain at up to 75 places per year, and the number of places within that sub-category for refugees with HIV will remain at up to 20 places per year
 - v. the number of places for urgent and emergency resettlement will remain at up to 35 places per year
 - d. Cabinet make an in-principle decision that should Australia not require the places in a given year, the places will be reallocated according to the Cabinet-agreed regional allocations of the three-year programme.
4. The attached draft Cabinet paper also includes a note that MBIE will release it proactively on the MBIE website within 30 days of a Cabinet decision, with information redacted according

to the Official Information Act 1987. Following a Cabinet decision, MBIE will provide a suggested version for proactive release to you for approval.

Consultation

5. MBIE officials have consulted on the draft Cabinet paper with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Internal Affairs (Office of Ethnic Communities), Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children, the Treasury, the Security and Intelligence Service, the New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Social Development, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
6. All agencies expressed their support of the recommended settings for the next three years of the Refugee Quota Programme.
7. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development noted that the change to the international regional allocations may result in a change to the relative household sizes of refugees. This may affect the demand for different types of public housing. The Ministry of Education noted that while Cabinet agreed additional funding to support the increased Refugee Quota Programme, refugees arriving under the women at risk and large-scale refugee crisis situations subcategories may seek greater access to parenting and mental health support in schools than other refugees.
8. Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children suggested that an assessment of the viability of a subcategory for unaccompanied refugee minors could begin in 2019, rather than in 2020. To bring this work forward would mean postponing other work in the refugee policy work programme, such as the planned review of family reunification options or work assessing an expansion of the pilot phase of the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship category. This could be discussed during your consultation with Ministerial colleagues on the draft Cabinet paper.

Next steps

9. MBIE is seeking your feedback on the attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One).
10. Cabinet decisions are required to allow planning for the quota intakes from July 2019. In order to finalise the Cabinet paper for DEV 10 April 2019, MBIE recommends the timing below:

Action	Date
Minister of Immigration provides officials with any initial feedback on the draft Cabinet paper, and begins consultation with Ministerial colleagues	Monday 18 March
Minister of Immigration provides any final feedback on the draft Cabinet paper	Monday 1 April
Officials provide a final Cabinet paper to Minister's office reflecting any feedback from Ministerial consultation, along with talking points	Tuesday 2 April
Minister's office lodges the Cabinet paper	Thursday 4 April
DEV considers Cabinet paper	Wednesday 10 April
Cabinet considers the DEV decision	Monday 15 April

11. MBIE officials will provide talking points for the discussion at DEV with the final Cabinet paper.

Annexes

Annex One: Draft Cabinet paper – *Three-year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 – 2021/22*

PROACTIVELY RELEASED