



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22	Date to be published	6 November 2019

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
16 September 2019	Cabinet paper: Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22'	Office of Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
16 September 2019	Cabinet minute: Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22'	Secretary of the Cabinet

Information redacted

YES

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.

Privacy of natural persons
Constitutional conventions



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Three-Year Refugee Quota Programme (2019/20 to 2021/22)

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 16 September 2019, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Development Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that Cabinet decisions are required on the international regional allocation and sub-categories for the next three years (2019/20 to 2021/22) of the Refugee Quota Programme;
- 2 **agreed** to the option outlined in paragraph 3 below for the family link requirement and the international regional allocation (not including the places set aside for Australia, the places set aside for large-scale refugee crisis situations, and the subcategory for urgent/emergency resettlement);
- 3 **agreed** to remove the family link requirement and set the international regional allocation at 50 percent to the Asia-Pacific region, 20 percent to the Americas region, 15 percent to the Middle East region, and 15 percent to the Africa region;
- 4 **noted** that the government prioritises, consistent with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) referral of refugees for the Refugee Quota Programme based on refugees' priority needs, which includes women and children at risk and people with disabilities. The majority of refugees resettled in New Zealand through the Refugee Quota Programme are resettled as family groups;
- 5 **agreed** to increase the subcategory for women at risk, and the places set aside for response to large-scale refugee crisis situations, from July 2020, and to maintain the other-subcategories as follows:

Subcategories for UNHCR-referred refugees	Number of places per annum		
	2018/19 (current)	2019/20 (proposed)	2020/21 & 2021/22 (proposed)
Places for large-scale refugee crisis situations	100 (+/- 10%)	100 (+/- 10%)	200 (+/- 10%)
Places offered to Australia	150	150	150
Women at risk	At least 75	At least 75	At least 150
Medical conditions and disabilities	Up to 75	Up to 75	Up to 75
(of which have HIV/AIDS)	Up to 20	Up to 20	Up to 20
Urgent resettlement	Up to 35	Up to 35	Up to 35
General protection, including places for family reunification	Remainder	Remainder	Remainder
Total	1,000	1,000	1,500

- 6 **agreed** that if Australia does not require the 150 places set aside in a given year for the resettlement of refugees subject to its offshore asylum processing legislation, then those places will be automatically reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees in accordance with the international regional allocation after notification of the Minister of Immigration and Minister of Foreign Affairs, unless officials are instructed otherwise.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Immigration

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