



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### The Next Three-Year (2016/17 - 2018/19) Refugee Quota Programme

Portfolio      Immigration

On 13 June 2016, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI), Cabinet:

#### Background

- 1      **noted** that Cabinet decisions on the next three-year (2016/17-2018/19) Refugee Quota Programme are now required;
- 2      **noted** that in September 2015, Cabinet agreed that New Zealand, in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, would resettle 250 Syrian refugees in each of the years 2016/17 and 2017/18 in addition to the refugee quota [CAB-15-MIN-0057];
- 3      **noted** that three options concerning the size of the refugee quota have been considered:
  - 3.1      Option One: maintain the status quo of 750 places annually;
  - 3.2      Revised Option Two: increase the annual refugee quota to 1,000 places from 2018/19 (recommended option);
  - 3.3      Option Three: increase the annual refugee quota to 1,000 in 2016/17; to 1,250 in 2017/18; and to 1,500 (double the current refugee quota) from 2018/19;

#### Proposed increase to the refugee quota programme

- 4      **noted** that increasing the refugee quota to 1,000 places from 2018/19 (in addition to the places for Syrian refugees referred to in paragraph 2 above) is recommended because:
  - 4.1      an increased commitment by New Zealand to refugee resettlement is timely given the extent of the global refugee crisis and the fact that New Zealand has not increased the quota for several decades;
  - 4.2      an increase from 2018/19 would allow more time for additional accommodation and other services in the settlement locations to be ready for the additional refugees;
  - 4.3      it would leave some flexibility to respond to continuing or new global refugee situations;

5 **noted** that increasing the refugee quota to 1,000 places from 2018/19 (in addition to the places for Syrian refugees referred to in paragraph 2 above) would:

- 5.1 cost an estimated \$63.9 million between 2016/17 and 2021/22 (\$29.7 million refugee-specific and \$34.2 million mainstream) and then \$20.6 million per annum ongoing (\$8.06 million refugee-specific and \$12.54 million mainstream);
- 5.2 potentially increase the time to house other applicants on the social housing register in certain locations where refugees are settled;

6 **noted** that, when the rebuild of the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre was approved, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was instructed by the Treasury to seek funding for the ongoing costs of ownership once the new centre was opened, and that this will cost an additional \$2.976 million per annum from 2016/17 to meet the currently-unfunded costs of ownership of the facility (depreciation, capital charge and facilities management);

7 **agreed** that the refugee quota be increased to 1,000 places each year from 2018/19, plus or minus ten per cent (in addition to the 250 places for Syrian refugees referred to in paragraph 2 above) as shown in the table below:

2016/17		2017/18		2018/19 and outyears
Refugee quota	Emergency response to Syrian crisis	Refugee quota	Emergency response to Syrian crisis	Refugee quota
750	250	750	250	1,000

**Financial implications**

8 **agreed** to increase expenditure to provide for costs associated with the policy decision in paragraph 7 above and the unfunded costs of ownership of the new Refugee Resettlement Centre, with the following impact on the operating balance.

	\$m – increase/(decrease)						
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 and Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	2.976	2.976	14.541	17.852	20.689	22.708	23.577

9 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 7 above:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)						
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 and Outyears
<b>Vote Labour Market</b>							
<b>Minister of Immigration</b>							
Departmental Output Expense:							
Immigration - Refugee and Protection Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	-	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800
<b>Vote Health</b>							



<b>Minister of Health</b> Non-departmental Output Expense: Public Health Service Purchasing	-	-	3.671	3.671	3.671	3.671	3.671
<b>Minister for Social Housing</b> Benefits or Related Expense: Accommodation Assistance	-	-	0.334	0.844	1.234	1.533	1.533
<b>Vote Social Development</b> <b>Minister for Social Development</b> Departmental Output Expense: Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support MCA: Improving Employment Outcomes (funded by revenue Crown)	-	-	0.836	0.836	0.836	0.836	0.836
Non-departmental Output Expense: Strong Families and Connected Communities	-	-	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252
Benefits or Related Expense: Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit	-	-	0.660	1.674	2.487	3.147	3.147
Benefits or Related Expense: Sole Parent Support	-	-	0.071	0.179	0.267	0.337	0.337
Benefits or Related Expense: Supported Living Payment	-	-	0.123	0.312	0.464	0.586	0.586
Benefits or Related Expense: Hardship Assistance	-	-	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117
<b>Vote Social Development Total</b>	-	-	2,059	3,370	4,423	5,275	5,275
<b>Vote Education</b> <b>Minister of Education</b>  Non-departmental Other Expense: Primary Education	-	-	0.442	0.782	1.123	1.464	1.805

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Non-departmental Other Expense: Secondary Education	-	-	0.870	1.311	1.752	2.193	2.634
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Outcomes for Target Student Groups Departmental Output Expense: Interventions for Target Student Groups (funded by revenue Crown)	-	-	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385
Non-departmental Other Expense: Special Needs Support	-	-	0.480	0.663	0.750	0.837	0.924
Total for Outcomes for Target Student Groups MCA	-	-	0.865	1.048	1.135	1.222	1.309
<b>Vote Education Total</b>	-	-	2.177	3.141	4.010	4.879	5.748
<b>Vote Tertiary Education Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment</b>							
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Tertiary Tuition and Training							
Non-departmental Output Expense: Community Education	-	-	0.525	1.050	1.575	1.575	1.575
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	-	11.565	14.876	17.713	19.732	20.601

- 10 **approved** the following additional funding to meet the currently-unfunded costs of ownership of the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (depreciation, capital charge and facilities management):

Vote Labour Market Minister of Immigration	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 and outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Immigration - Refugee and Protection Services (funded by revenue Crown)	2.976	2.976	2.976	2.976	2.976

- 11 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2016/17 in paragraph 10 above be included in the 2016/17 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;

- 12 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraphs 9 and 10 above be charges, respectively, against the between-Budget operating contingency, established as part of Budget 2016;

#### Other proposals relating to the refugee programme


- 13 **noted** that no change is proposed to the regional allocations <sup>§ 6(a)</sup>  
 § 6(a)
- 14 **agreed** that the places within the refugee quota for large-scale refugee crisis situations be increased from 50 to 100 each year from 2016/17;
- 15 **noted** that no change is proposed to the arrangement agreed by Cabinet in 2013 that, if the annual 150 places offered to Australia to resettle transferees were not required, they be reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees, subject to Cabinet consideration of the regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/15];
- 16 **approved in principle**, subject to paragraph 17 below, the piloting of a community organisation refugee sponsorship category, as an alternative form of admission for 25 refugees in 2017/18, to complement the refugee quota;
- 17 **invited** the Minister of Immigration, in consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to report back to EGI on the details of the proposed community organisation refugee sponsorship category, including:
- 17.1 the criteria for the refugees to be approved residence under the new category;
  - 17.2 the criteria for, and responsibilities of, the sponsors;
  - 17.3 the evaluation criteria for the new category; and
  - 17.4 seeking agreement to the funding required;
- 18 **noted** that Immigration New Zealand will progress, through a cross-government agency assessment, identification of one or two further refugee settlement locations during 2016/17;
- 19 **directed** officials to work together to ensure that, over the next three years, the impact of the settlement of quota refugees on the housing supply is minimised;
- 20 **noted** that all requests for social housing transfers to another centre in New Zealand are assessed against the same policy, regardless of whether the person was a quota refugee or not;
- 21 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, in consultation with the office of the Minister of Immigration, has developed a communications strategy.

Michael Webster  
 Secretary of the Cabinet

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