



BRIEFING

Final Cabinet paper: Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22

Date:	13 August 2019	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0439 19-20 (Briefing) 2525 18-19 (Cabinet Paper)

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway Minister of Immigration	Agree to lodge the Cabinet paper attached at Annex One by 10am Thursday 15 August	15 August 2019
Hon Poto Williams Associate Minister of Immigration	For your information.	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Ruth Isaac	General Manager, Labour and Immigration Policy	04 901 3883	Privacy of natural persons	
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 3855		✓
Victoria Hodgson	Policy Advisor	Privacy of natural persons	N/A	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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 Withdrawn |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



BRIEFING

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

Date:	13 August 2019	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0439 19-20 (Briefing) 2525 18-19 (Cabinet Paper)

Purpose

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

Recommended action

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

- a **Note** that Cabinet decisions are required on the current three year planning cycle (2019/20 to 2021/22) of the Refugee Quota Programme. (Noted)
- b **Note** that in March officials provided you with a draft Cabinet paper containing your preferred options for the next three year Refugee Quota Programme, including changes to the international regional allocation, the family link requirement, the size of subcategories, and the process for reallocating the 150 places set aside each year for Australia (briefing 2523 18-19 refers). (Noted)
- c **Note** that officials provided revised versions on 5 June and 26 July 2019 (briefing 2524 18-19 refers), and incorporated your feedback on these versions into the final version which is attached at Annex One. (Noted)
- d **Agree** to lodge the Cabinet paper attached at Annex One by 10am Thursday 15 August 2019, for consideration by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 21 August. (Agree / Discuss)
- e **Note** that talking points for this paper are attached at Annex Two, and talking points for the Parent Category paper (also scheduled for DEV on 21 August) are attached at Annex Three.

Ruth Isaac
**General Manager, Labour and Immigration
Policy**

Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

13 / 8 / 19

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration

15 / 8 / 19

A final Cabinet paper for lodging is attached at Annex One

MBIE provided you a revised draft Cabinet paper proposing settings for the next three year Refugee Quota Programme

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. Cabinet decisions are required for the next three year period, which begins on 1 July 2019.
2. On 29 July MBIE provided you a revised draft Cabinet paper for consultation (briefing 2524 18-19 refers). On 12 August 2019 your office informed MBIE that no further changes were required to the Cabinet paper.

MBIE recommends lodging the attached paper by 10am Thursday 15 August

3. A final Cabinet paper is attached at Annex One. MBIE recommends that you lodge the Cabinet paper by 10am Thursday 15 August so that it may be considered by DEV on Wednesday 21 August.

Action	Date
Minister's office lodges the Cabinet paper	15 August 2019
Cabinet Economic Development Committee considers Cabinet paper	21 August 2019
Cabinet consideration and confirmation	26 August 2019
Deadline for proactive release	25 September 2019

4. Your Cabinet paper seeking agreement to changes to the Parent Category is also scheduled to be considered by DEV on the same date.
5. Suggested talking points for the Refugee Quota Programme paper are attached at Annex Two. Suggested talking points for the Parent Category paper are attached at Annex Three.
6. Officials will be available to attend DEV to talk to the refugee quota and parent category papers.
7. The Cabinet papers include a note that MBIE will release them proactively on the MBIE website within 30 days of a Cabinet decision, with information redacted according to the Official Information Act 1982 and MBIE's proactive release criteria. Following a Cabinet decision MBIE will provide proposed versions for proactive release to you for your approval.

Annexes

Annex One: Final Cabinet paper: *Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22*

Annex Two: Talking points for *Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22*

Annex Three: Talking points for *Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa Category*

Annex One: Final Cabinet paper: *Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22*

Attached as separate document

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Annex Two: Talking points for *Three year Refugee Quota Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22*

Talking points

Main decisions sought

- Cabinet decides the international regional allocations and sub-categories of the Refugee Quota Programme every three years.
- In this paper I provide four options for adjusting the international regional allocation of the quota and changing the family link requirement for refugees from Africa and the Middle East. My preferred option is to remove the family link requirement, and increase the proportion allocation to the Middle East and Africa regions while retaining an Asia-Pacific focus (Option 3).
- I also recommend that when the quota increases to 1500 people per year from July 2020, Cabinet increases the number of places set aside to respond to large-scale refugee crises and for women at risk.

International regional allocations and family link requirement

- Since 2010, 50 per cent of places within the Refugee Quota Programme (excluding those set aside for response to large-scale refugee crises, and those set aside for the offer to Australia) have been allocated to the Asia-Pacific region to demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to responsibility sharing in our own region. 22 per cent have been allocated to the Americas region and 14 per cent each to the Middle East and Africa region.
- The family link requirement, whereby refugees who have sought asylum in the Middle East or Africa region must already have a family member in New Zealand to be eligible for resettlement, has limited our ability to resettle refugees from those regions and meet the previous regional allocation. It must be modified or removed in order to resettle more than five per cent each from the Middle East and Africa regions.
- I have provided four options for changing the international regional allocation and the family link requirement.
- My preferred option is that 40 per cent of places are set aside for the Asia-Pacific region, and 20 per cent of places are set aside each for the Americas, Middle East, and Africa regions, and to remove the family link requirement to support this change.
- This realignment maintains our strong commitment to responsibility sharing in the Asia-Pacific, while also recognising the high level of need in the Middle East and Africa regions.

Subcategories

- As the number of places within the Refugee Quota Programme will increase to 1500 per year from July 2020, we have the opportunity to reconsider the subcategories within the quota. Subcategories allow us to ensure the refugee quota programme focusses on the most vulnerable subgroups, such as women and those with disabilities.
- I recommend that when the quota increases to 1500 places, the number of places set aside for large scale refugee crisis situations increases from 100 per year to 200 per year (+/- ten per cent) and that the subcategory for women at risk increases from at least 75 places per year to 150 places per year.
- I recommend that the other subcategories (for refugees with medical conditions and disabilities and for refugees in need of urgent resettlement) remain at their current size

of 75 and 35 refugees per year respectively, as that size has proven adequate in recent years.

Offer to Australia

- I recommend maintaining the offer to Australia of resettling 150 refugees per year from its offshore asylum centres. I recommend that Cabinet make an in-principle decision that should Australia not require the places in a given year, those places be reallocated according to the international regional allocations without needing to return to Cabinet for agreement.

Additional questions and answers

What process was undertaken to inform the decisions in this Cabinet paper?

- In October 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided me a submission on the next three year planning cycle. It recommended
Confidential information entrusted to the Government
- In February 2019, MBIE officials provided me initial advice. MBIE consulted with MFAT, Department of Internal Affairs (Office of Ethnic Communities), Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Police, the Security Intelligence Service, the Treasury, Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development.
- I consulted with Ministerial colleagues and officials before finalising the proposals put forward in this paper.

What are the risks of removing the family link requirement?

- The SIS has confirmed that there are no security risks from modifying the family link requirement. All refugees resettled from the Middle East and Africa would be referred by the UNHCR and subject to the usual screening and assessment processes.

What kind of reaction can we expect from this decision?

- Following our decisions, officials will inform the UNHCR. The Cabinet paper will be proactively released on the MBIE website.
- If the family link requirement is not removed, some groups, including the UNHCR, may be concerned that the changes do not go far enough in recognising the need in the Middle East and Africa regions. These groups are likely to continue to advocate for removing the family link requirement altogether. I have been informed that some international media outlets intend to publish articles if the link is not removed, which may show New Zealand in a negative light.

What was the original rationale for making the offer to Australia?

- Former Prime Ministers John Key and Julia Gillard agreed the offer in 2012 as part of a regional approach to irregular migration.
- Confidential information entrusted to the Government

Annex Three: Talking points for *Options for changes to the Parent Resident Visa Category*

Outside the scope of this release

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