



AIDE MEMOIRE

10% Critical Worker target – Report for November 2021

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|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Date: | 22 November 2021 | Priority: | Medium |
| Security classification: | | Tracking number: | 2122-1901 |

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

| Name | Position | Telephone | 1st contact |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| Privacy of natural persons | Manager, Allocation and Supply, MIQ Policy Unit | Privacy of natural persons | ✓ |
| | Senior Policy Advisor | | |

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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| |
|--|

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 Withdrawn |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



AIDE MEMOIRE

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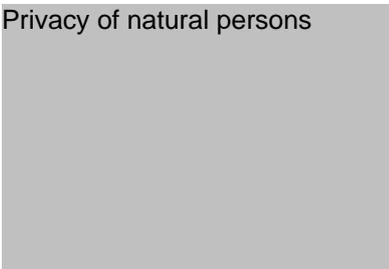
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Purpose

This aide memoire provides the November report on progress against the Government's commitment to ensure that Critical Workers are occupying at least 10% of spaces in Managed Isolation and Quarantine (the 10% Critical Worker target).

It also provides high level information on trends in travellers booked to enter MIQ over the remainder of 2021.

Privacy of natural persons



Manager, Allocation and Supply, MIQ Policy

Managed Isolation & Quarantine, MBIE

22 / 11 / 2021

10% Critical Worker Target

Context

1. In December 2020 Cabinet agreed to set a 10% operational target for Critical Workers' use of allocable managed isolation rooms over a rolling three month period, starting 1 January 2021 [CBC-20-MIN-0137 refers].
2. In April 2021, officials reported on progress in developing information to track progress against this target. Following that briefing you indicated you wished to receive monthly reports, which would then be publicly released [briefing 2021-2756 refers].

November Report

Key findings

3. The November report against the 10% Critical Worker Target is attached as Annex One.
4. On average, critical workers and their accompanying family used 16.3% of occupied rooms in October 2021.
5. Table one, below, sets out the average daily occupancy of MIQ rooms by critical workers for each month reported thus far.

| Month | Jan '21 | Feb '21 | Mar '21 | Apr '21 | May '21 | June '21 | July '21 | Aug '21 | Sep '21 | Oct '21 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Average CW occupancy | 13.3% | 18.8% | 14.3% | 10.3% | 13.7% | 10.5% | 9.6% | 8.3% | 16.3% | 16.3% |

Table 1: Average MIQ occupancy of critical workers by month

6. The average over a rolling three month period (1 June to 31 August 2021) was 13.6%.

Observations of note

7. In our previous (September) report we noted that MIQ usage by critical workers had consistently sat below 10% for the first time. We also noted that several large groups of critical workers due to start arriving in September could mitigate this trend [aide memoire 2122-1136].

8. This observation is supported by this month's data, which shows a significant increase in critical worker occupancy coinciding with the arrival of these groups.

9. Pressures created by the response to the New Zealand community outbreak are also likely to have contributed to these trends, including:

- a. A smaller total number of MIQ rooms being available for occupation by border arrivals, with additional facilities required to provide community quarantine capacity;
- b. While a small number of group arrivals were rescheduled to assist with managing pressure on MIQ capacity, there were no significant cancellations of group allocations over this time, at a time when the number of MIQ rooms made available on MIAS was reduced.

10. Figure 2, below, illustrates this data of the last three months.

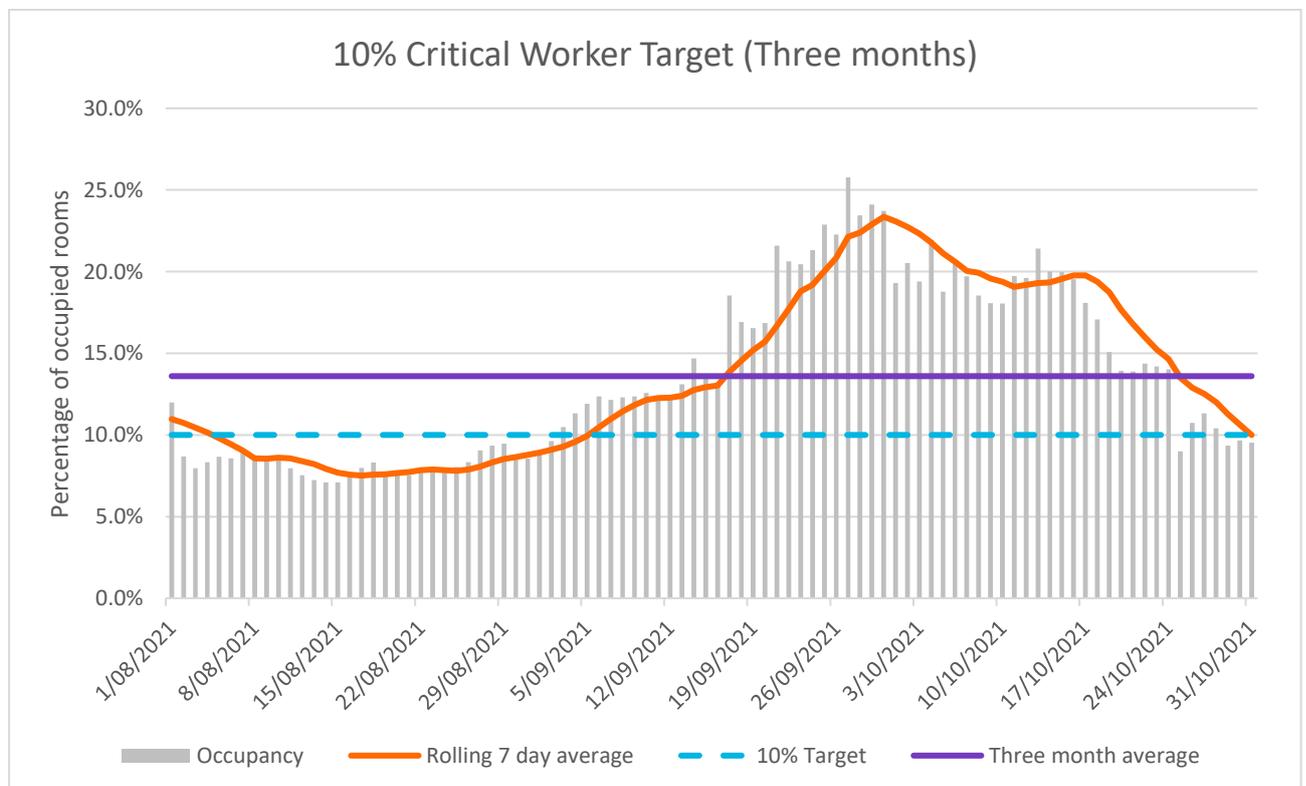


Figure 2: Daily and average MIQ occupancy by critical workers

Booking trends for the remainder of 2021

11. Following the resumption of the release of MIQ rooms via MIAS on 20 September, the majority of the remaining rooms for 2021 have now been allocated.

12. Around 27,000 travellers are currently booked on MIAS to arrive between 22 November and 31 December 2021.

13. Of these travellers, 82.2% are New Zealand citizens or residents. This is slightly higher than the long term average of 78.8%,¹ likely reflecting the increased desire of New Zealanders to return home prior to the end of the year.

14. Figures 3, below, shows the proportion of travellers arriving from the top 5 countries, split by New Zealanders (both citizens and residents) and temporary migrants.

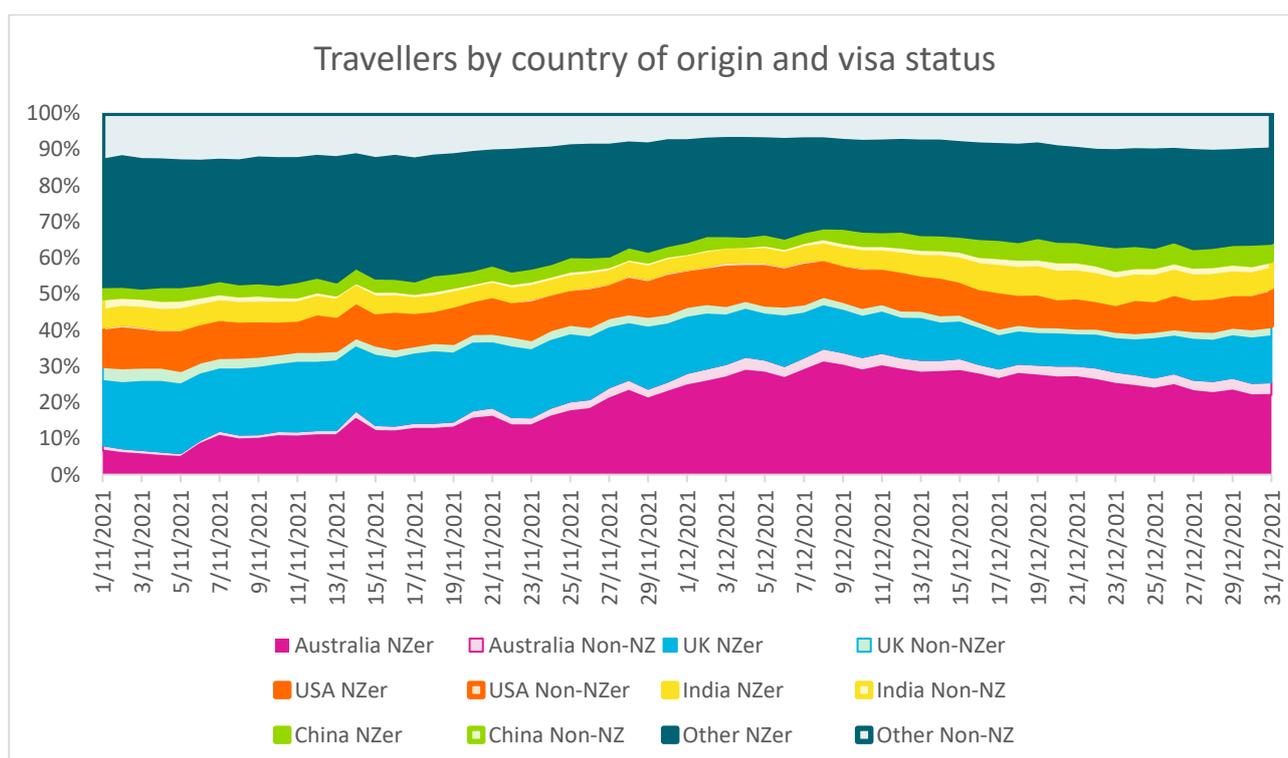


Figure 3: Proportion of travellers from major destinations, by New Zealanders and temporary migrants (15-day average)

15. Figure 3 reflects the increased demand from travellers, primarily New Zealanders, travelling from Australia. Given previous (pre-QFT) booking trends, this likely reflects travellers from Australia returning to pre-QFT levels as rooms have been progressively released since the suspension of QFT with Australia.

16. Figure 3 also shows a continuation of the previously noted trend, with New Zealand citizens and residents travelling from the top five countries of origin making up more than half of MIQ room bookings over this period.

¹ Average for all travellers previously or currently booked from 1 June 2021 to 28 February 2022.

Public release of the report

17. MBIE will update the information published on the MBIE website² with the latest figures on 26 November 2021.

18. We do not propose any proactive communications to mark the release of this report. We have not received any questions following the last monthly release of data.

19. You may wish to forward a copy of this aide memoire to the Minister of Immigration for his information ahead of the updated data being placed on the MBIE website.

Next report

20. The report updated to include data for November 2021 will be provided to you in mid-December.

Annexes

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – November Report

² <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/covid-19-data-resources/managed-isolation-and-quarantine-data/managed-isolation-and-quarantine-critical-worker-occupancy/>

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – November Report

Managed Isolation and Quarantine: Critical worker occupancy

November 2021

| Month | January 2021 | February 2021 | March 2021 | April 2021 | May 2021 | June 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Average occupancy by critical workers | 13.3% | 18.8% | 14.3% | 10.3% | 13.7% | 10.5% |
| Month | July 2021 | August 2021 | September 2021 | October 2021 | | |
| Average occupancy by critical workers | 9.6% | 8.3% | 16.3% | 16.3% | | |

Report period: 1 January 2021 to 31 October 2021

- The above table sets out the proportion of occupied MIQ rooms that are occupied by a critical worker.
- This is calculated by averaging the percentage of rooms occupied by critical workers on each day in the calendar month.

Caveats and Definitions

"Critical workers" include temporary visa holders entering New Zealand under the "other critical worker", "critical health worker", and "normally resident work visa holder" border exceptions, including any family members entering the country with that worker.

Data for reporting on critical worker occupancy in MIQ has been collated from 1 January 2021.

This report reflects a snapshot at a point time from various operational data sources.

Find out more at
Covid19.govt.nz

New Zealand Government

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COVID-19**