



New Zealand
Immigration Service
Te Ratonga Manene

Immigration Research Programme

**Migrants' and Parents' Experiences
of Sponsoring**

November 1999



**Migrants' & Parents'
Experiences of Sponsoring**
Qualitative Research Report

Prepared for:

The New Zealand Immigration Service

1 November 1999

Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary	3
	The Sponsors' Perspective.....	3
	The Parents' Perspective	7
	Conclusion	10
2.0	Introduction	13
3.0	Research Objectives	15
4.0	Research Methodology	17
5.0	Sponsors' Immigration to New Zealand	21
5.1	Why Sponsors Immigrated to New Zealand.....	21
5.2	Awareness and Influence of the Ability to Sponsor Parents.....	23
6.0	Sponsoring a Parent	27
6.1	How Sponsors Heard About the Policy	27
6.2	The Context of Sponsoring	28
6.3	Timing of Sponsoring Applications.....	31
6.4	Entry under the Parent Sub-Category.....	32
7.0	Awareness and Understanding of Obligations	33
7.1	Awareness.....	34
7.2	Additional Obligations	36
8.0	The Sponsoring Experience	37
8.1	Reasons for Sponsoring	37
8.2	Support Provision	38
8.3	Expectations Versus Reality of Living in New Zealand.....	45
9.0	Perceived Costs and Benefits	51
9.1	The Sponsors' Perspective	51
9.2	The Parents' Perspective.....	53
10.0	Conclusion	57

Discussion Guides Appendix

1.0 Executive Summary

This qualitative research was designed to explore and understand the process of migrants sponsoring parents to New Zealand. The research was commissioned by the New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) and carried out by CM Research New Zealand during September and October 1999. It was designed to provide background information for a first principles review of the family and humanitarian categories of immigration residence policy.

As required by the NZIS, the research consisted of a total of 40 indepth interviews, 25 with sponsors and 15 with parents, from five different source countries: China, Great Britain, India, Samoa and South Africa. Five sponsors and three parents were interviewed from each country. The main findings from the sponsors' and parents' perspectives are outlined separately below.

The Sponsors' Perspective

1. Reasons for Sponsoring Parents

The main reason migrants sponsored their parents to migrate to New Zealand was primarily emotive – due to a desire for family reunification. Most sponsors also had a strong feeling of moral responsibility to “*look after*” their ageing parents.

Other key reasons for sponsoring parents were:

- Concerns about parents' safety in their home country
- Concern about the provision of care for parents
- Parents' fear of living alone
- Parents' desire to provide practical help to the sponsor's family
- Sponsors' desire for help from parents

The sponsoring process was generally initiated by the sponsors interviewed. This study showed that sponsoring occurred in two broad contexts: the more common situation of sponsoring by “*choice*” when both sides wished the parents to migrate to New Zealand, and situations where the sponsoring was “*forced*” to happen by either the parents or the sponsors (eg, by the death of a parent's spouse or a parent's deteriorating health).

In situations of “*choice*” sponsoring, the timing of the sponsorship application was influenced by a combination of the parents' readiness and, to a lesser extent, how well settled the sponsors were in New Zealand.

In the “*forced*” sponsoring situation the timing of the sponsorship application was determined by a “*significant event*” in the life of the sponsor or parent that “*forced*” the issue of reunification to be addressed.

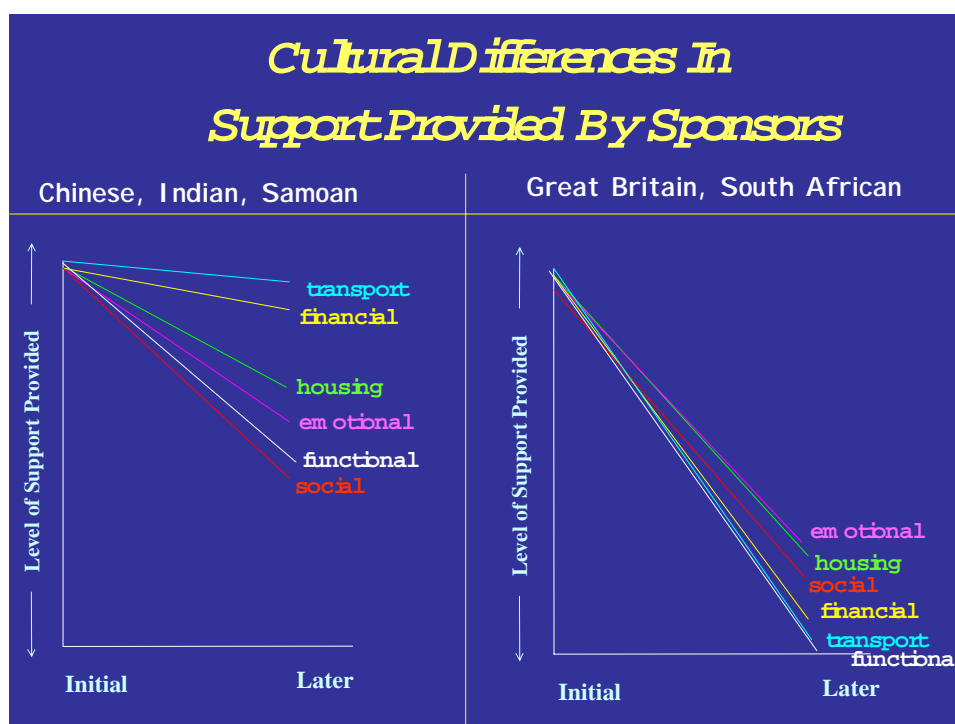
2. Types of Support Provided By Sponsors for Parents

Sponsors provided a variety of types of support for their parents depending on their own circumstances and personal sense of commitment, and their parents' personality and circumstances, as well as cultural factors.

Overall, the main types of support provided by sponsors were:

- Shelter (a home)
- Financial (living expenses)
- Emotional (dealing with loneliness, homesickness, depression)
- Social (introducing friends)
- Transport
- Functional (help to organise appointments, personal and financial affairs)

Most sponsors were able to decrease the level of support they provided over time. However, Chinese, Indian and Samoan parents tended to receive higher levels of ongoing support than parents from Great Britain or South Africa.



The key factors that influenced the level of initial and ongoing support required by parents was their own financial situation, their ability to adjust to the loss of family, friends and the family home in the country of origin, and their commitment and ability to integrate into New Zealand society or a local ethnic community.

3. Sponsors' Understanding of the Obligations of Sponsoring

The majority of sponsors were aware of their obligations and understood that they would, if necessary, have to provide accommodation and financial support for their parents for one year. However, some sponsors were aware they had obligations but were unable to recall the specific obligations, and were not concerned about this.

Because most sponsors had a very strong feeling of personal commitment and/or cultural commitment to “*look after*” their parents, they placed more importance on this than any “*obligations*” agreed to as part of the sponsorship process. This meant their sponsoring obligations were typically being met by default.

Other factors that “*diluted*” the importance placed on “*obligations*” included:

- awareness that parents were in a better financial position than the sponsor and were unlikely to seek assistance from the sponsor;
- inability to provide the necessary support if it was required.

Most sponsors did not identify any conditions that would have stopped them from sponsoring a parent. This indicates that sponsors had a high threshold for the obligations they were willing to undertake.

4. Sponsors' Views on the Overall Costs and Benefits of Sponsoring Parents to New Zealand

Many sponsors perceived there were no costs involved in sponsoring parents, although it was evident some costs were being incurred (eg, living expenses, transport).

The main **costs** of sponsoring parents from the sponsor's perspective were:

- Emotive
 - cabin fever (tension over day to day living issues)
 - lack of understanding of how to help parents with homesickness or depression
 - worry about Samoan parents becoming ill in the cooler climate
 - guilt that (often daily) contact is an additional stress in a busy life
- Functional
 - drain on financial resources

The main **benefits** of sponsoring parents from the sponsor's perspective were:

- Emotive
 - reunification of the family
 - sharing cultural practices
 - inner satisfaction that parents could experience safety and security here
 - reduced stress from fewer household tasks to be done by sponsors if parents provided housekeeping and/or cooking help
 - peace of mind knowing that one 'can do' for parents if required
 - potential to become the caregiver for parents if required

- Functional
 - parental advice
 - improvements in parents' health due to NZ's 'better' environment
 - parents could gain access to health care if required

- Social/Cultural
 - enhancing the viability and cultural diversity of local clubs and organisations
 - assisting with the development of community/ethnic groups
 - contributing to other people's happiness through friendship

- Economic
 - economic gain from parents providing child care, and care for sick children
 - economic gain if parents provided savings and/or benefit to household
 - shopping in local communities
 - money brought into New Zealand
 - investments made here, and tax paid on investments

- Political
 - voting

5. The Significance of Being Able to Sponsor, in Sponsors' Original Decision to Immigrate

Over half the sponsors interviewed were not aware of the ability to sponsor when they chose to immigrate to New Zealand. Therefore, the potential to sponsor did not influence their original decisions to immigrate.

Amongst those aware of the policy, around half (just under a quarter of all sponsors interviewed) indicated that the potential to sponsor their parents was an important factor in their decision to immigrate to New Zealand. Although their key motivator for choosing New Zealand was typically to pursue better opportunities for oneself, partner and offspring, these sponsors tended to “weigh up” the advantages of “personal betterment” against their sense of duty, responsibility and/or desire to “be around for their parents”. The deep sense of commitment these sponsors felt to “do for” their parents would have prevented these sponsors immigrating to New Zealand had the parent policy not existed.

The Parents’ Perspective

1. Reasons Parents Applied Under the Parent Sub-Category

Residence was applied for under the parent sub-category because age, and in a few cases perceived lack of money, would have prevented the parents applying under another category.

2. Types of Support Given By Parents to Sponsors

Overall, the main types of support provided by parents to their sponsors were:

- Emotional (love)
- Functional (childcare, housekeeping or handyman assistance)
- Cultural (continuation of practices)
- Financial (ranged from day to day assistance to major loans or gifts)
- ‘Sensitivity’ (tried to appear emotionally strong)

3. Types of Support Parents Received From Sponsors and Other Sources

In the initial settlement phase the sponsor and immediate family network provided the primary support for parents. External sources of support were mainly of an emotive or social nature and tended to be used after an initial settlement period.

The main types of support parents received from outside sources were:

- Emotional and Social
 - friends from country of origin
 - new friends
 - friends in country of origin
 - clubs and organisations
 - church

- Economic
 - pensions from country of origin
 - income support (WINZ)
 - Community Services Card

- Information
 - Chinese radio stations and newspapers
 - books from home

- Functional
 - GP visits
 - public hospital
 - private hospital

The external support parents received assisted with their settlement.

4. Parents' Understandings of the Obligations of Sponsors

Several parents were aware that sponsors had an “*obligation*” to provide them with a home and financial support for the first year. Whether or not parents called on this obligation depended on their own financial circumstances and ability to function independently.

Most parents were not aware of the specific obligations their sponsors had “*undertaken*”. However, there typically was an expectation from parents that their children would provide for them as and when required.

5. Parents' Views on the Overall Costs and Benefits of Being Sponsored to New Zealand

The main **costs** of being sponsored from the parents' perspective were:

- Emotive
 - loss of friendships and familiar environment, which often lead to homesickness or depression
 - increased dependency which often lead to diminished self esteem
 - confusion associated with adapting to a culturally different lifestyle

- Functional
 - financial drain from contributing to living expenses
 - money “lost” through the difference in exchange rates

Most parents did not think they were incurring costs to either the local community or New Zealand society as a whole.

The main **benefits** of being sponsored from the parents' perspective were:

- Emotive
 - reunification of the family (the sharing of love and support)
 - removal of the fear of being isolated in the country of origin
 - enjoyment of New Zealand's lifestyle, peace and security
 - sense of self worth from contributing to sponsor's household (child care/housekeeping)
 - opportunities to meet new people and broaden horizons

- Functional
 - ability to provide child care, and care for sick children

- Social/Cultural
 - enhancing the viability and cultural diversity of local clubs and organisations
 - assisting with the development of community/ethnic groups
 - contributing to other people's happiness through friendship

- Economic
 - economic gain from parents providing child care, and care for sick children
 - shopping in local communities
 - money brought into New Zealand
 - investments made here, and tax paid on investments

- Political
 - voting

Conclusion

The majority of sponsors in this research sponsored their parents for emotive reasons:

- reunification of the family;
- peace of mind with regard to the safety and well being of their parents;
- assurance that they were discharging their personal or cultural ‘duties’ to their ageing parents.

These sponsors wanted their parents to be part of their life in New Zealand, to be part of their grandchildren’s lives, and to share family love and support. They also felt a strong sense of responsibility for their parents. Economic gain or savings were a secondary influence on sponsoring in these cases.

A minority sponsored their parents for functional reasons, eg so that a grandparent could become the full time child care provider for a female sponsor in a situation where the father had returned to the home country because of an inability to secure employment in New Zealand.

Being able to sponsor parents to New Zealand was not a significant factor in the majority of sponsors’ original decisions to immigrate to New Zealand. The research suggests that, while the presence of parents in New Zealand may “*enhance*” the settlement process for migrants, it was not central to the successful settlement of most migrant sponsors.

However for a few sponsors the potential to sponsor parents was the factor that influenced their decision to immigrate to New Zealand, and they would not have immigrated here themselves if their parents had not been able to join them.

Sponsors generally initiated the sponsoring process. The majority of sponsors sponsored once they felt fairly “settled”. The critical success factors identified by sponsors for being settled in New Zealand included:

- ability to speak English
- their own and their family’s self esteem was intact
- integrated into New Zealand life
- stable employment/source of income
- career/job met expectations
- suitable home (ideally owned)

The main **benefits** for sponsors and parents in the reunification process were as follows:

- for sponsors:
 - love and emotional support from reunification of the family;
 - peace of mind with regard to the safety and well being of parents;
 - assistance with housekeeping tasks and child care.

- for parents:
 - love and emotional support from reunification of the family;
 - removal of the fear of being isolated in the country of origin;
 - enjoyment of the New Zealand lifestyle;
 - sense of self worth from contributing housekeeping or childcare assistance to sponsor's household.

The main **costs** for sponsors and parents in the reunification process were:

- for sponsors:
 - financial drain, if there was significant financial support required by their parents;
 - having to deal with any physical or psychological health problems of parents (eg, depression, missing relatives and loved ones in the home country). This may have been a result of parents' or sponsors' lack of preparedness for leaving their home country and adapting to life in a new country;
 - tension in the home when parents "*outstayed their welcome*".
- for parents:
 - separation from their homeland, and dealing with life in a new country;
 - the adjustment from a state of *independence* in their home country to *dependence* and isolation in the new country;
 - the need to deal with and overcome language barriers;
 - the need to find employment and, in some cases, deal with unemployment.

Overall, the main problems encountered by the individuals in this research were:

- some sponsors being unprepared for the significant event that is including their parents in their home/life here in New Zealand, and the associated needs and strains that that placed on the family unit;
- a lack of awareness among sponsors of sources of help and support for their parents, as the parents encountered problems adjusting to life in a new country.

The majority of sponsors were aware of their obligations and successfully met them. A minority of sponsors were not aware of their obligations or would not have been able to meet their obligations if called upon to do so. These sponsors' parents were generally in a much more stable financial situation than the sponsors were themselves. Therefore although the sponsors had signed "obligations" they had not anticipated that these would have to be taken seriously.

Most sponsors felt that obligations for sponsors to provide accommodation and financial assistance if required for from one to two years were reasonable. This research suggested that because the motivations for sponsoring parents were primarily emotive most sponsors would be willing to tolerate more stringent obligations, although this would cause financial hardship in some cases.

2.0 Introduction

The New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) is undertaking a first principles review of the family and humanitarian categories of immigration residence policy. All applicants under these categories are required to have sponsors who are either New Zealand residents or citizens. After the spouses/partners of New Zealanders, parents are currently the largest sub-group of migrants approved under the family and humanitarian categories.

To provide background information for its first principles reviews of family and humanitarian policy, the NZIS required qualitative research to explore and understand the process of sponsoring parents to New Zealand. While the research was required to focus on sponsors' experiences, the experiences of parents were also included to give a holistic understanding.

CM Research was commissioned to conduct qualitative research among sponsors and parents. Overall, there were 25 sponsors and 15 parents interviewed from five countries: China, Great Britain, India, Samoa and South Africa.

This report presents the research findings and key conclusions.

What is the Objective of the Family Category?

The objective of the Family category is to allow individuals to maintain and be part of, a family unit.

The Family Category is available to those applicants who:

- » are in a genuine and stable marriage, de facto or same sex relationship with a New Zealand citizen or resident; or
- » have immediate family members who are New Zealand citizens or residents and who live permanently in New Zealand.

How Can Parents Be Granted Residence Under the Family Category?

Parents may be granted residence if they have an adult child 17 years or over, who is a New Zealand citizen or resident living lawfully and permanently in New Zealand who is prepared to sponsor them, and

- » if parents have no dependent children - all of their adult children are living permanently outside their home country; or
- » if parents have no dependent children - they have an equal or greater number of adult children living lawfully and permanently in New Zealand than in any other single country, including their home country; or
- » if parents have dependent children - they have an equal or greater number of adult children living lawfully and permanently in New Zealand than in any other single country, including their home country. The number of their dependent children must be the same as, or less than, the number of adult children living lawfully and permanently in New Zealand.

What are the Obligations of a Sponsor?

The sponsor will be responsible for:

- » if necessary, ensuring financial support and accommodation is available to parents for at least their first 24 months as a resident in New Zealand.

Note: Please refer to the Appendix for more details.

3.0 Research Objectives

The overall objective of the research was to explore the experiences of migrant sponsors and of parents who were sponsored to New Zealand in the 1997/98 financial year.

The specific objectives for the migrant sponsors were to:

1. Identify the reasons migrants sponsored parents, who initiated the sponsoring process and why they sponsored when they did;
2. Identify the types of support the sponsors provided for the parents;
3. Explore the sponsors' understandings of the obligations of sponsoring and identify any conditions that would have stopped the sponsors from sponsoring;
4. Identify the sponsors' views on the overall costs and benefits of sponsoring parents¹; and
5. Explore the significance of being able to sponsor, in sponsors' original decision to immigrate to New Zealand.

The specific objectives for the parents were to:

1. Identify the reasons the parents decided to apply for residence in New Zealand under the parent sub-category, who initiated the residence process and why the parents applied for residence when they did;
2. Describe any support the parents gave to their sponsors;
3. Describe any support the parents received from their sponsors and any support parents had received from other sources;
4. Describe the parents' understandings of the obligations of sponsors; and
5. Identify the parents' views on the overall costs and benefits of being sponsored to New Zealand.

¹ Costs and benefits are being interpreted widely as occurring at individual, family and community levels. Costs could include items such as expenditure on parents, providing accommodation, use of the health or welfare systems. Benefits could include items such as providing child care or assisting with the development of community/ethnic groups.

4.0 Research Methodology

Qualitative Research

Given the research objectives, a qualitative approach was used to conduct the research. Qualitative research identifies the range of issues which exist in a given group of people or on a particular issue or topic. This approach asks probing questions which give insight and depth of understanding.

The two main methodologies used by qualitative research are indepth interviews and focus groups.

- Indepth interviews are conducted by one researcher with one respondent. This is the method of choice when discussing sensitive or personal subjects, or understanding complex decision making or attitude formation.
- Focus groups bring together 6 – 8 people who share some commonalities to focus on the research issue presented by the researcher. This is the method of choice for obtaining a broad spectrum of more superficial level information and understanding the social context which exists among a given group of people.

We agreed with the NZIS that conducting indepth interviews was the most appropriate method for gathering the required information because of:

- the unique circumstances of individual migrant sponsors; and
- possible sensitivity sponsors and parents may have about discussing their sponsoring experience in front of strangers in a focus group.

The NZIS required a total of 40 indepth interviews, consisting of 25 sponsors and 15 parents from five different source countries: China, Great Britain, India, Samoa, South Africa. Five sponsors and three parents were interviewed from each country.

Sample

The 40 indepth interviews were conducted with sponsors and parents in Auckland and Wellington as shown in the table below.

Country Of Origin	Sponsors n=		Parents n=		Total n=
	Auckland	Wellington	Auckland	Wellington	
China	5		3		8
Great Britain	5		3		8
India	4	1	2	1	8
Samoa	4	1	2	1	8
South Africa	5		3		8
Total	25		15		40

Sample Description

The following table profiles the respondents who participated in the research.

Age Range	
» Sponsors	35 - 63 years
» Parents	57 - 83 years
Gender	
» Sponsors	10 M, 15 F
» Parents	6 M, 9 F
Years in New Zealand	
» Sponsors	2 - 28 years
» Parents	1 - 3 years
Employment	
» Sponsors in full or part time employment*	23
» Sponsors in full time study	1
» Sponsors seeking employment	1
» Parents in full or part time employment	-
» Parents seeking full or part time employment	3
Family Distribution at Time of Parent/s Immigrating	
» No offspring in country of origin	3
» Majority of offspring in New Zealand	8
» Offspring equally spread between New Zealand and another 'foreign' country	4

* Employed in either white or blue collar occupations.

Recruitment

The sources used to recruit sponsors are shown in the table below.

	n=
The NZIS contact list	21
Community networking	4

The sponsor respondents were recruited primarily from a list of sponsors' names and dates of birth provided by the NZIS. Possible telephone numbers for these people were searched for via the Internet white pages. Then three teams of telephone interviewers located in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch made hundreds of calls in order to locate the specific sponsors.

To complete the sample quotas it was necessary to also recruit sponsor respondents through community networking. This proved more difficult due to the initial focus on a one year time period – the 1997/98 financial year.

The NZIS gave approval to broaden the sponsoring criterion to *sponsoring approval given since 1995*, after the initial criterion of 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 proved too restrictive. This enabled us to include three sponsors found through community networking who had sponsored parents just outside the 1997/98 financial year. (One sponsor found through community networking had sponsored their parents in the 1997/98 financial year.)

The parent respondents were recruited via the sponsor respondents.

Discussion Guides

Discussion guides were drawn up in consultation with the NZIS. Copies of the guides are appended to this report.

The pilot study showed that the discussion guides worked effectively, i.e. they enabled information to be elicited that answered the research objectives.

Interviewing

Timing	» The interviews were conducted between 9 September and 14 October 1999.
Location	<p>» The interviews with sponsors were conducted at the most convenient location for them, mainly at people's home or place of business. Three interviews were conducted in cafes to meet respondents' needs.</p> <p>» Parent interviews were conducted at people's homes.</p>
Setting	<p>» Three parent interviews were conducted in the presence of sponsors. The researcher considered it inappropriate to insist on the sponsor leaving because of cultural and/or sensitivity reasons.</p> <p>» None of the sponsor interviews were conducted in the presence of parents.</p>
Use of Interpreters	» Interpreters were used for seven interviews: four interviews with Chinese respondents and three interviews with Samoan respondents.
Recording	» Thirty-seven interviews were tape recorded with respondent consent. Three respondents declined their interview being recorded.
Duration of Interviews	<p>» Interviews without interpreters lasted between 1 to 1.5 hours.</p> <p>» Interpreter assisted interviews lasted between 1.75 to 2 hours.</p>
Incentive	» Each respondent received \$30 cash as an expression of thanks for their input. One parent asked for the incentive to be donated to charity.

5.0 Sponsors' Immigration to New Zealand

This section of the report discusses the reasons that sponsors immigrated to New Zealand and considers what influence the ability to sponsor parents had on their decision to come to this country.

5.1 Why Sponsors Immigrated to New Zealand

The reasons for sponsors immigrating to New Zealand involved either “pull” factors to New Zealand and/or “push” factors from the sponsors' country of origin. Any one or more of the following factors influenced sponsors' decision making.



The “pull” factors shown below were qualitatively ranked from those that have the most to the least widespread influence on people’s decision making. The “push” factors shown below were typically the only reasons given for each country.

Pull Factors To New Zealand	Push Factors From Country Of Origin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Able to “<i>make the point count</i>” (make the pass mark) but could not in Australia or Canada (the first or second country of preference).¹ » Could provide the quality and pace of lifestyle desired. » One or more family members already living here. » Was culturally similar to country of origin (applied to Great Britain and South African sponsors). » Perception that NZ could provide desired educational or employment opportunities. » Could gain entry to Australia after three years residence in New Zealand.² » Able to sponsor parents to NZ. » A perception (based on information from some immigration consultants and the NZIS literature) that siblings would also be able to gain permanent residence here in the future. 	<p>South Africa Deterioration in social and economic conditions created fear about personal safety and future security.</p> <p>India Did not provide the opportunity to enjoy a high quality lifestyle despite having the income to sustain one.</p> <p>China Overcrowding and corruption by the authorities and people generally, created a desire to move to a country with ‘better opportunities’.</p> <p>Samoa The lack of employment and, to a lesser extent educational opportunities, in Samoa prevented some sponsors providing for their families as they wished to.</p> <p>Great Britain Did not provide the quality of lifestyle desired.</p>

1 For many sponsors, New Zealand had been their second or third country of preference behind Australia and/or Canada. Inability to gain sufficient points to enter either one or both of these countries had resulted in further consideration being given to New Zealand. The barriers to New Zealand being the first country of preference were either lack of knowledge about the country (in comparison to Australia or Canada) and/or having faulty perceptions of it.

“ I thought of New Zealand as a small socialist place that was going nowhere. I knew little about it, although I did know that they were anti South Africa because of the rugby. A friend came to New Zealand and said it had changed. That made me rethink”.

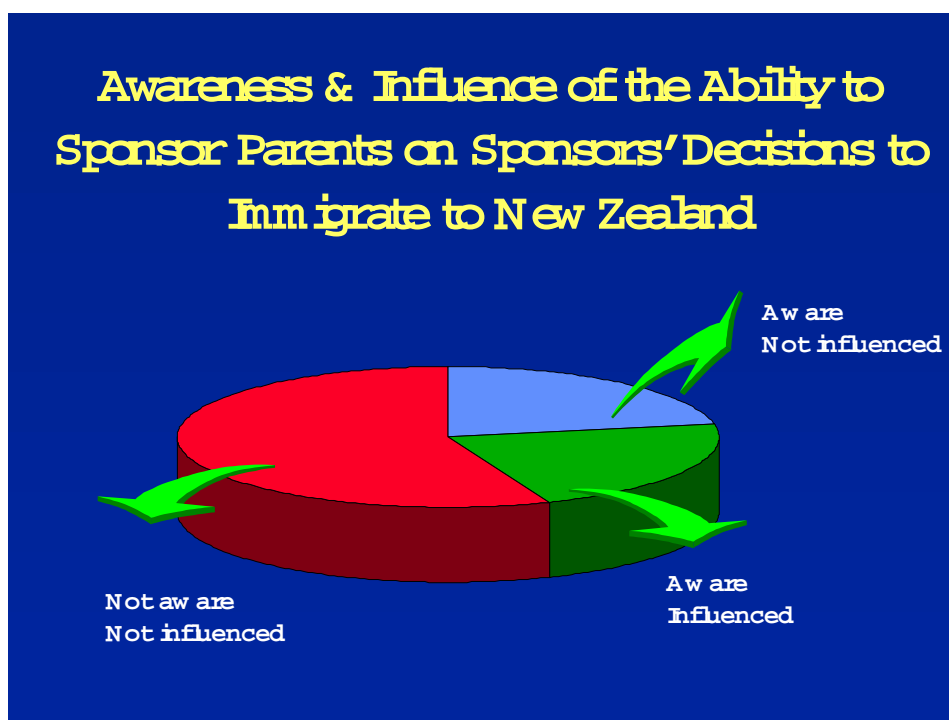
2 A few sponsors subsequently discarded this plan, following satisfactory settlement in New Zealand and being unwilling to repeat the *upheaval* of the migration process. However, a few sponsors were still considering a future move to Australia.

5.2 Awareness and Influence of the Ability to Sponsor Parents

The sponsors were asked whether they were aware of the ability to sponsor parents to New Zealand when they decided where to immigrate and, if they were aware, to what extent this opportunity influenced their decision to come to New Zealand.

These discussion points revealed that sponsors as immigrants could be divided into three categories in terms of their level of awareness of the ability to sponsor parents and the influence of the policy on their decision making to immigrate to this country:

- not aware = no influence on decision making (just over a half of sponsors interviewed)
- aware and influenced decision making (just under a quarter of sponsors interviewed)
- aware but did not influence decision making (just under a quarter of sponsors interviewed)



Not Aware of Ability to Sponsor Parents = No Influence

At the time of choosing to migrate to New Zealand, just over half of the sponsors we spoke with were not aware of the ability to sponsor parents and only learnt about it after arriving in New Zealand.

The three sponsors who migrated to New Zealand over twenty years ago did not believe that the policy existed at the time of their decision making.

By virtue of not being aware of the ability to sponsor parents and proceeding with their immigration to New Zealand, these sponsors demonstrated that they were capable of leaving their parent or parents in their country of origin. This suggests that had they been aware of the policy, it would not have influenced their decision making.

Aware of Ability to Sponsor Parents and Influenced

Among the small number of sponsors aware of the policy when deciding where to immigrate, approximately half of them were *'pulled'* to New Zealand because of the opportunity to sponsor a parent or parents to New Zealand. While the key motivator for wanting to immigrate to New Zealand was typically to have better opportunities for oneself, partner and offspring, sponsors tended to weigh up the advantages of *'personal betterment'* against their sense of duty, responsibility and/or desire to *'be around for parents'*. Awareness of the opportunity to sponsor a parent enabled these sponsors to create a potential win-win situation for themselves which assisted their decision making.

"We wanted to come to New Zealand for my husband's work but I knew I'd feel guilty if we left Mum behind. We just wouldn't have come if Mum had said no [to the idea of being sponsored later on]"

The deep sense of commitment of sponsors in this category to *'do for'* their parents would have prevented these sponsors immigrating to New Zealand had the potential to sponsor their parents not existed. The drivers of commitment were love for parents, and sponsors reasoning that parents had *'given'* to them in their younger years and were entitled to have reciprocity shown by offspring as they age.

Aware of Ability to Sponsor Parents and Not Influenced

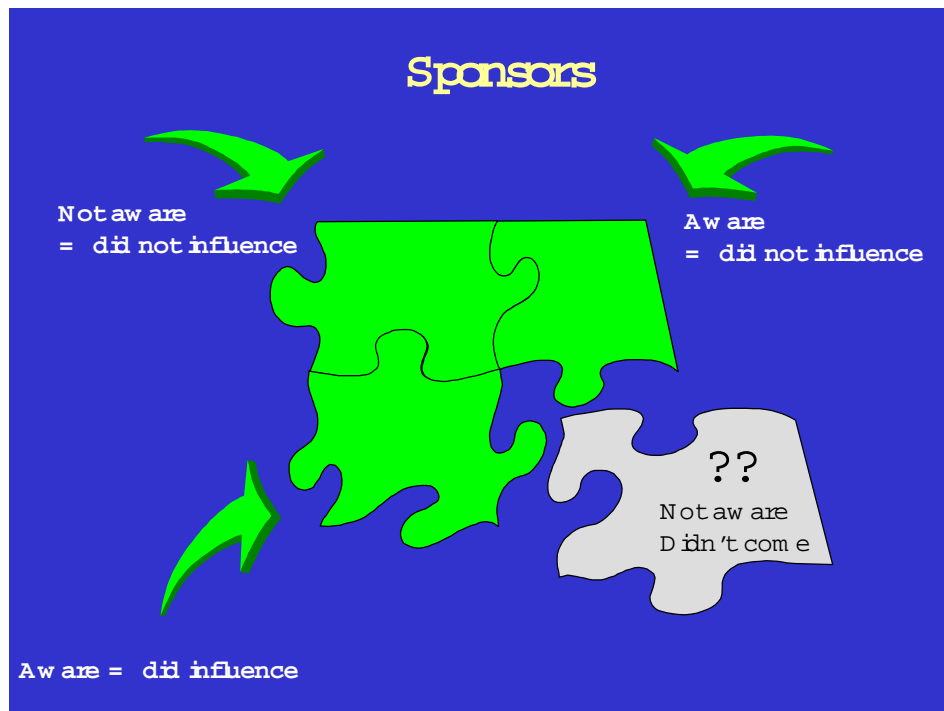
Sponsors who were aware of the ability to sponsor parents when they decided where to immigrate but not influenced by it, often rationalised that because parents had lived a greater portion of their lives they did not need new opportunities to develop their lives. This enabled sponsors to remove parents from their decision making and focus on creating opportunities that met their own needs and those of their partner and children.

"I think I was aware that it was possible to sponsor [parents] but it didn't influence whether I'd come to New Zealand. I had my own family and I needed to build my future. ... As a white male in South Africa, I was on the bottom of the scrap heap and wasn't going to have a future there, so I had to get out"

As with the first category of sponsors (those unaware of the policy), these people demonstrated that they were capable of leaving parents in their country of origin. However, while the policy did not influence people's decision making, knowledge that it existed provided some comfort to a few people experiencing *'low patches'* either during or after settlement in New Zealand, eg when acutely aware of missing their parents, feeling guilty about not being nearby to assist or feeling *'saddened'* parents were not involved with grandchildren's lives.

Missed Opportunities For Attracting Immigrants?

As shown in the diagram below, there is potentially a fourth category of immigrants that the NZIS needs further information on, i.e. those immigrants who did not choose to come to New Zealand because they were unaware of the opportunity to sponsor parents to this country.



6.0 Sponsoring a Parent

This section of the report outlines how sponsors became aware of the ability to sponsor parents and the contexts in which the sponsoring process was initiated.

6.1 How Sponsors Heard About the Policy

This study shows that sponsors became aware of the potential to sponsor parents through either the NZIS or 'other' information channels.

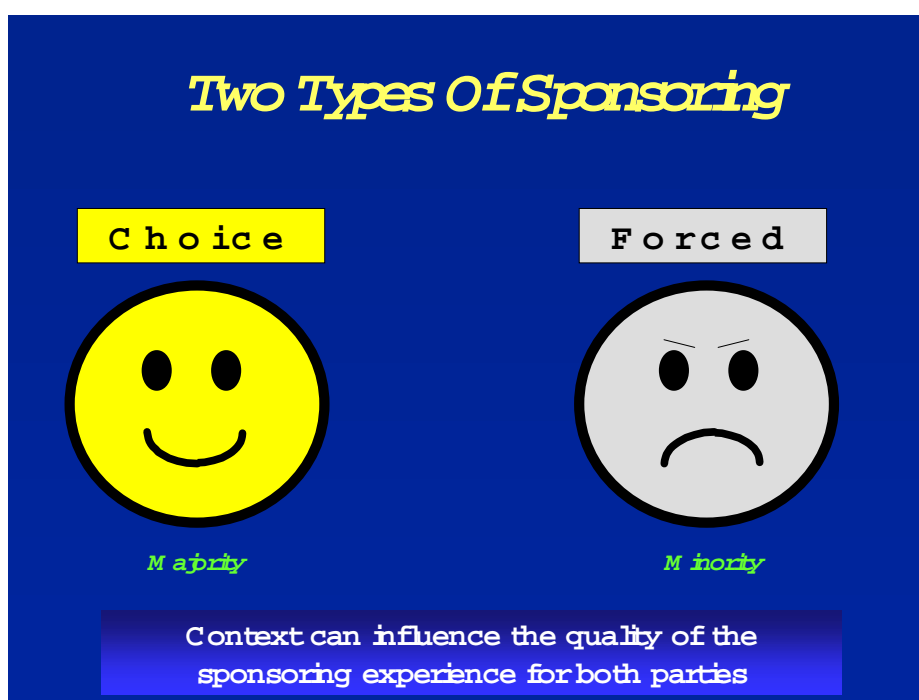
Information Channels	Prevalence
<p>The NZIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Face to face or phone contact with the NZIS branches and/or the NZIS literature =before or after settlement 	<p>While some sponsors initially became aware of the policy through these information channels, many people did not refer to the NZIS until learning of the policy through 'other' sources (see below).</p>
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Word of mouth, eg friends in New Zealand = before or after settlement » Immigration consultants = before settlement 	<p>This is the main source through which sponsors become aware of the policy.</p>

6.2 The Context of Sponsoring

Two Broad Contexts

This study indicated that sponsoring occurred in two broad contexts, which we have called *'choice'* and *'forced'* sponsoring. The distinguishing feature between these contexts is the desire or lack of desire by either sponsors or parents, for the parents to come to New Zealand. Sponsoring:

- by *'choice'* occurred when both the sponsor and parents wished for the parents to come to New Zealand (this was the main type of sponsoring);
- through *'force'* occurred when either the sponsor and/or parents did not want the parents to come to New Zealand. As discussed later, this commonly occurred when either parents or sponsors experienced a 'significant event', eg the death of a parent's spouse.



Both sponsoring contexts involved a two-stage process, the first stage being informal discussions within the family and the second stage, working through the official sponsorship process with the NZIS.

In the case of *'choice'* sponsoring, it was common for a time lapse of between 1 and 3 years to occur between the start of informal discussions about sponsoring and the official sponsorship process getting under way. Parents used this time to consider the pros and cons of migrating and assess the viability of taking this step.

In the case of 'forced' sponsoring, time was often of essence and the official sponsorship process can be commenced within a month or so of initial discussions.

It is important to emphasise that the context in which sponsoring occurred can influence the quality of the sponsoring experience for both sponsors and their parents (this issue is discussed later in the report).

Sponsoring By Choice

The initiation of the official sponsoring process was typically preceded by at least one or more parental visits to New Zealand. Visits were a common vehicle for discussing the possibility of parents migrating to New Zealand. Discussion on the topic was usually triggered by any one or more of the factors outlined below.

- a sponsor and/or parent expressing the desire for family reunification;
- one or both parents lamenting the deterioration of social and economic conditions "back home" or expressing concern about having few family members or friends nearby and worrying about being isolated ; or

"Mum said things like 'England isn't what it used to be' and their friends were dying off and I'm an only child, so I said 'why don't you come and live over here'".

- observations by sponsors that parents appeared to find New Zealand appealing.

Sponsors appeared more likely than parents to suggest the idea of sponsoring. Parents' reluctance to suggest sponsoring appeared to stem from wanting to avoid their child feeling under an obligation to *extend the invitation*.

Choice Sponsoring

Choice

Maturity

Underpinned by sponsors having:

- ◆ Personal commitment (wanted to 'do for' parents, sense of duty, responsibility)
- ◆ Cultural duties/responsibilities

The infographic features a yellow smiley face with the word 'Choice' in a yellow box above it and 'Maturity' in green below it. To the right, a red stick figure says 'Come to NZ!' to a blue silhouette of a family. A speech bubble from the family says 'We'd love to'.

Sponsoring Through 'Forced Choice'

A significant event in a sponsor or parent's life, such as the death of the other parent, can 'force' the issue of sponsoring to be addressed. Outlined below are some examples of 'forced' sponsoring.

- The inability by two sponsors' husbands to obtain employment in New Zealand resulted in the husbands returning to their country of origin to obtain employment. The lack of direct financial support and childcare assistance, resulted in the two sponsors bringing their mothers to New Zealand to help while they worked. The sponsors' fathers did not come to New Zealand because it was intended that the mothers would 'commute' between the two countries.
- In a few cases, the death of a parent's spouse or deterioration of a parent's health were triggers for initiating the sponsoring process.

"Dad died in the February and there was no one in the Islands [Samoa] to care for her, so we decided that she had to come to New Zealand. She didn't want to come but we had no choice because who would look after her. It's good that she's with us here but I don't think she'll stay. She misses the Islands".

"Mum's health went down hill and I either had to bring her out here or put her in a home [in the country of origin] and feel guilty for the rest of my life for not giving her a home with me. Much as I didn't want her to come – we never did get on - I just couldn't have lived with myself if I'd not done this".

- One British sponsor felt 'pressurised' by his parents to sponsor them to New Zealand when their only other 'child' in England (who lived with the parents) decided to immigrate to New Zealand. Fear of being alone and possibly unable to cope if problems arose later in life were the key motivators for parental pressure being exerted on their sponsor. The sponsor proceeded with the sponsoring process (albeit under duress) but "made it clear" to his parents that he could not provide a home or financial support for them.

"I'd have never suggested sponsoring them. I've lived so long without them now. I've had to get used to them being here. I'd organised rental accommodation for them and they moved in the day they arrived. ... It just wasn't an option for them to live with us [for space and financial reasons]".

6.3 Timing of Sponsoring Applications

'Choice' Sponsoring

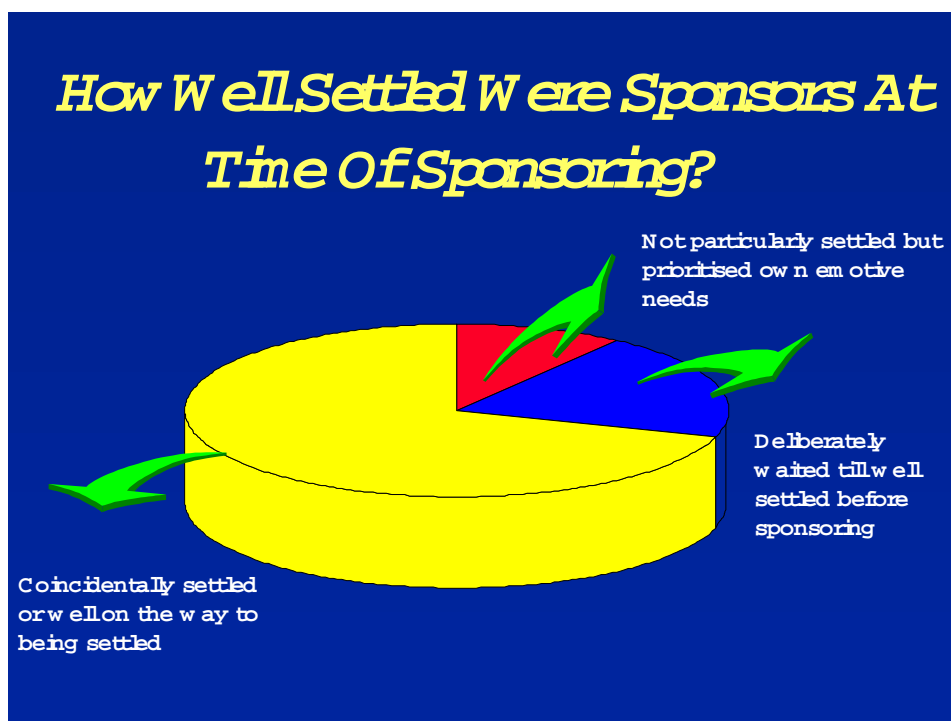
The timing of the sponsoring application was determined by a combination of parents' readiness and to a lesser extent, how well sponsors had settled in New Zealand.

From experience, sponsors understand what is involved with immigrating (before, during and after the process), eg the emotions associated with leaving friends and a family home and "starting from scratch" in a new country. On this basis they reasoned that parents' decision to migrate and the timing of their arrival should come at their own volition.

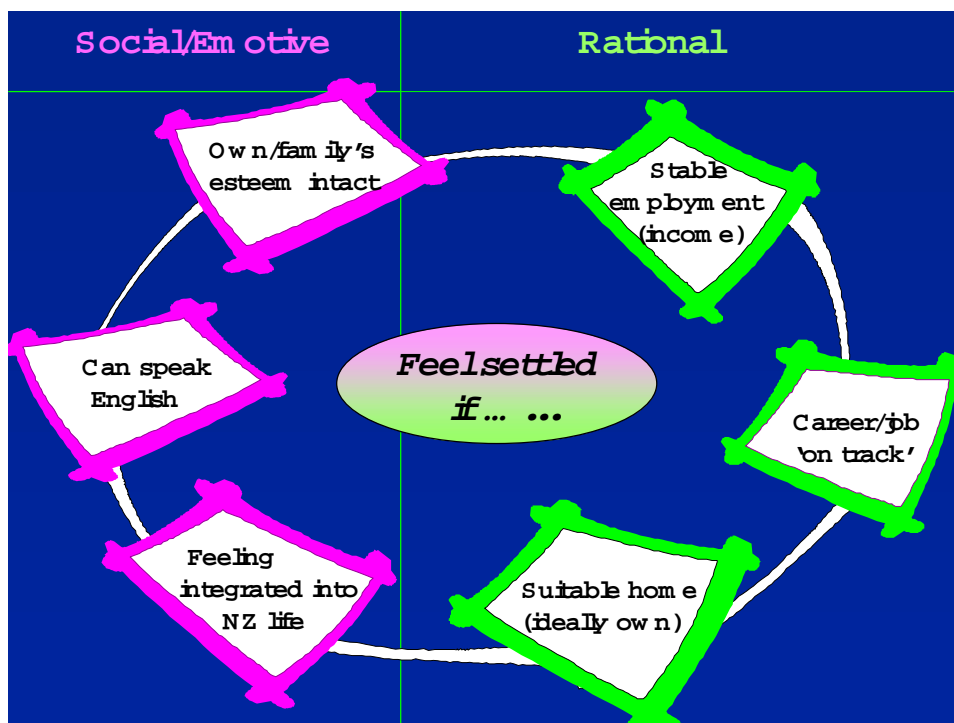
A further argument for not "pressurising" parents' decision making or timing is to avoid "feeling guilty" if parents did not settle well in New Zealand.

"We always said that it had to be Mum's choice [if and when she came]. She was the one that had to decide".

Several sponsors described themselves as being *settled* in New Zealand or well on the way to this before sponsoring parents. Some of these sponsors were coincidentally *settled* when the issue of sponsorship arose, while others deliberately chose not to sponsor before feeling *well settled*, for fear that they could not provide adequately for parents.



The key factors that contributed to sponsors *feeling settled* are shown diagrammatically below.



However, for some sponsors, the need for family reunification outweighed the fact that they were not particularly settled at the time of sponsoring. For example, concerns about a partner's unemployment, the lack of finance and/or residential accommodation being basic and cramped appeared *minor details* in comparison to the emotive suffering caused by not having parents in the family unit in New Zealand.

'Forced' Sponsoring

The timing of 'forced' sponsoring applications was determined by the perceived urgency of the circumstances that prompted the application.

6.4 Entry under the Parent Sub-Category

The age range of the parents we spoke with was 57 to 83 years. Residence was applied for under the parent sub-category because age and, in a few cases, perceived lack of money, would have prevented the parents qualifying under another category.

7.0 Awareness and Understanding of Obligations

Section 7.0 focuses on sponsors' and parents' awareness and understanding of the obligations associated with sponsoring. It also includes comment on what other obligations sponsors would consider undertaking in order to sponsor parents and the reasons for this.

At the time the research was carried out sponsors had to sign the following Sponsor's Declaration on the sponsorship form:

E. Sponsor's Declaration

I confirm that for the people listed in Section C (questions 1 and 3), I:

- will ensure adequate accommodation in New Zealand is available; and
- will, if necessary, provide accommodation in New Zealand for the first 24 months of their residence in New Zealand; and
- understand that if my residence permit is subject to requirements, then their residence permits will be subject to a requirement that I comply with my requirements; and
- will, if necessary, provide financial support to them for the first 24 months of their residence in New Zealand (does not apply to Family category sponsors who have been recognised as refugees, or Humanitarian category sponsors).

Signature of sponsor

--	--	--

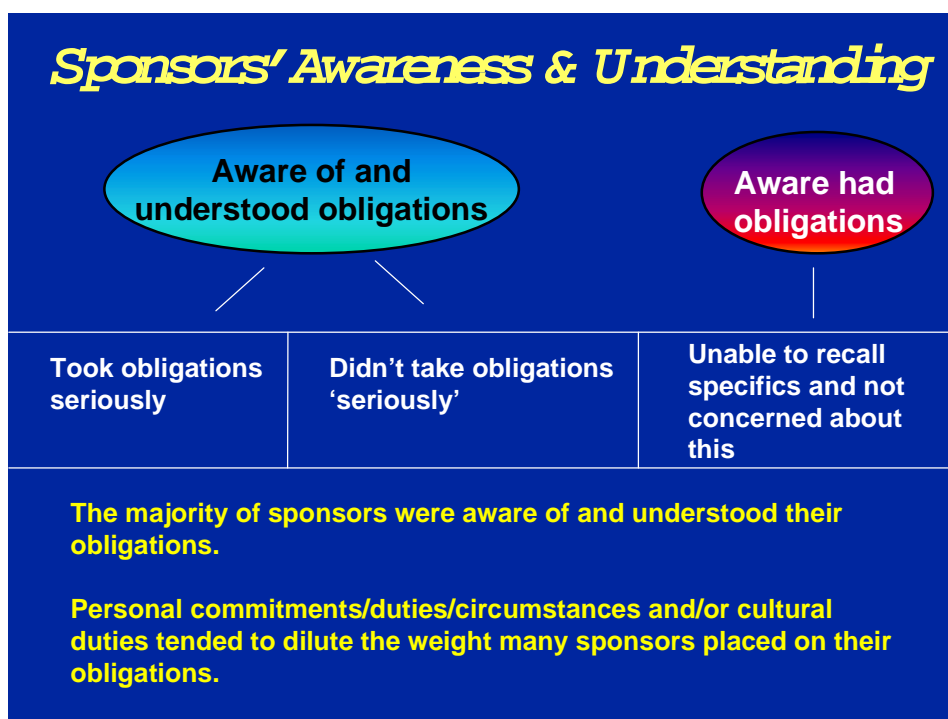
day month year

Prior to 1 July 1998 sponsors were required to ensure adequate accommodation and financial support was available for the first 12 months of their relatives residence in New Zealand. On 1 July 1998 the time period was extended to 24 months. Almost all the sponsors interviewed for this research became sponsors while their obligations covered the first 12 month period of their relatives residence in New Zealand.

7.1 Awareness

Sponsors' Awareness and Understanding

Sponsors were mixed in their understanding of the obligations associated with sponsoring as shown diagrammatically below. Where sponsors were aware of their obligations they understood this to be providing housing and financial support for the first twelve months that parents were in New Zealand (one sponsor was aware that support now had to be provided for 2 years).



Regardless of sponsors' awareness and understanding of their obligations sponsors (except one person) had a strong sense of personal and/or cultural commitment to helping and providing for parents when they arrived in NZ. Two sponsors indicated that had the financial obligation been called on, they could not have fulfilled this because of their constrained financial position.

Apart from wanting to help parents because of a sense of love and responsibility for their welfare, sponsors were familiar with the physical disruption and emotional upheaval associated with migrating and wanted to make settling in as easy a process as possible. The effect of sponsors having a *'personal and/or cultural commitment'* to parents diluted the importance they placed on their obligations. Other factors that contributed to this diluting effect included:

- awareness that parents were in a better financial position than sponsors and unlikely to seek assistance from sponsors;
- not being in a position to provide a home and/or financial support if called on to provide such support (2 sponsors only).

Many sponsors were aware that parents were not entitled to apply for any New Zealand government benefits (WINZ) for a certain period. While some were aware that this was for 12 months (one sponsor indicated that this period had now been extended to two years), others were uncertain whether it was 2 years, 5 years or more.

Parents' Awareness And Understanding

Several parents were aware that sponsors had an obligation to provide them with a home and financial support for the first year. Whether parents called on this obligation depended on their own financial circumstances and ability to function independently.

Some parents were not aware that they would ever be entitled to a benefit from the New Zealand government (WINZ). Usually they did not recall signing a declaration that they would not apply for a (WINZ) benefit in New Zealand for a certain period.

Some parents were aware that they could eventually get a pension from the New Zealand Government but were sketchy about the length of time before benefit entitlement started.

"I think it's ten years isn't it?"

7.2 Additional Obligations

The sponsors were asked to consider what additional obligations they would have undertaken in order to bring parents to New Zealand. Most sponsors did not identify any conditions that would have prevented them sponsoring a parent and when prompted by the researcher, were adamant that because the decision to sponsor parents was primarily emotive, the following factors would not have prevented them becoming a sponsor:

- parents could never participate in the public health system
- parents could never apply for any benefits
- sponsors had an obligation to provide financially for parents for the first ten years of their residence

This indicates that sponsors had a high threshold for the obligations they were willing to undertake.

The two sponsors who could not have met their current obligations if they had been called on to do so, would not have considered undertaking more extensive obligations. In short, they would not have become sponsors.

8.0 The Sponsoring Experience

This section discusses the reasons for sponsoring parents to New Zealand and explores the fit between the expectations and reality of sponsoring.

8.1 Reasons for Sponsoring

Parents were sponsored to New Zealand primarily for emotive reasons. Sponsors brought parents out for reasons that were generated from within, either by themselves or by parents. Any one or more of the following could be reasons for sponsoring parents.

Reasons For Sponsoring

	Emotive Reasons	Rational/Functional Reasons
<p>Reasons that arise within the sponsor because Of feelings generated by the self</p>	<p>Desire for family reunification (for personal and/or cultural reasons).</p> <p>Majority of family lives in New Zealand.</p> <p>Peace of mind and ability to “keep an eye on” or “care for” ageing parents.</p> <p>Concern for parents’ safety, eg if they remained in South Africa.</p>	<p>Not having easy access to provide assistance if needed by a parent, eg home maintenance.</p> <p>No one available in country of origin to provide parents with caregiving should this be necessary now, or become so in the future.</p> <p>Need for help, especially with childcare and housekeeping (2 sponsors).</p>
<p>Reasons that arise within a sponsor because of feelings generated by parental influence</p>	<p>Desire for family reunification (for personal and/or cultural reasons).</p> <p>Parental fear of living alone and/or having few family or friends nearby in <i>their country</i>.</p> <p>Parental pressure.</p>	<p>Parent wanting to provide practical help to a sponsor’s family, eg to give childcare or help with a new baby.</p>

8.2 Support Provision

Overview

While most sponsors and parents were generally satisfied with the level of support given to and received from the other party, some gaps existed. Similarly gaps were identified in the support provided by external sources (discussed later).

Support Given By Sponsors To Parents

Parents had varying levels of need in terms of the level of support required from sponsors, ranging from nothing to being almost fully dependent on sponsors. The level of support required depended on a range of factors including:

- sponsors' personal sense of commitment and/or duty;
- parents' personality and circumstances;
- cultural factors.

*"I don't need anything else from them, just peace and love. Money it comes and goes but peace of mind and love always it remains"
[Indian female parent].*

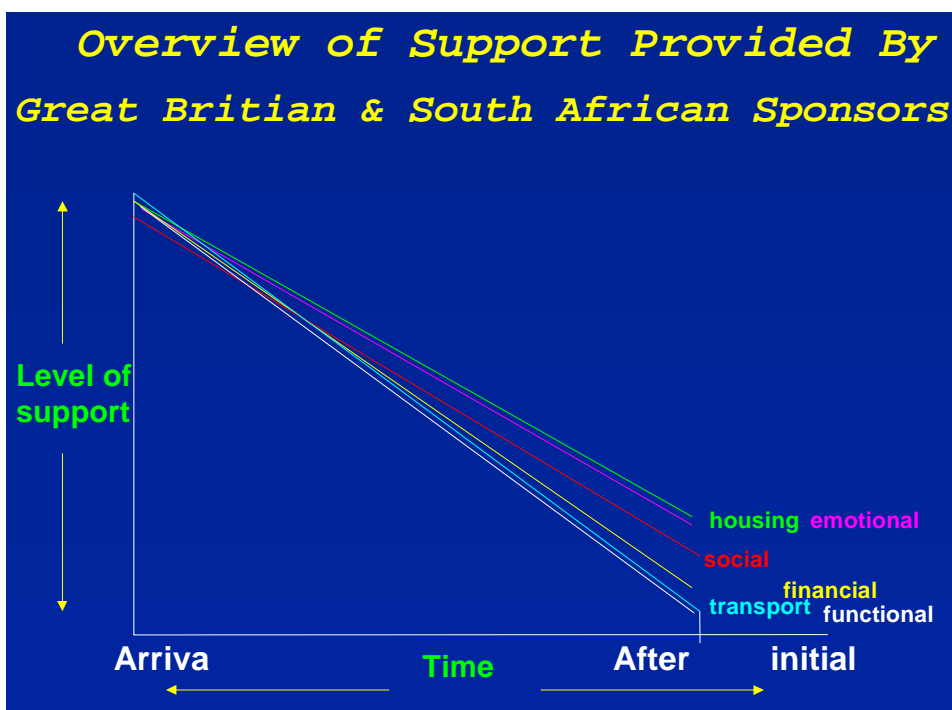
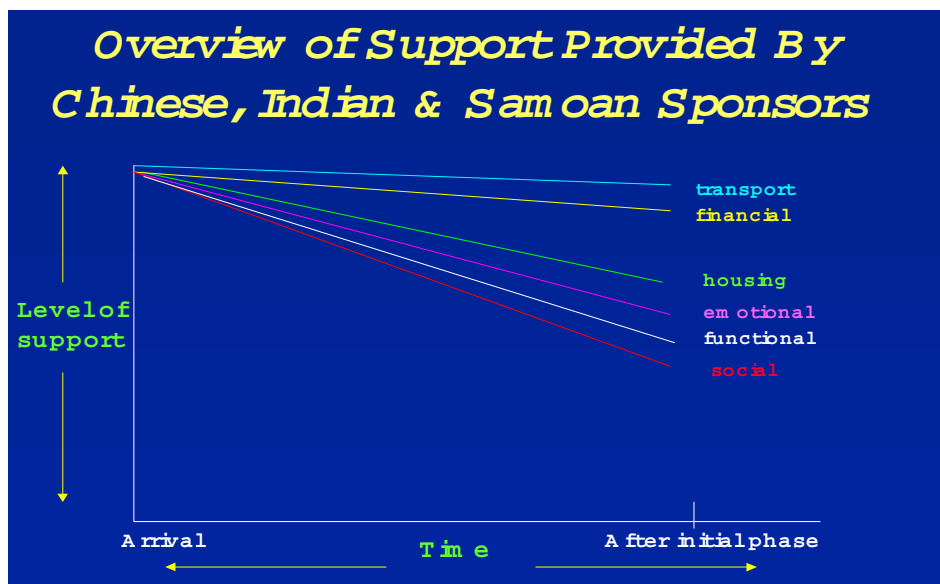
As shown in the table overleaf, most sponsors had been able to decrease the level of support provided to parents over time. The key factors determining the level of initial and ongoing support required by parents was their financial situation, ability to adjust to the loss of family, friends and the family home in the country of origin and their commitment to and ability to integrate into New Zealand society or a local ethnic community.

Support Given By Sponsors To Parents

	Immediately After Arrival	At time of Interview
Shelter	<p>A home.</p> <p>Most sponsors</p>	<p>Some sponsors permanently have a parent living in their home (either because of financial considerations or for cultural/family reasons).</p>
Financial	<p>Cost of living.</p> <p>Pocket money.</p> <p>Some sponsors</p>	<p>Some sponsors continued to pay some or all living expenses (can have a cultural basis).</p> <p>Other sponsors provided tide-over finance as required.</p>
Emotional	<p>Empathising with homesick, lonely or depressed parents and in some cases, with parents unable to find employment.</p> <p>Most sponsors</p>	<p>Sponsors appeared to provide between a quarter and half the level of emotional support initially given.</p> <p>Some sponsors continued to provide daily support in terms of a phone call or visit.</p>
Social	<p>Took on outings, introduced parents to the local church and/or one's circle of friends.</p> <p>All sponsors</p>	<p>Social support from the sponsor to the parents was now largely replaced by social contact between the parties.</p> <p>English speaking parents were more likely to have established their own social circles.</p>
Transport	<p>Provided transport as and when required.</p> <p>Most sponsors</p>	<p>A few parents now had their own cars. However many parents were still reliant on their sponsor and family for transport, eg weekly grocery trip.</p>
Functional	<p>Arranged any one or more of the following:</p> <p>Booked parents in with a GP.</p> <p>Obtained investment and taxation information.</p> <p>Obtained an IRD number.</p> <p>Arranged a Community Services Card.</p> <p>Arranged certification of a motor vehicle brought from country of origin.</p> <p>Arranged health insurance.</p> <p>Located a rental property.</p> <p>Assisted parents shift into their own accommodation.</p> <p>NB: most of the above are 'one off' forms of support.</p> <p>All sponsors</p>	<p>As and when required, eg home maintenance.</p> <p>A few still required ongoing help with banking, eg using Eftpos or phone banking.</p>

Key Cultural Differences for Sponsors

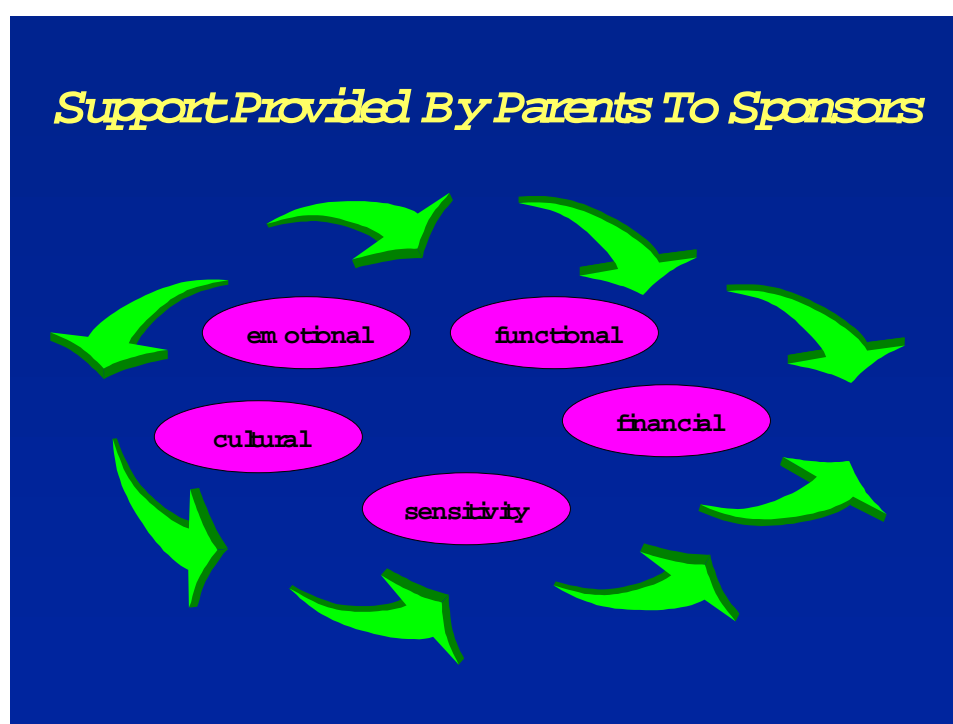
Most sponsors were able to decrease the level of support they provided over time. However, Chinese, Indian and Samoan parents tended to receive higher levels of ongoing support than parents from Great Britain or South Africa.



Support Given By Parents To Sponsors

Parents had provided sponsors with any one or more of the following types of support since arriving in New Zealand:

Type of Support	Purpose of Support
Emotional	» Provided love to sponsor and his/her family.
Functional	» Provided childcare and/or housekeeping assistance (mothers) » Provided home handyman assistance (fathers)
Cultural	» Continuation of cultural practises.
Financial	» Assisted with daily living expenses if the parent resided with sponsor. » Tide-over finance. » Assisted sponsor with the cost of building a new home (50% of the cost was 'donated').
'Sensitivity'	» Tried to appear emotionally strong in front of sponsor when "feeling down" (to avoid feeling a burden on the sponsor).



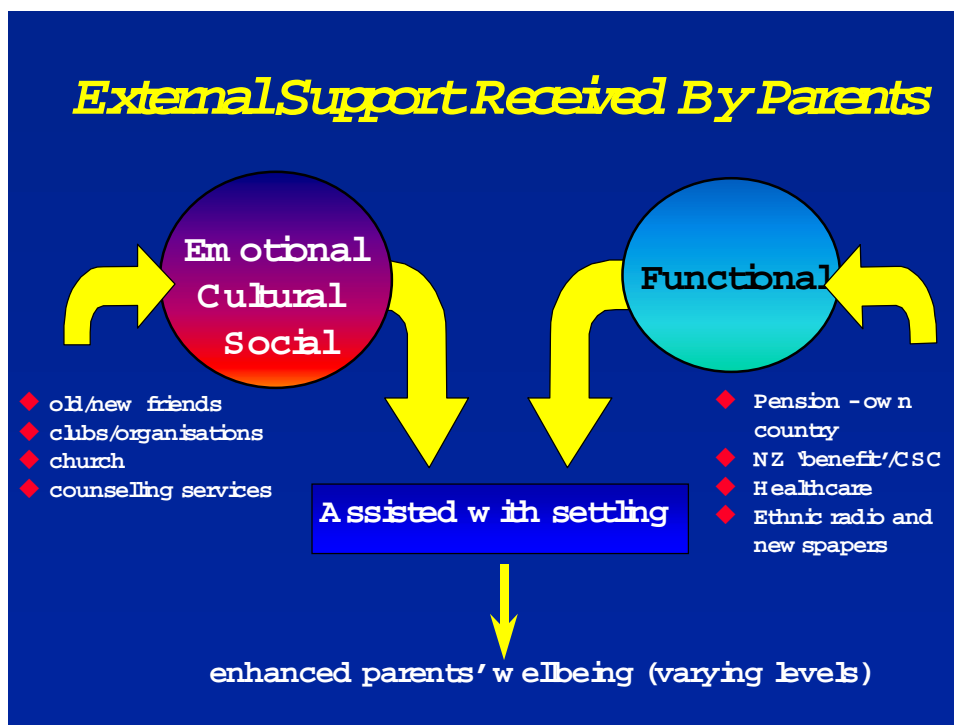
Parental Support Received From External Sources

In the initial settlement phase, the sponsor and the immediate family network were the primary providers of support for parents. External sources of support were mainly of an emotive or social nature and tended to get used after an initial settlement period.

Source and Type of Support	Benefits of Support
Emotional and Social	
Friends from country of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » An opportunity to “talk of home”. » An empathetic ear when a parent felt “down”.
New friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Having another place to visit reassured a few parents that they were “settling in”.
Friends in country of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Letters and phone calls “home” eased homesickness.
Clubs and organisations, eg 60's Up, South Africa New Zealand Society, local bridge club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Establishing a social network.
Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Spiritual counsel and establishing a social network.
Undertaker's counselling service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To work through the grieving process following the death of a spouse.
Economic	
Pensions from country of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sometimes used in New Zealand, sometimes left to accumulate in country of origin.
Income support, WINZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To contribute financially to the household, or to establish independence.
Community Services Card (CSC), WINZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To gain discounts on GP visits.

Source and Type of Support	Benefits of Support
Information	
Chinese radio stations and newspapers	» Access to news and information.
Books from home	» Companionship and to ease homesickness.
Functional	
GP	» General health care.
Public hospital	» Tests.
Private Hospital	» Surgery.

The external support parents received assisted with their settlement.



Key Gaps In Support Provision

Areas where more assistance could have been useful in helping parents to settle are shown below.

Area of Assistance Required	Purpose Of Support
Developing social networks and finding ways of contributing to the local community and New Zealand society	» To help overcome “isolation” and give people a sense of belonging, self worth and purpose.
Learning about New Zealand, eg legal, taxation, rights of the elderly, current affairs	» To empower individuals.
Learning English	» To empower individuals by overcoming the language barrier and becoming more integrated into New Zealand society.
Obtain employment	» To achieve greater financial independence.
Given that assistance to overcome some of the above gaps is available in the community, this suggests a need to raise people’s awareness of support groups in the community, eg Citizen’s Advice Bureau.	

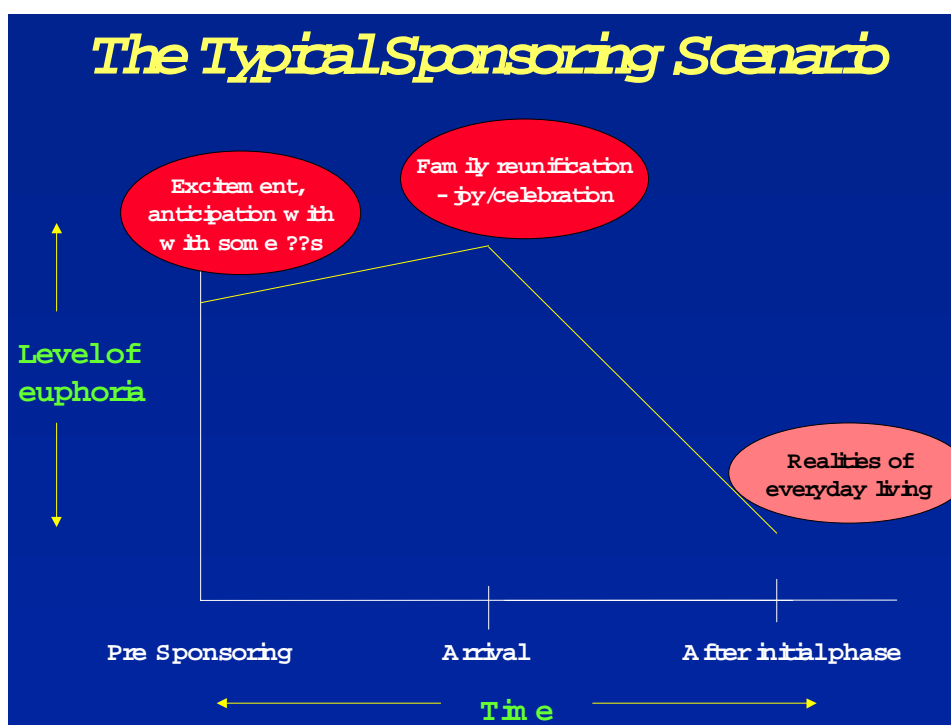
It is worth mentioning that a few parents felt isolated within their own family because sponsors had “*very busy*” lives and were unable to give parents a great deal of time. Ideally these parents would have liked some external support to help bridge this gap.

8.3 Expectations Versus Reality of Living in New Zealand

Overview

The sponsors and parents were asked to outline their expectations of what life would be like with parents living in New Zealand and to what extent this fitted with reality.

In some instances, prior to parents arriving, both parties experienced considerable euphoria about being reunited with parents, eg family reunification. This translated to some people being 'blinded' (albeit in varying levels) about the implications of parents leaving their country of origin and adapting to life in New Zealand. In essence, this resulted in some sponsors and parents being under prepared for the sponsoring experience, eg encountering difficulties they had not considered, such as a parent suffering depression because of missing friends and/or the homeland (and the sponsor not knowing how to deal with the situation).



Those who took a more pragmatic approach to the impending immigration of parents, considered the potential 'ups and downs' of parents living in New Zealand. While considering potential 'issues' mentally geared people for what was ahead, it depended on an individual's ability to cope how well he/she fared with reality. In some instances parents and sponsors coped well, while in other instances the result was less positive (although typically improved over time).

The arrival of parents was typically a time of rejoicing and celebration. However, once the 'honeymoon' period was over, the realities of everyday life became apparent and this was a time when difficulties began to emerge. It is emphasised that some sponsors and parents experienced minimal difficulties at any point.

Overall the fit between many parents' expectations and reality was poor. The fit between sponsors' expectations and reality was better than for parents, ranging from 'moderate' to 'good' (although as mentioned some sponsors were under-prepared for the experience).

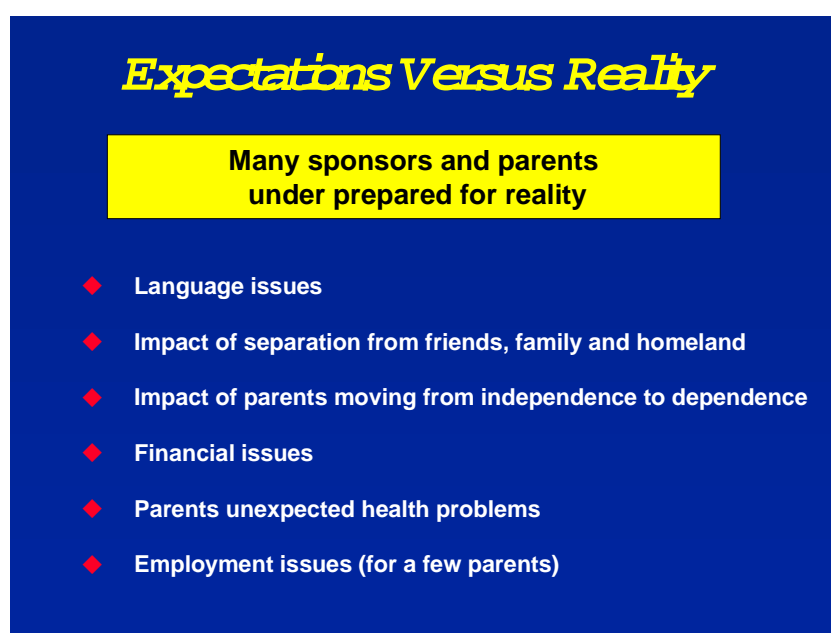
Key Area Where Expectations Exceeded Reality

On a positive note, several sponsors were surprised at parents' improved state of physical health in New Zealand. One South African sponsor commented about the improved psychological wellbeing of his parents after they settled into this country.

"There's an enormous weight off their shoulders – they've rediscovered their youth now they haven't got the security issue. The quality of life is very good here. The freedom to go anywhere. The freedom to say anything at anytime. The freedom to read anything and the availability of things – intellectually and materially. The wide open spaces, lack of people, lack of queues and laid back attitude – it's a more relaxed attitude to life."

Key Area Where Expectations Did Not Meet Reality

However, as mentioned previously many sponsors and parents were underprepared for the reality of sponsoring for any one or more of the following reasons.



Expectations Versus Reality

Many sponsors and parents under prepared for reality

- ◆ Language issues
- ◆ Impact of separation from friends, family and homeland
- ◆ Impact of parents moving from independence to dependence
- ◆ Financial issues
- ◆ Parents unexpected health problems
- ◆ Employment issues (for a few parents)

The impact of not having English as a first language had not been anticipated by some Asian parents or sponsors. Not being able to speak English socially isolated parents in their neighbourhood, prevented them from accessing media information, taking public transport and developing social networks among New Zealanders. This reinforced their dependence on their sponsor and reliance on having contact with people from their own ethnic group in order to feel included and preserve their self esteem.

“I feel quite down in New Zealand. It’s a very quiet life here, totally different. I feel lost. You see in China, I could watch TV, read newspapers, had easy access to lots of information.”

“My mother is quite old [87 years] and is very isolated. She can’t speak English or drive so she hasn’t been able to make friends easily. I need to spend lots of time with her because I have no idea where to go for help.”

As shown in the quote below parental language difficulties can have implications for how sponsors run their own life (and for New Zealand’s economy).

“Because I have to spend so much time with her I have less time to spend talking to my own friends and business associates. I was quite high up in the Chinese community in Mainland China and before my mother arrived I used to have more time to set up business deals and I used to talk to my friends and tell them what a good place New Zealand was to visit. Since my mother has arrived I can’t spend so much time doing these things. The impact on New Zealand is that there is less money coming in from Chinese visitors and business people.”

Anticipating the loss of friends and/or the homeland did not adequately prepare some parents (especially females) for physical separation. Missing friends and feeling homesick caused some parents to feel depressed. Having to try and *disguise* this from a sponsor often added to feelings of depression. However, this also created a strain for some sponsors who may or may not have known how to cope with the situation and sometimes felt an added sense of responsibility to “do more” for the parent.

“I never expected Mum to get depressed and I didn’t know how to help her.”

Some parents moved from a state of independence (in employment, free/mobile) and *helping others* (eg, in church, cultural and society groups), in their country of origin to a state of dependence (unemployed, mobility restricted) and isolation in New Zealand. Difficulties in breaking into social groups and/or clubs in New Zealand or experiencing cliques within groups and clubs undermined parents' confidence and reinforced their vulnerability.

"Parents here need to find something meaningful to do, otherwise they just lose interest and face depression. They feel isolated. Old people here have their own groups and there are the cultural differences. In Indian society as you get older you are more involved with your family - and you get respect. Here - if there is a big family that is fine, but if there is a small family it is hard, especially for the men. In India they always seem to find something to do, or if they do nothing they still get respect. Here it is not like that - there is no one to acknowledge them."

Inability of a parent to obtain employment was contrary to expectations and resulted in depression and financial hardship for a few parents.

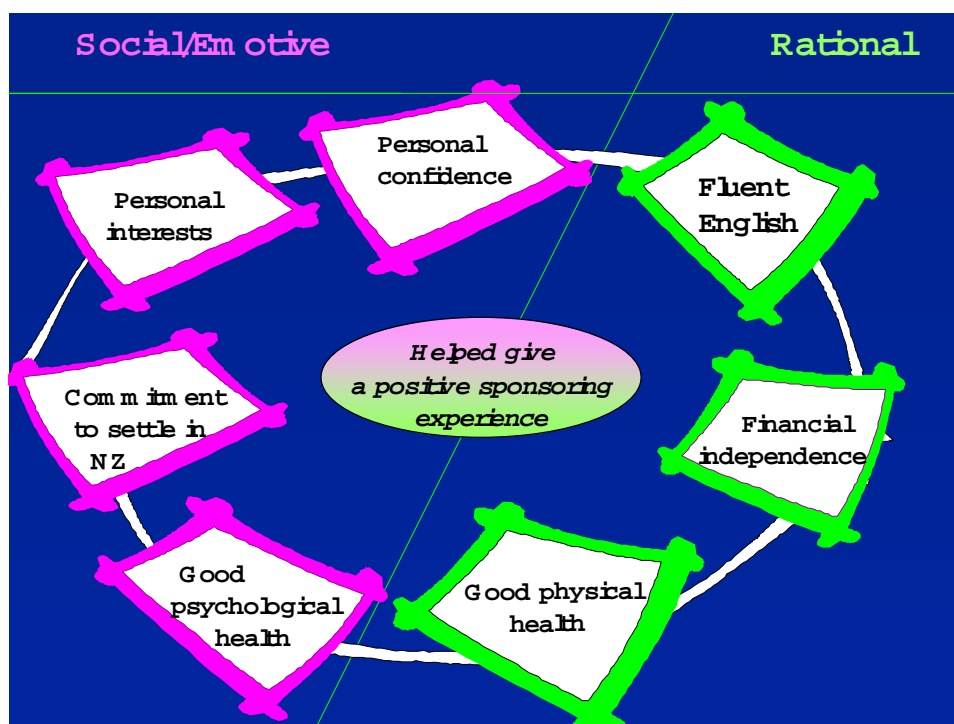
"She [parent's sponsor] told me that you can work, you can get a job, everything will be alright but we are struggling [financially because I am not in employment]."

From some sponsors' perspective, the following key issues were a downside to sponsoring, primarily in the early stages:

- financially providing for parents
= a drain of personal resources
- parents overstaying their welcome in sponsor's home
= tension between both parties – *cabin fever*
- a few sponsors had experienced parental sickness or death shortly after parents arrived. This placed mental, physical and/or financial stresses on sponsors.

Parents appeared more likely to have a positive settlement in New Zealand if they had several of the following characteristics present:

- fluent English
- financial independence
- good psychological and physical health
- personal confidence
- personal interests, eg hobbies
- commitment to integrate themselves into the New Zealand lifestyle



Key Differences

<p>» Cultural Differences</p>	
<p>Sponsors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Chinese, Indian and Samoan sponsors had cultural as well as personal reasons for wanting to 'do for' parents, whereas Great Britain and South African sponsors had predominantly personal reasons. » Chinese, Indian and Samoan sponsors were required to provide greater levels of support after the initial phase than were Great Britain and South African sponsors. » The non-observation of the caste system in New Zealand placed greater pressures on some Indian sponsors, eg they had to carry out mundane tasks for parents (such as banking) which would otherwise have been carried out by lower caste 'helpers'.
<p>Parents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parents from Great Britain and South Africa experienced less of a 'culture shock' coming to New Zealand than did Chinese, Indian and Samoan parents. » In this study, South African parents appeared to have made the cleanest break with their country of origin. » Indian parents were uncomfortable accepting assistance from daughters (this had implications for female Indian sponsors 'honouring' their obligations). » Chinese and Indian parents were more likely to 'commute' between New Zealand and their country of origin than other sponsors. » Some Chinese and Samoan parents expressed a desire to return to their homeland to die (although they had not considered the mechanics of how this would occur, which is another example of people being under-prepared).
<p>» Gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Overall male sponsors were less likely than female sponsors to be empathetic to parental 'distress' in the initial phase (and beyond).
<p>» Family Distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parents who had close relationships with people in their homeland (eg, offspring, grandchildren, siblings) were less likely to feel as settled in New Zealand as parents who did not have these connections.

9.0 Perceived Costs and Benefits

This section of the report discusses the perceived costs and benefits of sponsoring from the sponsors' and parents' perspectives. These issues are discussed at the individual, community and society level.

The perceived costs and benefits of sponsoring for sponsors and parents are shown below in separate tables for ease of reading. We point out that a number of commonalities exist between the sponsor and parent tables.

9.1 The Sponsors' Perspective

Many sponsors perceived no costs were involved with sponsoring parents, although it was evident that some costs were being incurred, eg a Samoan sponsor providing parents with food and money *“when they ran short”*. This highlights that perceptions of cost can depend on a sponsor's cultural (and personal) perception of cost.

“The Island way is a sharing way of life. ... The immigration people don't have a good understanding of the sharing way of the Samoan culture.”

The Sponsor Perspective - Perceived Benefits and Costs to Sponsors

Benefits	Costs
<p>Emotive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reunification of the family enabled the sharing of love and support, including sponsors' children being able to enjoy a relationship with grandparents. » Can share in cultural practises with parents. » Inner satisfaction that parents can enjoy the peace and security of New Zealand having been freed from a "troubled country" (South Africa). » Parent carries out housekeeping tasks and/or cooks for the household – can be a "boost" at the end of a busy working day through reducing stress levels and giving more time for other activities, eg relaxation. » Peace of mind knowing that one "can do" for parents if required. » Can become a future caregiver if parents take sick (sponsor may feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to function in this role if required). 	<p>Emotive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cabin fever - disagreements between sponsor and parent and/or sponsor and partner when parents lived with sponsor. Conflict and resulting tension was typically caused by day to day living issues, eg "<i>leaving stuff lying around</i>". The problem was resolved when parents moved out. » Inability to know how to help a homesick or depressed parent "<i>work things through</i>". » Worrying that a Samoan parent could become seriously ill (eg, through "a bad cold") in a cooler climate. » Guilt that (often daily) contact with parent is an extra commitment adding to the stress in an often busy life.
<p>Functional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Economic gain because parents provide child care which enables other family members to work. » Economic gain if parent contributes savings and/or benefit to household. » Sick leave is preserved when children are unwell because parents provide childcare. » Advice from parents, eg on investments, career development. » Parents appear healthier here, due to "cleaner environment" or "less stress". » Parents can access health care if required. 	<p>Functional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Drain on financial resources in the early stage (or on-going) through paying parents' living expenses, high toll bills, and taking them out, eg lunch, trips.

9.2 The Parents' Perspective

Parents who were sponsored experienced any one or more of the following costs and benefits.

The Parent Perspective - Perceived Benefits and Costs to Parents

Benefits	Costs
<p>Emotive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reunification of the family enables the sharing of love and support, including children being able to enjoy a relationship with grandparents. » Removes the fear of being isolated in the country of origin, eg may not have family there and friends are dying. » Enjoy a sense of peace and security of New Zealand having been freed from a "troubled country" (South Africa), or "crowded conditions" (India). » Carries out housekeeping tasks and/or cooks for the household – gives a sense of contributing and enhanced self esteem. » Opportunity to meet new people and broaden one's horizons. 	<p>Emotive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Loss of friendships and family home in the country of origin – can contribute to bouts of introspection, homesickness or depression. » Not having sufficient money to buy a home reinforces one's dependent situation and can cause diminished self esteem. » Having to make new friends – can feel a daunting task if a parent is more reserved and has more limited social skills. » Adapting to a culturally different lifestyle can be confusing. » Not being able to find employment undermines a parent's self worth and ability to feel independent. » Not feeling confident about using public transport can increase dependence. » Sense of dependence on sponsor can cause diminished self esteem.
<p>Functional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Indirectly provides economic gain for sponsor's family through providing childcare (means sponsor and partner can both work). » Sponsor/partner's sick leave is preserved when children are unwell because parents can provide childcare (gives a sense of contributing and enhanced self esteem). 	<p>Functional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Living with a sponsor and wanting to contribute to living expenses can drain a parent's financial resources. » The relative exchange rates may mean that parents feel they have "lost" money coming here. <p><i>"I had a small amount of savings when I came out but I've used up about three quarters of them [contributing to living expenses]."</i></p>

How Parents Benefit The Local Community and Ethnic Groups

Parents were perceived by sponsors and themselves as making any one or more of the following contributions to local communities and ethnic groups:

- **Social/Cultural**
 - Enhancing the viability of local clubs with small memberships (eg, rubber bridge club).
 - Adding cultural diversity to local clubs, organisations.
 - Developing and/or taking leadership roles in ethnic groups.
 - Injecting new life and variety into a local community.
 - Acting as a support person to new migrants, eg within the South African New Zealand Society.
 - Practising cultural traditions, eg running cooking lessons at the Samoan church.
 - Contributing to other people's happiness through friendship.
 - Several parents expressed a strong desire to contribute more to their local communities, eg through church, social and cultural groups. However, lack of opportunity, eg through it being difficult to 'break into' groups (refer earlier) was preventing these parents contributing as desired. This highlights a willingness on the part of some parents to be greater contributors.

- **Economic**
 - Extending the 'wealth' of one's ethnic group, eg providing free barber services to the Samoan community.
 - Supporting the local economy by shopping within the area.

What Parents Cost The Local Community and Ethnic Groups

The majority viewpoint of parents and sponsors was that there was no cost to the local community or ethnic groups by virtue of parents living in New Zealand.

However, a few people perceived that parents incurred small costs for the local community, eg time given by people visiting or taking parents out.

How Parents Benefit New Zealand Society

Parents were perceived by sponsors and themselves as making any one or more of the following contributions to New Zealand society:

- ***Social/Cultural***
 - Enhancing the viability of a national organisation, eg the Brevet Club.

- ***Economic***
 - Brought money into New Zealand that was not earned in the country.
 - Contributed to the New Zealand economy by making investments here and paying taxes on investments.
 - Parents acting as caregivers for children enabled continuity of parents' employment, which in turn contributed to New Zealand's ongoing economic development.
 - A few parents with professional qualifications in science/technology/engineering saw scope for them to make a greater contribution to New Zealand society through contributing their knowledge, skills and experience (either in a voluntary capacity or paid employment).

- ***Political***
 - Voting and therefore having the ability to influence who was in government.

What Parents Cost New Zealand Society

Sponsors and parents had mixed views about whether parents were a cost to New Zealand society. One viewpoint is that little or no costs were involved, while the other viewpoint acknowledged that parents are a cost to New Zealand society.

The perspective that there is little or no financial cost to New Zealand for parents living here was underpinned by any one or more of the following factors:

- Sponsors who had lived and worked in New Zealand for a fair length of time (in a few cases over 20+ years), reasoned that they had contributed through the taxation system and this should *entitle* their parents to receive financial assistance from the New Zealand government, eg in the form of a benefit or unemployment wage.
- Some sponsors and parents from countries that have reciprocal benefit arrangements with New Zealand, did not perceive benefit entitlements as a cost to the country.
- Parents were not drawing a benefit or unemployment wage from New Zealand, therefore, they were not a cost to the country.
- Parents who did not have a Community Services Card were paying for doctor's visits and prescriptions. Where there is cognisance of a subsidy being applied to these charges, people tended to be dismissive of these charges because individually they typically did not amount to a significant amount of money.

The perception that parents are a cost to New Zealand is based on any one or more of the following factors:

- Parents were receiving a benefit or unemployment wage from the New Zealand government.
- Parents had received free treatment in the public hospital system and received a subsidy on doctor's visits and prescription charges.
- Parents who drive or use public transport were causing *wear and tear* on systems, eg roads.

In terms of future costs to New Zealand, some sponsors and parents anticipated that a subsidy may be available if parents went into a rest home. There is no evidence in this study that people associated dying with being a cost to the country. The emotive nature of the topic made it difficult for people to think of dying in economic terms.

10.0 Conclusion

The majority of sponsors in this research sponsored their parents for emotive reasons:

- reunification of the family;
- peace of mind with regard to the safety and well being of their parents;
- assurance that they were discharging their personal or cultural ‘duties’ to their ageing parents.

These sponsors wanted their parents to be part of their life in New Zealand, to be part of their grandchildren’s lives, and to share family love and support. They also felt a strong sense of responsibility for their parents. Economic gain or savings were a secondary influence on sponsoring in these cases.

A minority sponsored their parents for functional reasons, eg so that a grandparent could become the full time child care provider for a female sponsor in a situation where the father had returned to the home country because of an inability to secure employment in New Zealand.

Being able to sponsor parents to New Zealand was not a significant factor in the majority of sponsors’ original decisions to immigrate to New Zealand. The research suggests that, while the presence of parents in New Zealand may “*enhance*” the settlement process for migrants, it was not central to the successful settlement of most migrant sponsors.

However for a few sponsors the potential to sponsor parents was the factor that influenced their decision to immigrate to New Zealand, and they would not have immigrated here themselves if their parents had not been able to join them.

Sponsors generally initiated the sponsoring process. The majority of sponsors sponsored once they felt fairly “settled”. The critical success factors identified by sponsors for being settled in New Zealand included:

- ability to speak English
- their own and their family’s self esteem was intact
- integrated into New Zealand life
- stable employment/source of income
- career/job met expectations
- suitable home (ideally owned)

The main **benefits** for sponsors and parents in the reunification process were as follows:

- for sponsors:
 - love and emotional support from reunification of the family;
 - peace of mind with regard to the safety and well being of parents;
 - assistance with housekeeping tasks and child care.

- for parents:
 - love and emotional support from reunification of the family;
 - removal of the fear of being isolated in the country of origin;
 - enjoyment of the New Zealand lifestyle;
 - sense of self worth from contributing housekeeping or childcare assistance to sponsor's household.

The main **costs** for sponsors and parents in the reunification process were:

- for sponsors:
 - financial drain, if there was significant financial support required by their parents;
 - having to deal with any physical or psychological health problems of parents (eg, depression, missing relatives and loved ones in the home country). This may have been a result of parents' or sponsors' lack of preparedness for leaving their home country and adapting to life in a new country;
 - tension in the home when parents "*outstayed their welcome*".
- for parents:
 - separation from their homeland, and dealing with life in a new country;
 - the adjustment from a state of *independence* in their home country to *dependence* and isolation in the new country;
 - the need to deal with and overcome language barriers;
 - the need to find employment and, in some cases, deal with unemployment.

Overall, the main problems encountered by the individuals in this research were:

- some sponsors being unprepared for the significant event that is including their parents in their home/life here in New Zealand, and the associated needs and strains that that placed on the family unit;
- a lack of awareness among sponsors of sources of help and support for their parents, as the parents encountered problems adjusting to life in a new country.

The majority of sponsors were aware of their obligations and successfully met them. A minority of sponsors were not aware of their obligations or would not have been able to meet their obligations if called upon to do so. These sponsors' parents were generally in a much more stable financial situation than the sponsors were themselves. Therefore although the sponsors had signed "obligations" they had not anticipated that these would have to be taken seriously.

Most sponsors felt that obligations for sponsors to provide accommodation and financial assistance if required for from one to two years were reasonable. This research suggested that because the motivations for sponsoring parents were primarily emotive most sponsors would be willing to tolerate more stringent obligations, although this would cause financial hardship in some cases.

Discussion Guides

Sponsoring Parents Research

Sponsors - Revised Discussion Guide

Key focus on **cost**, **benefits** and **outcomes** of sponsoring parents for:

- migrants sponsors
- parents
- (extended) family
- ethnic communities
- the wider community

Introduction – 5 mins

- Welcome, introductions, thank for participating.
- Explanation of purpose the research and discussion format.
- Emphasis no right/wrong answers and importance of individual viewpoints.
- Provide assurances of confidentiality.
- Consent for audio taping.

1. Background – 10 mins

*Objectives: To build rapport with Participant
To provide a context for other information obtained during interview.*

Firstly, I'm interesting about hearing about your life in NZ and how you came to live there.

- When did R come to NZ?
- Who came to NZ with R, e.g. partner, children?
- What countries did R consider immigrating to? **Probe countries considered and process for narrowing choice set down, motivations for choosing NZ.**
- What family did R leave behind when he/she came to NZ? **Probe number of parents, siblings, other family, e.g. cousins, aunts, uncles.**
- Where did R's family live? **Probe if R's country of origin or other (and if so, where).**
- How easy or difficult was it for R to leave his/her country? **Seek spontaneous response and then probe on feelings associated with leaving family, particularly parents, behind.**

- How well settled does R **presently** feel? **Probe using a 5 point scale where 1 = not very well settled and 5 = very settled. This 'exercise' can be done by interviewer 'demonstrating' the scale with her hands.**
- How come R said a score of X out of 5? **Probe factors that are contributing to R being settled, e.g. stable employment, got career opportunities, got own house, adjusted to NZ lifestyle/lower wages/higher taxes/, parents living in NZ, other.**

2. Sponsoring Parents and What it Means – 15 mins

Thinking now about sponsoring parents to New Zealand.

- How many parents did R sponsor?
- How did R know that he/she could sponsor parents? **Probe source and time, e.g. before/after leaving country of origin.**

If not already discussed and if appropriate:

- To what extent, if any, did being able to sponsor parents, influence R's decision to immigrate to NZ? Would R have still come to NZ? How come?
- What circumstances led up to R deciding to sponsor parents? Tell me step by step how the idea came up, e.g. who initiated it and why etc? **Probe to understand the factors that led to R becoming a sponsor?**
- What, if anything, would have stopped R from sponsoring? **Probe to identify factors and reasons.**
- What, if anything, would have stopped R's parents from coming to NZ? **Probe to identify factors, e.g. family ties and reasons.**
- **At time of deciding to sponsor**, how settled did R feel? **Probe extent to which settled and factors contributing to this.**
- After a decision was made to sponsor, how long did it take for R's parents to arrive in NZ?
- How come it took X time? **Probe for factors that influenced timing, e.g. parental readiness, extent to which R settled, other.**
- Did R ever consider anything that might have stopped his/her parents being sponsored? **Probe to identify any barriers (e.g. Immigration Policy), parents couldn't cope with leaving country of origin and what made R consider these barriers.**
- Before parents arrived, what did R feel would be the good/not so good things about sponsoring parents? **Probe expected benefits and costs reasons.**

Thinking about the actual sponsorship process.

- How did R find the sponsoring process?
- What was good/not so good about? How come?
- How could the process be made better?
- What difference would improvements make and for whom?

Repeat to explore R's perceptions of how his/her parents found the sponsoring process.

Thinking now about being a sponsor.

- What did R understand it meant to be a sponsor? **Seek spontaneous responses and then probe on legal obligations, personal/family/cultural 'obligations'.**
- How easy/difficult was it for R to understand his/her legal obligations as a sponsor?
- What made it easy/difficult to understand?
- How did R feel about these legal obligations? How come?
- How well does R feel he/she has met his/her legal obligations? How come? **Probe to identify any gaps.**
- What other things, if any, would R have been willing to undertake as a legal obligation when sponsoring parents? **Probe to identify and seek reasons that would have made R take X obligation on. Sarah – I know that NZIS said not to, but I did prompt sponsor Rs on the following as they were unable to generate factors themselves (we won't understand sponsors' threshold unless we ask this question).**
 - **No benefit entitlement for parents for 10 years/ever**
 - **Parents unable to participate in public health system**

3. Types of Support Provided/Required

This is a key section and needs to be unpacked and probed around to a considerable extent.

Just briefly we'll talk about your parents.

- What family, if any, did R's parent leave behind? **Probe children, siblings, cousins, other and where relatives were living, e.g. same/different country/area as parents.**
- Thinking about R's parent when they were in the country of origin, what kind of people were they? **Seek spontaneous responses, then probe of personality, ability to live independently, care for self, other.**
- How similar/different are R's parents in NZ? **Probe to identify if more/less dependent and why.**

- How settled did R perceive parents were when they first arrived in NZ? **Probe using a 5 point scale where 1 = not very well settled and 5 = very settled. This 'exercise' can be done by interviewer 'demonstrating' the scale with her hands.**
- How come R said a score of X out of 5? **Probe factors contributed to parents being/not being settled. REPEAT FOR PRESENT.**
- What effect, if any, did parents' level of settlement have on R? How come?

Thinking now about the support that you've given to your parents.

- What kinds of support has R given parents? **Probe type of support, e.g. shelter, financial, social, emotional, moral, assisted with job hunting/educational activities, given parent a trip 'back home', other. PROBE FOR Immediately after arrival, 6 – 12 months after arrival and present (Sarah – this will let us track the level of parental dependence over time).**
- To what extent does R see parents relied/rely on his/her support? **Probe perceived level of dependence over the 3 time points.**
- Which kinds of support were the most/least important at each point? How come?
- What kind of support, if any, have other family members given? **Probe type and extent of any support given, e.g. by sponsor's siblings.**
- **For each kind of support ask – At what point was X support given? Probe timing (check if ongoing) and perceived impact of support.**
- What kind of support, if any, have parents received from outside the family? **Probe type, source (e.g. 60's Up) and extent of any support given.**
- At what point was this support given? **Probe timing (check if ongoing) and perceived impact of support.**
- What support hasn't been provided that could have benefitted R's parents? **Probe type, source and reasons support not given and impact of it not being received.**
- What services are R's parent using? **Probe to identify health, elderly care, educational, employment services used and the nature of use.**

- Has R received any support to help with parents? **Probe type, source, timing and extent of any support given (check to see if ongoing).**

4. Overall Costs and Benefits of Sponsoring Parents

Thinking about having sponsored your parents to New Zealand.

- What does R see are the good and not so good things from his/her parents being sponsored to NZ. **Probe to identify good (benefits) and not so good (costs) factors and reasons.**
DO THIS QUESTION/PROBE INITIALLY FOR SPONSOR, THEN REPEAT FOR PERCEPTIONS OF BENEFITS/COSTS TO PARENTS AND EXTENDED FAMILY (family circle).

Thinking now beyond the family circle.

Community

- What, if anything, does R see parents put into the community? **Probe to identify contributions parents make.**
- What difference does this make for the community? How come?
- What, if anything does R see that parents 'take' from the community? **Seek spontaneous responses, then probe on use of health, elderly care, educational and employment services.**
- How does R see that this impacts on the community? How come?

NZ Society

- What, if anything, does R see parents put into New Zealand at the society level? **Probe to identify contributions parents make.**
- What difference does this make for NZ Society? How come?
- What, if anything does R see that parents 'take' from NZ at the society level? **Seek spontaneous responses, then probe on use of health, elderly care, educational and employment services.**
- How does R see that this impacts on NZ society? How come?

We've almost finished the interview. Just before we close off, there's a sentence here that we'd like you to complete.

Interviewer to show the following sentence on a show card and get R to verbally complete it.

“Overall sponsoring a parent or parents is _____ because _____”.

Are there any other comments that you'd like to make about sponsoring parents before we finish? **IF YES – probe to identify and understand.**

**THANK RESPONDENTS.
GIVE INCENTIVE.**

Sponsoring Parents Research

Parents - Discussion Guide

Introduction – 5 mins

- Welcome, introductions, thank for participating.
- Explanation of purpose the research and discussion format.
- Emphasis no right/wrong answers and importance of individual viewpoints.
- Provide assurances of confidentiality.
- Consent for audio taping.

1. Background – 10 mins

*Objectives: To build rapport with Participant
To provide a context for other information obtained during interview.*

First, how long have you been living in New Zealand?

Probe:

- When immigrated?
- Where from?
- Who came with?
- Why was NZ chosen?
- What was the prime motivator?
- What barriers/problems were faced?

And here in New Zealand, can you describe your household?

Probe:

- Who lives with?
- Renting or own home?
- Who is working? Looking for work? Studying? Helping out at home?
- Level of involvement in local/ethnic community?
- English ability of household members

What have you been doing work-wise since you have been in New Zealand?

Probe:

- Previous employment
- Previous education, any current training

What has the last year or so has been like for you?

Probe:

- Highlights?
- Low points?

What would you like to see happen in the next year or so?

Probe:

- Perceived likelihood of these things happening

2. Being Sponsored as a Parent and What it Means – 15 mins

Please tell me who personally sponsored you to come to New Zealand?

Probe:

- When?
- Where from?
- How long was it after your sponsor came to New Zealand themselves?

Why did you decide to apply for residence under the **parent** category?

This is a key theme and needs to be unpacked and probed around to a considerable extent

Probe:

- Who initiated the sponsoring process?
- Why was it initiated?
- What did you think would be the **benefits** of being sponsored here?
- What **difficulties** did you think you would face with being sponsored to New Zealand?
- Why were you sponsored when you were?
- Did the timing have anything to do with how “settled” your sponsor was in New Zealand?

Would you still have immigrated to New Zealand if you were not able to be sponsored?

How well did you and your sponsor understand the sponsorship process?

Probe:

- Was there anything you didn't understand?
- How could it be improved?

What do you believe is expected of sponsors?

Probe:

- What do you think sponsors have to do?
- What do sponsors have to provide for their parent/s?

How well did you understand your sponsor's obligations?

Probe:

- Was it straightforward or a minefield?
- What did you like/dislike?
- Expectations versus reality?
- How well do you feel your sponsor met their sponsorship obligations?
- What could have been improved?

Would you be prepared to take on greater obligations?

Probe:

- What types of further support could you have provided?

What do you think New Zealand expects of sponsors?

What do you think New Zealand expects of parents who are sponsored?

3. Types of Support Provided/Required – 20 mins

What types of support did you need when you first arrived?

Probe:

- Eg, survival, financial, social, emotional, educational, employment?
- Do you still need that level of support?

What types of support have you been provided with by your sponsor?

Probe:

- Eg, survival, financial, social, emotional, educational, employment?
- Types of support not able to give?
- Most/least useful?
- Successes and failures?
- Was the support initial or ongoing?

What types of support have you been provided with by other sources?

Probe:

- Eg, survival, financial, social, emotional, educational, employment?
- What other types of support did you need?
- Where did the support come from?
- Types of support not able to give?
- Most/least useful?
- Successes and failures?
- Was the support initial or ongoing?

Is there any area of support that no one provided?

How dependent were you on your sponsor for assistance when you first arrived?

Probe:

- How much did you participate in the daily life of your sponsor when you first arrived?
- Has your independence increased?
- How much do you participate in the daily life of your sponsor now?
- Has this increased or decreased?

What types of support have you provided your sponsor with?

Probe:

- Eg, survival, financial, social, emotional, educational, employment?
- What types of support did they need?
- Where did the support come from?
- Types of support not able to give?
- Most/least useful?
- Successes and failures?
- Was the support initial or ongoing?

Would anything have stopped you from being sponsored?

Would anything have stopped your child from being your sponsor?

4. Overall Costs and Benefits of Sponsoring Parents – 15 mins

What are the advantages of being sponsored as a parent to come to New Zealand?

What have been the main **benefits** to you of being sponsored as a parent to come to New Zealand?

Probe:

- Benefits to sponsor?
- Benefits to extended family?
- Benefits to local/ethnic community?
- Benefits to wider NZ society?

What are the disadvantages of being sponsored as a parent to come to New Zealand?

What have been the main **difficulties** with being sponsored as a parent to come to New Zealand?

Probe:

- What has it cost you?
- What has it cost your family?
- Has anyone else helped with the costs?

What impact has sponsoring had on you personally?

Probe:

- Positives? Benefits?
- Negatives? Costs?

What impact has sponsoring had on your family?

Probe:

- Positives? Benefits?
- Negatives? Costs?

Has it had an impact on your local community?

What impact has it had on your (ethnic) community?

What impact do you think immigrants being able to sponsor their parents here has on the wider New Zealand society?

Probe:

- Positives? Benefits?
- Negatives? Costs?

Appendix

How do Parents qualify for Residence?

- a. A parent meets parent policy if an adult child of the principal applicant parent who is lawfully and permanently in New Zealand sponsors the parent, and either:
 - i. the principal applicant parent has no dependent children and all of their adult children are lawfully and permanently outside the country in which the parent is lawfully and permanently, or
 - ii. the centre of gravity of the principal applicant's family is in New Zealand.
- b. In the context of parent policy, children of the principal applicant and the principal applicant's family include:
 - i. all biological or adopted children of the principal applicant , and
 - ii. any child of the principal applicant's spouse or partner (whether or not the spouse or partner is included in the application), if that child has lived as part of the principal applicant's family unit for a predominant period of the child's life between the time their relationship with the principal applicant began and when the child turned 17 years of age.
- c. Applicants under parent policy must meet health and character requirements policy (see A4 and A5).

F4.1.1 Definition of 'Lawfully and Permanently'

People who are lawfully and permanently in a country are either:

- a.
 - i. citizens of that country, or have the right of, or permission to take up, permanent residence in that country, and
 - ii. actually residing in that country; or
- b. living in a refugee camp in that country with little chance of repatriation.

F4.1.5 Definition of 'Centre of Gravity'

- a. A family's centre of gravity is in New Zealand if either:
 - i. the principal applicant parent has no dependent children, and
 - ii. the number of their adult children lawfully and permanently in New Zealand is equal to or greater than those lawfully and permanently in any other single country, including the country in which the principal applicant is lawfully and permanently; or
- b.
 - i. the principal applicant parent has dependent children, and

- ii. the number of their adult children lawfully and permanently in New Zealand is equal to or greater than those lawfully and permanently in any other single country, including the country in which the principal applicant parent is lawfully and permanently, and
- iii. the number of their dependent children is equal to or fewer than, the number of their adult children who are lawfully and permanently in New Zealand.

Note: the following tables show examples of how the 'centre of gravity' principle is applied.

Parent With No Dependent Children

No. of children	In New Zealand	In home country	Third country	Eligible?
2	1	1	-	YES
5	2	1	2	YES
4	1	1	2	NO
6	2	1	3	NO
6	2	2	2	YES

Parent With Dependent Children

No. of children	In New Zealand	In home country	Third country	Eligible?
2	1 adult	1 dependant	-	YES
4	1 adult	1 adult 2 dependants	-	NO
4	1 adult	2 dependants	1 adult	NO
4	1 adult	1 adult 1 dependants	1 adult	YES
6	2 adults	2 dependants	2 adults	YES

F4.1.10 Definition of 'Dependent Child'

For the purpose of parent policy, and despite the definition in section 2 of the Immigration Act 1987, a child is dependent if he or she is:

- a.
 - i. aged 17 to 19, with no child(ren) of his or her own, and
 - ii. single and
 - iii. totally or substantially reliant on their parent(s) for financial support, whether living with them or not; or

- b.
 - i. aged 16 or younger, and
 - ii. single and
 - iii. totally or substantially reliant on their parent(s) for financial support, whether living with them or not.

F4.1.15 Evidence of Dependence

- a. Up to 17 years of age, if a child is unmarried it is presumed to be dependent.
- b. For children aged 17 to 19, evidence of actual dependence may be required.

F4.1.20 Definition of 'Adult Child'

In the context of Parent policy, 'adult child' means a child of 17 or older, unless they are dependent (see F4.1.10(a)).

F4.1.25 Definition of 'Adult Child for Sponsorship Purposes'

- a. For sponsorship purposes, 'adult child' means a child of 17 or older.
- b. However, children aged 17 to 19 must only be considered as 'adult children for sponsorship purposes' if they can satisfy a visa or immigration officer that they are able to meet the undertakings given in the sponsorship form.

F4.1.30 Undertakings of Sponsors

A sponsor must:

- a. undertake to ensure that adequate accommodation in New Zealand is and continues to be available for their relatives; and
- b. if necessary, undertake to provide accommodation during the first 24 months of their relatives' residence in New Zealand; and
- c. if necessary, undertake to provide financial support during the first 24 months of their relatives' residence in New Zealand.

Effective 26/07/1999

Related Topics F4 Parent policy F4.5 Evidential requirements for parent relationships F4.10 Verification of family details F4.15 Deferring the final decision F4.20 Residence permits with requirements.

Conditions Of Use Of Material

1. CM Research's name, any name which CM Research is licensed to use and the names of any of CM Research's products may not be used without CM Research's express approval.
2. All information provided by CM Research must not be used in a manner that CM Research believes is, or is likely to mislead, deceive or adversely affect CM Research's reputation.
3. The research design and methodologies prepared and employed by CM Research remain its property and may not be copied or published.

Limitation Of Liability

CM Research shall use its best endeavours to ensure the accuracy of all reports but no warranty is given as to the accuracy of, or as to, any information contained in any report, nor does it accept any liability for any expenditure or cost incurred in reliance thereon, or for any cost, loss or other damage arising therefrom.

Storage Of Materials

Unless otherwise specified, CM shall hold all questionnaires and field reports for a period of six months and electronic records for a period of not less than two years.
