



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Introducing a new longer-term visitor visa for parents	Date to be published	2 July 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
May 2025	Introducing a new longer-term visitor visa for parents	Office of the Minister of Immigration
21 May 2025	Introducing a new longer-term visitor visa for parents ECO-25-MIN-0069 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of:

- Maintenance of the law
- Commercial information
- Confidential advice to Government



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Introducing a New Longer-term Visitor Visa for Parents

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 21 May 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the National-ACT Coalition Agreement includes a commitment to introduce a new five-year renewable parent visa on the condition of covering healthcare costs;
- 2 **agreed** to introduce a new five-year renewable visa for parents of eligible New Zealand citizens and residents (Parent Boost Visa);

Duration

- 3 **agreed** that the Parent Boost Visa will enable multiple entries within a five-year duration;
- 4 **agreed** that Parent Boost Visa holders will be required to go offshore, complete a new immigration medical and provide evidence they have maintained insurance (as required) in the third year of their Parent Boost Visa;
- 5 **noted** that if the immigration medical outlined in paragraph 4 above results in the visa holder no longer meeting the Acceptable Standard of Health, the visa holder could have their visa cancelled or be served with a deportation liability notice;
- 6 **noted** that, if the Parent Boost Visa holder does not meet all of the conditions outlined in paragraph 4, the visa holder could have their visa cancelled or be served with a deportation liability notice;
- 7 **agreed** that Parent Boost Visa holders will be required to spend three months offshore prior to accessing a second Parent Boost Visa;
- 8 **agreed** that migrants can only access a maximum of two Parent Boost Visas (up to a maximum of 10 years onshore on a Parent Boost Visa);

Sponsorship and funds requirements

- 9 **agreed** that eligibility for a Parent Boost Visa will be conditional on sponsorship by an eligible New Zealand citizen or resident;
- 10 **agreed** that sponsors will be liable for any costs incurred by the Government in relation to the visa holder during the visa duration;

- 11 **directed** officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Health New Zealand to undertake further work to support the enforcement of sponsorship obligations for the Parent Boost Visa to reduce cases of outstanding health debt;
- 12 **agreed** that one of the following three income or sufficient funds requirements must be met:
- 12.1 the sponsor meets an income requirement beginning at the median wage for one sponsor to sponsor one parent (currently \$69,804.80 per annum) and 1.5x the median wage for joint sponsors to sponsor one parent (currently \$104,707.20 per annum), and the minimum income increases by half the median wage for each additional parent, up to a maximum of six parents;
 - 12.2 the parent/s has an ongoing income aligning with the single rate of New Zealand Superannuation for a single parent and the couple rate for a couple;
 - 12.3 the parent/s has a minimum of \$160,000 for a single parent and \$250,000 for a couple readily available to support themselves for the duration of their visa;
- 13 **noted** that as the Parent Boost Visa is a visitor visa, Parent Boost Visa holders will not be eligible for financial assistance from New Zealand's welfare system;

Covering health costs

- 14 **agreed** that applicants will be required to meet the Acceptable Standard of Health (ASH) for residence;
- 15 **agreed** that applicants will be required to provide a further medical certificate to access their second Parent Boost Visa regardless of how recently their previous medical was provided;
- 16 **agreed** that applicants will be required to obtain and maintain health insurance which provides emergency medical cover (of at least up to \$250,000), repatriation, return of remains and cancer treatment (of at least \$100,000);
- 17 **agreed** that applicants be required to evidence coverage of a minimum of a year of suitable health insurance in order to be eligible for a Parent Boost Visa;
- 18 **agreed** that maintaining suitable health insurance will be an ongoing condition of the Parent Boost Visa and could result in visa holders being made liable for deportation, having their visa cancelled, or being declined a subsequent Parent Boost Visa if evidence of coverage being maintained cannot be provided at the three-year check (outlined in paragraph 4), and/or the subsequent application;
- 19 **agreed** to amend eligibility to the Parent Category Resident Visa to make current or previous Parent Boost Visa holders, who have either failed to demonstrate they maintained health insurance coverage for a suitable period while onshore on a Parent Boost visa or for whom Immigration New Zealand has evidence of outstanding debts to the Government, ineligible for residence under the Parent Category Resident Visa;
- 20 **agreed** that applicants will be required to declare that they understand the Parent Boost Visa is temporary and, unless they are granted residence while onshore, they will need to leave New Zealand before their visa expires;
- 21 **agreed** that the sponsor/s must continue living in New Zealand while the sponsored visa holder is onshore on a Parent Boost Visa;

- 22 **agreed** that a sponsor no longer living in New Zealand will make the parent ineligible for a second Parent Boost Visa;
- 23 **noted** that a sponsor no longer living in New Zealand will likely amount to sufficient reason for cancelling the parent's visa;

Detailed design, fees and levies

- 24 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make further policy decisions on the design of the Parent Boost Visa, in consultation with other relevant Ministers as required;
- 25 **agreed** to set the immigration fee for the Parent Boost Visa application at \$1,940 for standard applicants and \$1,390 for applicants eligible for the Pacific fee band;
- 26 **agreed** to set the immigration levy for the Parent Boost visa at \$1,060;
- 27 **agreed** to set the immigration fee for the compliance with conditions check, outlined in paragraph 4, at \$325 for standard applicants and \$240 for applicants eligible for the Pacific fee band;
- 28 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to set the new immigration fees and levy for the Parent Boost Visa;

Report back

- 29 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to undertake a review of the above policy in 2027 and report back to Cabinet with any recommendations for change.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Erica Stanford
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Officials Committee for ECO