



28 August 2023

Nitin Bindal

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File No: DOIA 2324-0215

Tēnā koe Nitin

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2023 to the Minister of Immigration requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

I would like to kindly request clarification on the timings stated by your Ministry for when Expressions of Interest in the Parent Resident Visa category will be dealt with. The New Zealand Immigration webpage has clearly stated windows for when applications in the category will be dealt with including the criteria requirements.

1. The category itself was suspended for over 4 years with inaction due to review of the Category - how many applications did the Ministry receive during the period (2016 to February 2020) that need to be considered for selection of their EOI during those 4 years given that it has been afforded 6 months to review in your table. Expressions received between 10 April 2017 to 30 October 2018 are to be reviewed for a selection date of NOVEMBER 2023 & furthermore expressions received between 30 October 2018 to 26 February 2020 are to be reviewed for a selection date of FEBRUARY 2024 (I.e. a period when the EOI category was closed by the ministry and would not accept any applications from mid - 2016 till February 2020)??

2. As this period (mentioned in question 1) would actually have no EOI's submitted, does that imply that the ministry is moving up the windows for the post FEB 2020 EOI's up in their timeline or continue with the go slow tactics implemented in the previous 6 years?

3. Is the Ministry (who are an extension of the Government that claims to be kind, caring, thoughtful and for keeping families together) waiting for parents to die alone and away from their loved ones rather than spend their twilight years with them? WHERE IS THE COMPASSION?

On 1 August 2023, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to respond to, in accordance with section 14(b) of the Act.

Our response

Selections of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the Parent Category stopped in October 2016 and did not restart until November 2022. However, throughout this period the ability for people to submit EOIs was never removed, with the exception of the period from 7 October 2019 to 24 February 2020 (the period between the revocation of the old policy and the beginning of the new one).



Please refer to the table below for the number of Parent Resident Visa EOIs received for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 January 2020, broken down by submission year, as at 16 August 2023.

Submission year	Total applications	Total applicants
2016	3,401	5,509
2017	186	290
2018	416	676
2019 (to 6 October)	179	273
Total	4,182	6,748

Note: No EOIs were submitted from 7 October 2019 to 24 February 2020.

Since it was announced in October 2022 that selections would restart, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has been publishing estimates of the selection dates on its website:

www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/support-family/parent-resident-visa-eoi-selection

The selection dates are estimates only and are changed as we adjust the number of EOIs we need to select to reach the 2,000 visa approvals per year. At least 400 EOIs will be selected per selection date and may increase depending on the success rate from the previous selection, that is, if a selected EOI is not invited to apply, or if any residence visa applications were withdrawn or declined. As such, when this occurs, it will result in some EOIs moving into an earlier selection month.

The Government understands the intrinsic value that parents of migrants bring to families by joining their adult children here in New Zealand. Therefore, following the review of the visa settings, the Parent Resident Visa reopened in October 2022 under new settings that are more favourable for migrant parents of New Zealand citizens and residents. Under the new settings, the number of visas available each year has doubled, and it is expected the current queue of EOIs will be selected by 2025.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the Ministry's response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā



Jock Gilray
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Immigration New Zealand
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