

BUDGET 2002 MEDIA STATEMENTS – FACTUAL INFORMATION

Portfolio: Immigration

Initiative: Community-Based Accommodation for Border Refugee Status Claimants

Funding Details: Please include GST where applicable.

\$million (GST inclusive where applicable)	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Operating - new	0.601	0.601	0.601	0.601
- redistributed				
Capital - new				
- redistributed				
TOTAL	0.601	0.601	0.601	0.601

What is the initiative designed to do?

Refugee status claimants who claim asylum at the border of New Zealand and who cannot positively prove their identity are currently not granted a permit, but are held at the Mangere Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC), or, in a few cases, in a correctional facility. The Trans-National Organised Crime Bill, currently before Parliament, seeks to have such people able to be released from the MRRC on condition that they reside at a particular address, such as the Auckland Refugee Council's hostel. This initiative will cover the costs associated with their accommodation in the community.

How will the money be spent?

The money allows for up to 180 people per year to be accommodated in the community and to receive health checks.

Who will benefit?

This initiative will assist in the resettlement of those people found to have genuine cases for refugee status. It will assist New Zealand as it will enable the Department of Labour (NZIS) to remove people found not to be refugees in a relatively straightforward manner.

Does this link to Budget priorities?

No, but by assisting in maintaining New Zealand's security while upholding New Zealand's international obligations, it contributes to two key Government goals:

- Restore Trust in Government and Provide Strong Social Services; and
- Reduce Inequalities in Health, Education, Employment and Housing.