



BRIEFING

**Scoping potential changes to Parent/Grandparent
Visitor Visa settings**

Date:	17 May 2017	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	3485 16-17

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Agree the recommendations	24 May 2017
Hon Scott Simpson Associate Minister of Immigration	Copy attached for your information	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 3855	9(2)(a)	✓
Zuleika Chang	Senior Advisor	04 901 3825	N/A	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		N/A			

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments:

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BRIEFING

Scoping potential changes to Parent/Grandparent Visitor Visa settings

Date:	17 May 2017	Priority:	Medium
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Purpose

This paper reports on possible changes to the Parent/Grandparent Visitor visa settings in the context of the Parent Category review.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

9(2)(f)(iv)

- b **Note** that you requested officials scope proposals for potential changes to the Parent/Grandparent Visitor visa settings

Noted

9(2)(f)(iv)

Agree/ Disagree

- d **Note** the revised proposed timeline for the Parent Category Review, which includes Cabinet consideration in late 2017.

Noted

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy

17 / 05 / 2017

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

... / ... / ...

Background

1. Officials have previously briefed you on the findings and high level options regarding the Parent Category Review (2887 16-17 refers). The key findings of the review were that the 2012 policy changes have achieved their intended economic outcomes, seen in:
 - the reduction in the proportion of Parent Category migrants accessing benefits
 - an increase in the proportion of sponsors earning above \$60,000 per annum; and
 - a very high proportion of sponsoring children remaining in New Zealand after their parents have been approved under the Parent Category.
2. 9(2)(f)(iv)
3. At the policy discussion with officials on Thursday 4 May, you directed officials to also scope potential changes to temporary entry settings.

Current visa categories for parents/grandparents

4. There are currently three visa categories for parents or grandparents to visit adult children in New Zealand.

	Visa requirements	Period of time
Parent/Grandparent Visitor (temporary entry visa)	Applicants are sponsored by children that meet the sponsoring requirement. In practice, applicants have to be offshore to renew visa.	A three year multiple-entry visa, which allows holders to be in NZ for up to 6 months at a time, but no more than 18 months over three years.
Parent Residence (permanent)	Applicants who can support themselves financially or are sponsored by children with higher incomes are prioritised ¹ .	Provides holder with permanent residence.
Parent Retirement (permanent)	Nominate funds or assets of \$1 million, and settlement funds of \$500,000 and annual income of \$60,000. Must also meet health and character requirements.	Provides holder with permanent residence.

5. Under the current Parent/Grandparent Visitor visa, applicants are sponsored by their adult children. The sponsorship undertakings require the provision of accommodation, reasonable costs for maintenance (including food, clothing and medical treatment), and the costs associated with repatriation and deportation if required. These undertakings are not as high as the sponsorship requirements for the Parent Residence visa.

¹ In order to be eligible under Tier One of the Parent Category:

- the sponsor must meet the minimum income threshold currently set at \$65,000 or \$90,000, or
- the applicants must have a guaranteed lifetime minimum income (currently set at \$27,898 per annum for a single person or \$41,046 for a couple, or
- the applicant must have sufficient settlement funds (currently set at \$500,000).

Changes to the Parent/Grandparent Visitor visa can be considered

6. Given that the cap for the Parent Category Residence visa has been lowered to 4,000 places over a two year period, it is likely that there will be more demand than available places.

9(2)(f)(iv)

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Proposed timeline

10. In our discussion with you on 4 May, you indicated an appetite to extend the timing for a decision on the Parent Category Review. With this in mind, and including the addition of this further work on the Parent/Grandparent Visitor visa settings, we have updated the timeline and deliverables for the Parent Category Review in the table on the following page.

Date	Milestone (or deliverable)
30 May 2017	Briefing on final results of Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) analysis
6 June 2017	SSW meeting discussion on immigration including the Parent Category Review
August 2017	Advice on proposed changes to the Parent Category and Parent/Grandparent Visitor visa
Late 2017	Cabinet consideration of Parent Category Review and proposed changes

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