



Ms Da Fonseca

fyi-request-9443-ff00663d@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 1819-1067

Dear Ms Da Fonseca

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *The official date for an announcement regarding the Parent Residence Category was June 2018 with absolutely no communication before or after this date. Based on the response to another query there are 5512 citizens and residents of New Zealand left in the dark regarding the status of this category. Could you please provide me with the reasons for a delay to the original date of June 2018?*

Response

In October 2016, the annual cap on the Parent Category was reduced and new selections were suspended while a policy review of the category was conducted. No date was set for an announcement on the future of the category.

2. *Based on information at: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/criteria/parent-resident-visa?nationality=nationality-IND&country=residence-IND&applying=co>, for your child to sponsor you, they must be a New Zealand citizen or resident and:*
 - a) *be 18 or over*
 - b) *have been a New Zealand citizen or resident for at least 3 years before you apply for residence*
 - c) *live in New Zealand*
 - d) *have spent 184 or more days in New Zealand in each of the 3 years before you apply for residence*
 - e) *agree to meet your living costs for the first 10 years of your residence, if you're unable to*
 - f) *agree to cover the costs of sending you home, if necessary.*

Also, for Tier 1, one of the criteria is: have a sponsoring child with an annual income of NZ \$65,000 or more on their own. My query is with regards to criteria d. "have spent 184 or more days in New Zealand in each of the 3 years before you apply for residence" and "annual income of NZ \$65,000". I meet all these criteria currently. With the category closed indefinitely however, I am not able to take time off work or live temporarily in another country as the category could be opened at any time and I would not wish to jeopardise my EOI. Seeing as this is keeping the lives of citizens and residents in limbo, is there any plan to change any of these requirements?



Response

The future of the Parent Category is currently under active consideration by the Government. No decisions about the eligibility criteria for applicants and sponsors, or whether to re-open the category, have yet been made.

3. *Lastly, as everyone would like to know, when is the new date for an announcement with regards to this category?*

Response

The Minister of Immigration has stated that he expects decisions on the Parent Category to be made in the first half of 2019.

Yours sincerely

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment