

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Mr Byron Clark fyi-request-14247-a6a3ae71@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-1135

Dear Mr Clark

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 December 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

"1) For the years 2006 to 2015 a list of all of meetings of the Bali Process at which NZ was represented and a list of all the participants from all countries at each of those meetings.

2) for the years 2006 to 2015 a list of all joint operations New Zealand participated in overseas to disrupt people smuggling ventures

3) any advice provided to Cabinet or Ministers such as briefings, aide memories, memos, advice, draft or final cabinet papers (excluding briefings the the incoming minister) regarding the treatment of asylum seekers in New Zealand from 2015 to present."

Our response

For the years 2006 to 2015 a list of all meetings of the Bali Process at which NZ was represented and a list of all the participants from all countries at each of those meetings

Please find the information requested as Appendix 1.

The Ministry does not hold information on meetings at which New Zealand was represented before 2015. You may wish to visit the Bali Process website (<u>www.baliprocess.net</u>) to find information on meetings before 2015.

Please note that some of the information has been withheld under section 6(b)(i) of the OIA, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government. Some information has also been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

For the years 2006 to 2015 a list of all joint operations New Zealand participated in overseas to disrupt people smuggling ventures

New Zealand has not participated in any joint operations overseas to disrupt people smuggling ventures. Host nations will conduct their own operations, and where applicable, may inform New

Zealand after the fact of their operational activity. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

Any advice provided to Cabinet or Ministers such as briefings, aide memories, memos, advice, draft or final cabinet papers (excluding briefings the incoming minister) regarding the treatment of asylum seekers in New Zealand from 2015 to present.

Please find attached the information requested under this part of your request. Documents identified within scope of your request are outlined in the table in Appendix 2, which also lists the specific grounds under which information has been withheld. Where information has been withheld from a document, the grounds are also noted in the document itself.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to do this is available on the Ombudsman's website (www.ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz) or by calling freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this request, please email INZOfficialCorrespondence@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Ellis General Manager Intelligence, Data and Insights Immigration New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Appendix 1:

For the years 2006 to 2015 a list of all of meetings of the Bali Process at which NZ was represented and a list of all the participants from all countries at each of those meetings

Meeting	Date	New Zealand participants	Other participants
Ad Hoc Group Steering Group	5 May 2015	Lucy Duncan, Deputy Secretary Multilateral and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Please refer to the attached document.
		Steve Stuart, General Manager, Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services, Immigration New Zealand	
Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting	6 May 2015	Lucy Duncan, Deputy Secretary Multilateral and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Please refer to the attached document.
		Steve Stuart, General Manager, Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services, Immigration New Zealand	
Disruption Working Group inaugural meeting	19 May 2015	Steve Stuart, General Manager, Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services, Immigration New Zealand	Please refer to the attached document.
		Rebecca Miller, Immigration New Zealand	
		Brett Kane, Police Liaison Officer, Bangkok	

Special meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean	29 May 2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
		Immigration New Zealand	
		New Zealand Embassy in Jakarta	
D : (1) M(1)	4.0		
Disruption Working Group, Planning Workshop, Joint Period of Action	1-2 September 2015	Peter Devoy, Assistant General Manager, Compliance and Border Operations, Immigration New Zealand	Please refer to the attached document.
		Rebecca Miller, Programme Manager – People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons	
		Tim Haughey, Regional Liaison Officer on People Smuggling based in Jakarta	
		Julian Rinckes, Field Crime Manager, Investigations Support	
		Liam Clinton, Detective Senior Sergeant, National Criminal Investigations Group, New Zealand Police	
		Gary Knowles, Police Liaison Officer, Bangkok	

Disruption Working Group, Joint Period of Action Debrief Workshop	25 November 2015	Steve Stuart, General Manager, Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services, Immigration New Zealand	Please refer to the attached document.
		Rebecca Miller, Programme Manager – People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons	
		Tim Haughey, Regional Liaison Officer on People Smuggling based in Jakarta	
		Brian Lamb, Customs Counsellor in Bangkok	
Jakarta Declaration Roundtable Meeting	27-28 November 2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	No further participant details are available.
		Immigration New Zealand	
		New Zealand Embassy in Jakarta	
Bali Process Roundtable on Returns and Reintegration	3-4 December 2015	Walter Antony Vincent Harris, Area Manager Southeast Asia, Immigration New Zealand (Bangkok Office)	Please refer to the attached document.
		Matthew de Wit, Deputy Head of Mission, New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok	

Appendix Two: Table of documents

No	Document	Comment
1	Meeting with Refugee Council of New Zealand	Released with some information withheld under:
		 s 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons s 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions between Ministers of the Crown and employees of a public service agency.
		Information outside of the scope of the request has also been withheld.
2	Meeting with asylum seeker sector representatives	Released with some information withheld under:
		 s 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.
		Information outside of the scope of the request has also been withheld.
3	Meeting with Amnesty New Zealand 12 February 2018	Released with some information withheld under:
		 s 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.
		Information outside of the scope of the request has also been withheld.
4	Meeting with Amnesty New Zealand 22 August 2019	Released with some information withheld under:
		 s 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.
		Information outside of the scope of the request has also been withheld.
5	Meeting with Amnesty New Zealand 18 February 2019	Released with some information withheld under:
		 s 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

		Information outside of the scope of the request has also been withheld.
6	Increase in allowance for asylum claimants released into the community	 Released with some information withheld under: s 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting 6 May 2015, Wellington, New Zealand

Participant List

	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Telephone	Email
Co-	Chairs Australia	s 9(2))(a) OlA	., s 6	i(b)(i) OIA	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	s 9(2)(a)) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
2	Indonesia					Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)		
Pari 3	i cip ants Australia					Australian Government Attorney General's Department		
4	Australia					Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)		
5	Australia					Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)		
6	Australia					Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)		
7	Australia					Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)		
8	Australia					Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)		
9	Australia					Australian Government Attorney General's Department		
10	Australia					Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)		
11	Australia					Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)		
12	Indonesia					Indonesia Coast Guard		
13	Indonesia					Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia		
14	Indonesia					Indonesia Coast Guard		
15	Indonesia					Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia		
16	Indonesia					Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia		
17	Indonesia					Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia		
18	Indonesia					Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia		
19	Thailand					Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police		
20	Thailand					Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
21	Thailand					Office of the National Security Council		
22	Thailand					Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
23	Thailand					Office of the Attorney General		
	Thailand				6.0	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
C	Dutsid	e th	e sco	be (of the re	equest		

Outside the scope of the request

No.	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Tel.	Email
Co-Ch 1	airs New Zealand	Devoy	Peter	Mr.	Assistant General Manager	Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services (CRIS), Immigration New Zealand	s 9(2)(a) OIA	peter.devoy@mbie.govt.nz
2	Sri Lanka	s 9(2)(a) OIA,	S	6(b)(i) OIA	Attorney General's Department	s 9(2)(a) C	IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Partic								
3	Australia					Australian Federal Police		
4	Australia	_				Australian Federal Police		
5	Australia					Australian Embassy Bangkok		
6	Indonesia					Indonesian National Police		
7	Indonesia					Indonesian National Police		
8	Malaysia					Royal Malaysian Police		
9	Malaysia					Malaysian Immigration Department		
10	Maldives	_				Maldives Police Force		
11	Maldives					Department of Immigration and Emigration		
12	New Zealand	Haughey	Tim	Mr.	Regional Liaision Officer - Irregular Migration	New Zealand Embassy (Jskarta)	s 9(2)(a) OIA	tim.haughey@mfat.govt.nz
13	New Zealand	Knowles	Gary	Mr.	Police Liaison Officer - South & South East Asia	New Zealand Police		gary.knowles@police.govt.nz
14	New Zealand	Miller	Rebecca	Ms.	Programme Manager - People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons	Immigration New Zealand		rebecca.miller@mbie.govt.nz
15	Philippines	s 9(2)(a)	a) OIA,	S	6(b)(i) OIA	National Bureau of Investigation	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA

Participant List Working Group on Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks Bangkok, Thailand 1-2 September 2015

No.	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Tel.	Email
16	Philippines	s 9(2)(a) OIA	, S	6(b)(i) OIA	National Bureau of Investigation	s 6(b)(i) O	IA, s 9(2)(a) OIA
17	Philippines					Philippines Embassy (Bangkok)		
18	Sri Lanka					Ministry of Justice		
19	Thailand	T				Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police		
20	Thailand	T				Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Royal Thai Police		
21	Thailand	*				Foreign Affairs Division, Royal Thai Police		
22	Thailand					Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Royal Thai Police		
23	Thailand	T				Border Patrol Police Bureau		
24	Thailand	T				Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Royal Thai Police		
25	United States of America					Homeland Security Investigations		
26	United States of America					Homeland Security Investigations		
Facilit 27	ators New Zealand	Clinton	Liam	Mr.	Detective Senior Sergeant, National Criminal Investigations Group	New Zealand Police	s 9(2)(a) OIA	liam.clinton@police.govt.nz
28	New Zealand	Rinckes	Julian	Mr.	Field Crime Manager, Investigations Support	New Zealand Police		julian.rinckes@police.govt.nz
0	utside t	he scc	pe of t	he	e request			

Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Roundtable on Returns and Reintegration Manila, Philippines

3 - 4 December 2015

DIRECTORY - Member Countries

Title	Name	Organization / Office Address	Designation	Email	Contact Number
•			A. Australia		
Ms	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Australian Embassy - Jakarta)	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Mr		Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade			
Mr		Department of Immigration and Border Protection			
Ms		Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade			
Ms		Department of Immigration and Border Protection			
Mr		Department of Immigration and Border Protection			

Title	Name	Organization / Office Address	Designation	Email	Contact Number
		1	B. Bangladesh		
Mrs	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Ministry of Home Affairs Bangladesh Government	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Mr		Ministry of Foreign Affairs			

			C. Indonesia				
Ms	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jl. Pejambon No.6 Jakarta Pusat 10110 Indonesia	s 9(2)(a)	OIA,	s 6((b)(i)	OIA
Mr		Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jl. Pejambon No.6 Jakarta Pusat 10110 Indonesia					
			D. Malaysia				
Ms	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Ministry of Home Affairs	s 9(2)(a)	OIA,	s 6	(b)(i)	OIA
Mr		Ministry of Home Affairs					

Title	Name	Organization / Office Address	Designation	Email	Contact Number
			E. Maldives		
Mr	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Department of Immigration and Emigration	s 9(2)(a) C	DIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Mr					
Mr		Ministry of Economic Development			

Title	Name	Organization / Office Address	Designation	Email	Contact Number
			F. Myanmar		
Mr	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Ministry of Immigration and Population,Naypyitaw, Myanmar	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Mr		Ministry of Immigration and Population,Naypyitaw, Myanmar			

G. New Zealand												
Mr	Walter Antony Vincent HARRIS	Immigration - New Zealand (Bangkok Office)	Area Manager - SEA	antony.harris@mbie.govt.nz	s 9(2)(a) OIA							
Mr	Matthew de WIT	New Zealand Embassy	Deputy Lead of Mission	matthew.dewit@mfat.gvt.nz	-							

	l.	The Philippines
Ms	Department of Foreign Affairs	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Mr	Department of Foreign Affairs	
Mr	Department of Justice	
Mr	Department of Justice	
Mr	 Department of Justice	

Mr	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Department of Justice	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Ms		Department of Justice	

			J. Sri Lanka			
Mr	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	s 9(2)(a)	OIA,	s 6(b)(i)	OIA
Mr		Department of Immigration and Emigration				

			K. Thailand			
Pol. It. Col.	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Immigration Bureau	s 9(2)(a)	OIA, s	s 6(b)(i)	OIA
Mr		Royal Thai Embassy - Manila				

Title Name Organization / Office Address Designation	Email	Contact Number
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L. United Arab Emirates										
s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking	s 9(2)(a)	OIA,	s 6(b)(i)	OIA					

			M. Vietnam			
Mr	s 9(2)(a) OIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA	Immigration Department of Vietnam	s 9(2)(a)	OIA,	s 6(b)(i)	OIA
Mr		Ministry of Foreign Affairs				

Regional Support Office - Bali Process											
s 9(2)(a) OIA, s Ms	s 6(b)(i) OIA Regional Support Office	s 9(2)(a)	OIA,	s 6(b)(i)	OIA						
Mr	Regional Support Office										

No.	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Tel.	Email
Co-Ch	New Zealand	Stuart	Steve	Mr.	General Manager	Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services (CRIS), Immigration New Zealand	s 9(<i>2)</i> (a) OIA	steve.stuart@mbie.govt.nz
2	Sri Lanka	s 9(2)(a) OIA,	S	6(b)(i) OIA	Attorney General's Department	s 9(2)(a) C	DIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
Partic	ipants							
3	Afghanistan					Ministry of Interior		
4	Australia					Australian Federal Police		
5	Indonesia					Indonesia National Police		
6	Indonesia					Indonesia Coast Guard		
7	Indonesia	-				Indonesia Coast Guard	Ť	
8	Malaysia	*				Royal Malaysia Police	Ť	
9	Malaysia	*				Royal Malaysia Police	Ť	
10	Maldives	*				Maldives Police Force		
11	Myanmar					Myanmar Police Force		
12	New Zealand	Kane	Brett	Mr.	Police Liaison Officer	New Zealand Police	s 9(2)(a) OIA	brett.kane@police.govt.nz
13	New Zealand	Miller	Rebecca	Ms.	Senior Business Advisor - Strategic Projects	-		rebecca.miller@mbie.govt.nz
14	Philippines	s 9(2)(a	a) OIA,	S	6(b)(i) OIA	Philippines National Police	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
15	Sri Lanka					Ministry of Justice		

Participant List Working Group on Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks Bangkok, Thailand 19 May, 2015

No.	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Tel.	Email
16	Sri Lanka	s 9(2)(a) OIA	, S	6(b)(i) OIA	Sir Lanka Police	s 9(2)(a) C	DIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
17	Thailand					Royal Thai Police	_	
18	Thailand					Interpol / Royal Thai Police	_	
19	Thailand					Interpol / Royal Thai Police	_	
20	Thailand					Interpol / Royal Thai Police	-	
21	United States	-				Homeland Security Investigations	+	
22	Viet Nam					Department of Immigration		
Facilit	ator United Kingdom					Independent		
24	Australia					Deparment of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)		
	Duts	ide	the		SCOPE	e of th	ne re	equest

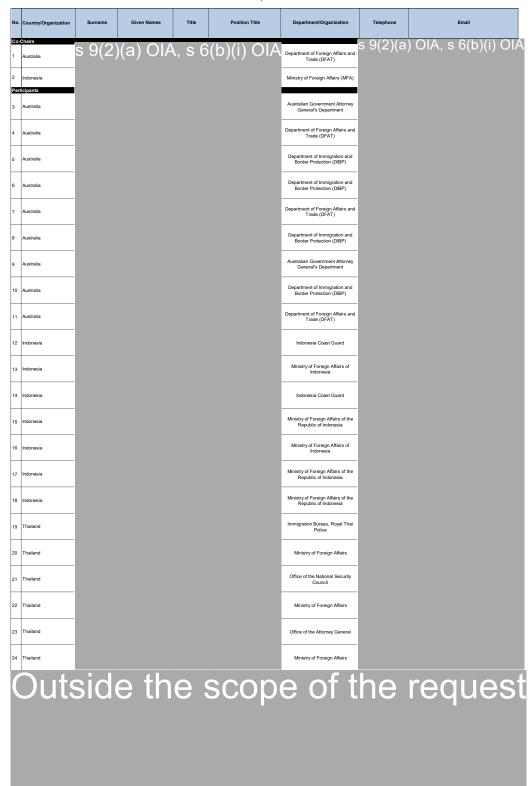
No.	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Tel.	Email
1	New Zealand	Stuart	Steve	Mr.	General Manager	Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services (CRIS), Immigration New Zealand	s 9(2)(a) OIA	steve.stuart@mbie.govt.nz
2	Sri Lanka	s 9(2)(a) OIA	, S	6(b)(i) OIA	Ministry of Justice	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
3	Afghanistan					Ministry of Interior		
4	Australia					Australian Federal Police		
5	Canada					Canada Border Services Agency		
6	India					Indian Police Service		
7	Indonesia							
8	Malaysia					Royal Malaysian Police		
9	Maldives					Maldives Police Force		
10	Myanmar							
11	New Zealand	Haughey	Tim	Mr.	Regional Liaision Officer - Irregular Migration, Jakarta	Immigration New Zealand	s 9(2)(a) OIA	tim.haughey@mfat.govt.nz
12	New Zealand	Miller	Rebecca	Ms.	Programme Manager - People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons	Immigration New Zealand		rebecca.miller@mbie.govt.nz
13	Philippines	s 9(2)(a) OIA,	, S	6(b)(i) OIA	National Bureau of Investigation, Anti- Trafficking Division	s 9(2)(a) C	DIA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
14	Sri Lanka					Ministry of Justice		
15	Thailand					Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Royal Thai Police		

Participant List Working Group on Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks Bangkok, Thailand 25 November, 2015

No.	Country/Organization	Surname	Given Names	Title	Position Title	Department/Organization	Tel.	Email
16	Thailand	s 9(2)(a) OIA,	S	6(b)(i) OIA	Foreign Affairs Division, Royal Thai Police	s 9(2)(a) C	0IA, s 6(b)(i) OIA
17	Thailand					Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Royal Thai Police		
18	United States					Homeland Security Investigations		
19	Viet Nam					Department of Immigration		
20	Australia	*				Australian Government Attorney-General's Department		
21	Australia					Department of Immigration and Border Protection		
22	Australia					Deparment of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)		
23	Australia					Australian Government Attorney-General's Department		
24	New Zealand	Lamb	Brian	Mr.	Customs Counsellor, Bangkok	New Zealand Customs	s 9(2)(a) OIA	nzcsbkk@customs.govt.nz
Ου	itside th	escope	e of the	e re	equest			

Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting 6 May 2015, Wellington, New Zealand

Participant List







AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Refugee Council of New Zealand

Date:	12 November 2015	Priority:	Low
Security Classification:	Restricted	Tracker number:	1089 15-16

Information for Minister	
Hon Michael Woodhouse	
Minister of Immigration	

Contact for telepho	ne discussion (if required)		
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Steve McGill	General Manager Settlement, Protection and Attraction	04 896 5230 (wk) ^{(s 9(2)(a)} OIA	
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection	09 928 2217 (wk)	✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
Treasury	🗌 MoJ	□ NZTE		TEC	🗌 MoE
MFAT		☐ MfE	🗌 DIA	🗌 ТРК	🗌 МоН
	•	Other:	N/A		

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

- Overtaken by Events
- U Withdrawn

Comments:



AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Refugee Council of New Zealand

Date:	12 November 2015	Priority:	Low
Security Classification:	Restricted	Tracker number:	1089 15-16

Purpose

Outside scope of request

Andrew Lockhart National Manager, Refugee and Protection Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Meeting

- 1. Outside scope of request
- 2. The Refugee Council has written to you that they wish to discuss the following matters with you (refer to attached letter):
 - Outside scope of request
 - Outside scope of request
 - Outside scope of request
- 3. Outside scope of request

Matters the Refugee Council wishes to discuss



2



Support for Convention refugees and asylum seekers

20.	Outside scope of request
21.	Outside scope of request
22.	

- 23. The Refugee Status Branch (RSB) provides Convention refugees with settlement information in a booklet entitled 'Getting Settled in New Zealand', which is available in five refugee languages and English. In addition, Immigration New Zealand has developed a DVD, which is aimed at assisting Convention refugees to settle in New Zealand.
- 24. The RSB also provides information to asylum seekers about the refugee status determination process, their rights and duties, entitlements and the support services available to them. This includes information on employment, benefits, housing and health as well as covering areas such as obtaining an IRD number, bank account and providing proof of address. The information is intended to assist both asylum seekers and Convention refugees to access services and information they need to support themselves.
- 25. An asylum seeker's access to government-funded support depends on their immigration status in New Zealand.
- 26. All asylum seekers in New Zealand are eligible to access public health and mental health services. Free health screening is provided through the Regional Public Health Services in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Depending on their circumstances, asylum seekers may be eligible to access mental health support through Refugees As Survivors New Zealand in Auckland and Refugee Trauma Recovery in Wellington.
- 27. Asylum seekers on a valid visa at the time they make their claim for refugee status are usually granted further temporary work, student or visitor visas while their claim is being decided.

Aide Memoire - Meeting with the Refugee Council

- 28. Asylum seekers who have made a claim for refugee or protection status and who have a relevant visa can seek and obtain employment, and Work and Income will assist them to find employment. Where unemployed, an asylum seeker with a current visa can apply for the Emergency Benefit and Temporary Additional Support¹, but not for other social security assistance. Asylum seekers with a relevant visa may also be able to access public education or study at tertiary institutions.
- 29. A small number of asylum seekers who claim at the border may be refused entry to New Zealand for reasons which can include issues relating to identity, security or criminality and/or method of arrival in the country. Asylum seekers who have been refused entry are initially detained under a Warrant of Commitment at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre or a Corrections facility. They may be subsequently Released on Condition to either reside at the Centre or into the community.
- 30. Depending on their circumstances a very small number of asylum seekers who claim in New Zealand may not be granted a temporary or subsequent visa for reasons including:
 - those who make an asylum claim in New Zealand after their visa has expired
 - claimants who are determined to be abusing the refugee process by lodging successive manifestly unfounded asylum claims
 - failed asylum claimants (those who have been through the refugee determination process including appeals) who are required to leave New Zealand because they may be subject to deportation²
- 31. As this group of asylum seekers are not eligible for relevant visas, they are not able to access public social security assistance. However, they are able to access public health services and school age children can access public education services.

Annexes

¹ An Emergency Benefit is paid when a person does not meet the eligibility for a main social security benefit (typically, people fail to meet either the residency or the age criteria). Temporary Additional Support is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for up to a maximum of 13 weeks at a time to help people with their regular essential living costs.

² In certain cases where INZ may not be able to immediately return a failed asylum claimant (e.g. issues of statelessness), consideration is given on a case-by-case basis to grant the person a temporary visa while INZ is arranging their departure.

Aide Memoire - Meeting with the Refugee Council

s 9(2)(g)(i) OIA



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with asylum seeker sector representatives

Date:	30 January 2018	Priority:	Low	
Security Classification:	Unclassified	Tracker number:	1822 17-18	

Information for Minister	
Hon lain Lees-Galloway	
Minister of Immigration	

Contact for telepho	ne discussion (if required)		
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Steve McGill	General Manager Settlement, Protection and Attraction	04 896 5230 (wk) s 9(2)(a) OIA	
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection	09 928 2217 (wk)	1

The following	departments/a	gencies have been	consulted			
Treasury	🗌 MoJ		MSD	TEC	MoE	
MFAT	MPI	MfE	DIA	🗌 ТРК	🗌 МоН	
☐ Other: N/A						

Minister's office to complete:

	Approved
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Noted Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

U Withdrawn

Comments:



AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with asylum seeker sector representatives

30 January 2018	Priority:	Low	
Unclassified	Tracker number:	1822 17-18	
	Unclassified	Unclassified Tracker number:	Unclassified Tracker number: 1822 17-18

Purpose

Outside scope of request

En (pp)

Andrew Lockhart National Manager, Refugee and Protection Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment 30/1000

Meeting



Aide Memoire - Meeting with asylum seeker sector

4. The above representatives' have provided an agenda (refer Annex Two) for your meeting with them, which includes the following topics for discussion:

Detention of refugee claimants, particularly in penal institutions, namely Mt Eden Prison.
 Outside scope of request

- Coordination between key government agencies; namely Housing, WINZ.
- Adequately funded social support including accomodation and social workers.
- Quota refugee issues (namely need for ongoing social support), how to manage expansion
 of quota responsibly.
 Outside scope of request

5. Background information and talking points on these topics is provided in the following section.

Topics that may be discussed

Outside scope of request

Outside scope of request

3

Convention refugees and asylum seekers

- 14. The vast majority of people who claim asylum (refugee or protected person status) in New Zealand arrive in the country on valid visas and live in the community. In addition, around 40-50 per cent lodge their claim after living in New Zealand for 12 months or more.
- 15. A small number of people claim at the border on arrival and a small proportion of those may be refused entry to New Zealand for reasons which can include issues relating to identity, security or criminality. Asylum seekers who have been refused entry are detained under a court reviewed Warrant of Commitment at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) or a penal facility. While their claim is being determined, the level of restriction on movement may be changed, including being released on conditions into the community.
- 16. When the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy (Strategy) was agreed in 2012, Cabinet noted that consideration would be made in the future about the Strategy being extended to include other refugee groups. Work is currently underway to better understand the settlement needs of Convention refugees (that is those who have been granted refugee or

protected person status in New Zealand) and what can be done to better support their settlement in New Zealand. Outside scope of request

- 17. INZ has developed material and supporting information, targeted at assisting Convention refugees to settle in New Zealand.
- 18. The RSB provides detailed information to asylum seekers about the refugee status determination process, their rights and duties, entitlements and the support services available to them. This includes information on employment, benefits, housing and health as well as covering areas such as obtaining an IRD number, bank account and providing proof of address. The information is intended to assist both asylum seekers and Convention refugees to access services and information they need to support themselves. This information is available in multiple languages. It is provided in hard copy upon receipt of a claim and is publically available from the INZ website.
- 19. The RSB has also developed a network of designated contact people from relevant government agencies who can support asylum seekers to access to services should this be needed.
- 20. All asylum seekers in New Zealand are eligible to access public health and mental health services.
- 21. INZ allocates the processing of all asylum seeker and Convention refugee visas to a single INZ branch which supports consistent and efficient processing of their visa applications.
- 22. An asylum seeker's access to some government-funded support may depend on their immigration status in New Zealand. Asylum seekers on a valid visa at the time they make their first claim for refugee status are usually granted further 12 month temporary work, student or visitor visas while their claim is being decided.
- 23. Asylum seekers who have a current claim for refugee or protected person status and who have a relevant visa can seek and obtain employment, and Work and Income will assist them to find employment. Where unemployed, an asylum seeker with a current visa can apply for the Emergency Benefit and Temporary Additional Support², but not for other social security assistance. Asylum seeker children are able to access public primary and secondary education and adult asylum seekers may be able to access tertiary institutions or attend English language courses.
- 24. Depending on their circumstances, a very small number of asylum seekers may not be granted a temporary or subsequent visa for reasons including:
 - those who arrive undocumented and are refused entry (detainees)
 - those who make an asylum claim in New Zealand after their visa has expired
 - those who are determined to be abusing the refugee process by lodging successive manifestly unfounded asylum claims
 - those who have been through the refugee determination process including appeals) and are "finally declined" and who are not eligible for a further visa while in New Zealand³

² An Emergency Benefit is paid when a person does not meet the eligibility for a main social security benefit (typically, people fail to meet either the residency or the age criteria). Temporary Additional Support is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for up to a maximum of 13 weeks at a time to help people with their regular essential living costs.

³ In certain cases where INZ may not be able to immediately return a failed asylum claimant (e.g. issues of statelessness), consideration is given on a case-by-case basis to grant the person a temporary visa while INZ is arranging their departure.

Aide Memoire - Meeting with asylum seeker sector

25. As this group of asylum seekers are not eligible for relevant visas, they are not able to access some social security assistance. However, they are able to access public health services and school age children can attend school.

Outside scope of request

Talking points

25. The following talking points are provided for your use:

Outside scope of request

 There are strong mechanisms in place for the asylum seeker sector to directly engage with the Refugee and Protection Unit and other government agencies on all aspects of asylum and refugee settlement, which includes input and consultation on changes that impact on asylum seekers or refugees.

Outside scope of request

Annexes

Annex One: Background information on asylum seeker sector organisations

Annex Two: Asylum seeker sector representatives' agenda

Annex Two – Asylum seekers sector representatives' meeting agenda

February 7th, 2018 Meeting with the Minister:

Minister lain Lees-Galloway

Our hope is to act as a resource for information to the Minister on the following topics for discussion:

Agenda	
Outside scope of request	
3. Detention of refugee claimants, particularly in penal institutions, nam	ely Mt

Outside scope of request

Eden Prison.

5. Coordination between key government agencies; namely Housing, WINZ.

6. Adequately funded social support - including accomodation and social workers.



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Amnesty New Zealand

Date:	12 February 2018	Priority:	Low	
Security Classification:	Unclassified	Tracker number:	1823 17-18	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Steve McGill	General Manager Settlement, Protection and Attraction	04 896 5230 (wk)	s 9(2)(a) OIA	
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection	09 928 2217 (wk)		· •

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
Treasury MoJ NZTE MSD TEC MOE					
MFAT	D MPI	MfE	DIA	🗌 ТРК	🗌 МоН
Other: N/A					

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments:



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT

HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Amnesty New Zealand

Date:	12 February 2018	Priority:	Low
Security Classification:	Unclassified	Tracker number:	1823 17-18

Purpose

Outside scope of request

Andrew Lockhart National Manager, Refugee and Protection Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment $\frac{2}{2018}$

Meeting

1.	Outside scope of request
2.	Outside scope of request
3.	
4.	

5.

6. Background information and talking points on topics that may be raised is provided in the following section.

Topics that may be discussed

Outside scope of request

Convention refugees and asylum seekers

- 27. The vast majority of people who claim asylum (refugee or protected person status) in New Zealand arrive in the country on valid visas and live in the community. In addition, around 40-50 per cent lodge their claim after living in New Zealand for 12 months or more.
- 28. A small number of people claim at the border on arrival and a small proportion of those may be refused entry to New Zealand for reasons which can include issues relating to identity, security or criminality. Asylum seekers who have been refused entry are detained under a court reviewed Warrant of Commitment at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) or a penal facility. While their claim is being determined, the level of restriction on movement may be changed, including being released on conditions into the community.

Outside scope of request

- 30. INZ has developed material and supporting information, targeted at assisting Convention refugees to settle in New Zealand.
- 31. Detailed information is also provided to asylum seekers about the refugee status determination process, their rights and duties, entitlements and the support services available to them.
- 32. All asylum seekers in New Zealand are eligible to access public health and mental health services.
- 33. An asylum seeker's access to some government-funded support may depend on their immigration status in New Zealand. Asylum seekers on a valid visa at the time they make their first claim for refugee status are usually granted further 12 month temporary work, student or visitor visas while their claim is being decided.

A de Memoire - Meeting Amnesty New Zealand

- 34. Asylum seekers who have a current claim for refugee or protected person status and who have a relevant visa can seek and obtain employment, and Work and Income will assist them to find employment. Where unemployed, an asylum seeker with a current visa can apply for the Emergency Benefit and Temporary Additional Support², but not for other social security assistance. Asylum seeker children are able to access public primary and secondary education and adult asylum seekers may be able to access tertiary institutions or attend English language courses.
- 35. Depending on their circumstances, a very small number of asylum seekers may not be granted a temporary or subsequent visa for reasons including:
 - those who arrive undocumented and are refused entry (detainees)
 - those who make an asylum claim in New Zealand after their visa has expired
 - those who are determined to be abusing the refugee process by lodging successive manifestly unfounded asylum claims
 - those who have been through the refugee determination process including appeals) and are "finally declined" and who are not eligible for a further visa while in New Zealand³
- 36. As this group of asylum seekers are not eligible for relevant visas, they are not able to access some social security assistance. However, they are able to access public health services and school age children can attend school.

Talking points

37. The following talking points are provided for your use:

Outside scope of request

Aide Memoire - Meeting Amnesty New Zealand

² An Emergency Benefit is paid when a person does not meet the eligibility for a main social security benefit (typically, people fail to meet either the residency or the age criteria). Temporary Additional Support is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for up to a maximum of 13 weeks at a time to help people with their regular essential living costs.

³ In certain cases where INZ may not be able to immediately return a failed asylum claimant (e.g. issues of statelessness), consideration is given on a case-by-case basis to grant the person a temporary visa while INZ is arranging their departure.

Annexes



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Amnesty International, 22 August 2019

Date:	20 August 2019	Priority:	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0437 19-20

Information for Minister(s)

Hon lain Lees-Galloway Minister of Immigration

Contact for telepho	one discussion (if required	i)		e de la companya de la
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy			✓
Victoria Hodgson	Policy Advisor	s 9(2)(a)	N/A	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted	
N/A	

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

🗋 Seen

See Minister's Notes

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

U Withdrawn

Comments



AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Amnesty International, 22 August 2019

Date:	20 August 2019	Priority:	Low	
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0437 19-20	

Purpose

To provide you with information and talking points for your meeting with Amnesty International New Zealand at 9.30am on Thursday 22 August 2019.

Siân Roguski Manager, Immigration Policy Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

20 / 08 / 2019

You are meeting representatives from Amnesty International New Zealand

1. You will be meeting representatives from Amnesty International on Thursday 22 August 2019 from 9.30am to 10.00am in vour office. for vour regular six-monthly meeting. Outside scope of request You last met them on 20 February

2019 to discuss the Outside scope of request Outside scope of request

asylum seekers in detention (aide

memoire 2430 18-19 refers).

Outside scope of request

2.

3.

4.

The discussion will cover a range of refugee policy topics

- 5. Outside scope of request
- 6. Other topics that may be discussed include Outside scope of request

detention

of asylum seekers

7. Background information on these subjects is below. Talking points are in Annex Two. Outside scope of request

Detention of asylum seekers and support for convention refugees

- 24. The vast majority of people who claim asylum (refugee or protected person status) in New Zealand arrive in the country on valid visas and have already spent some time living in New Zealand. A small number of people claim asylum at the border on arrival, and a small proportion of those may be refused entry to New Zealand and detained under immigration legislation for reasons which can include issues relating to identity, security or criminality.
- 25. Asylum seekers who have been refused entry may be detained under a Court-reviewed Warrant of Commitment at Immigration New Zealand's low security designated immigration detention facility, the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre, or a Corrections facility. A separate high-security immigration detention facility is not considered practicable given the small number of detained asylum seekers. While an asylum seeker's claim is being determined, the initial level of restriction on their movement may change as information relating to identity and other issues is verified. Claimants are released on conditions into the community as soon as practicable; balancing their individual rights against New Zealand's security interests.

Annexes

Outside scope of request

Annex Two: Suggested talking points for your meeting with Amnesty International, 22 August 2019

-1 -1

Detention of asylum seekers (if asked)

- New Zealand's legislation and processes support careful consideration before immigration decisions are made on restrictions to asylum seekers' movement.
- Asylum seekers may be detained at Immigration New Zealand's low-security facility, the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre, or a Corrections facility. A separate high-security immigration detention facility is not considered practicable given the small number of detained asylum seekers.



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HÎKINA WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Amnesty International New Zealand

Date:	18 February 2019	Priority:	Low
Security Classification:	Unclassified	Tracker number:	2430 18-19

Information for Minister	
Hon lain Lees-Galloway	
Minister of Immigration	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact	
Steve McGill	General Manager Settlement, Protection and Attraction	s 9(2)(a)		
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection			

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
Treasury	🗌 MoJ		MSD	TEC	MoE
MFAT	MPI	MfE	DIA	🗌 ТРК	🗌 МоН
		Other:	N/A		

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

U Withdrawn

Comments:



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT

ΗΪ́ΚΙΝΑ WHAKATUTUKI

AIDE MEMOIRE

Meeting with Amnesty International New Zealand

Date:	18 February 2019	Priority:	Low
Security Classification:	Unclassified	Tracker number:	2430 18-19

Purpose

Outside scope of request

Andrew Lockhart

National Manager, Refugee and Protection Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Meeting

Outside scope of request

- 2. Outside scope of request
- 3. The areas Amnesty have noted that they wish to discuss with you are:

- Asylum seekers in detention
- 4. Information on these areas is provided in the following section.

Asylum seekers in detention

17. Amnesty has previously raised their concerns about the detention of asylum seekers. More recently in their submission on New Zealand's Unviersal Periodic Review examination¹ in January 2019, the Human Rights Council summary of stakeholder submissions on New Zealand² recorded that:

Al [Amnesty International] remained concerned about breaches of the rights of persons seeking asylum, including the detention of some asylum-seekers alongside the wider remand detainee population, their security and well-being, and the length of time in detention.

- 18. The vast majority of people who claim asylum (refugee or protected person status) in New Zealand arrive in the country on valid visas and live in the community.
- 19. A small number of people claim at the border on arrival and a small proportion of those may be refused entry to New Zealand and detained under immigration legislation for reasons which can include issues relating to identity, security or criminality.
- 20. Asylum seekers who have been refused entry may be detained under a Court reviewed Warrant of Commitment at INZ's low security designated immigration detention facility, the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) or a Corrections facility. While their claim is being determined, the initial level of restriction on movement may be changed as information relating to identity and other issues are verified. Claimants are released on conditions into the community as soon as practicable, balancing their individual rights against New Zealand's security interests.
- 21. A separate high security immigration detention facility is not considered practicable given the small number of asylum seekers who are detained in Corrections facilities.
- 22. INZ and the Department of Corrections work together to ensure the principle that asylum claimants are managed as remand prisoners is in place. In addition, where good reasons exists under the Corrections Act and associated policies, that claimants be further separated from the general remand population, if that is required.

¹ The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. A review cycle is a four-and-half year period within which all UN Member states' human rights records are reviewed.

² Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirty-second session 21 January-1 February 2019: Summary of Stakeholders'submissions on New Zealand – Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights <u>https://documents-dds-</u>

ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/342/40/PDF/G1834240.pdf?OpenElement -- accessed 8 February 2019 Aide Memoire -- Meeting with Amnesty International New Zealand Unclassified

Talking points

23. The following talking points are provided for your use:

Outside scope of request

• New Zealand has legislation and process in place which support careful consideration and immigration decisions being made on any restrictions to asylum seekers movement.

Annexes

Outside scope of request

Aide Memolre – Meeting with Amnesty International New Zealand Unclassified



BRIEFING

Increase in allowance for asylum claimants released into the community

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT

HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Date:	6 April 2020	Priority:	Low
Security classification:	l in confidence	Tracking number:	2911 19-20

Action sought				
	Action sought	Deadline		
Hon lain Lees-Galloway Minister of Immigration	Note Increase in the allowance to asylum claimants who are released into the community	N/A		
Hon Poto Williams Associate Minister of Immigration	Copy attached for your information	N/A		

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Geoff Scott	Acting General Manager, Verification and Compliance		s 9(2)(a) OIA	~
Susan Cooke	General Manager, Enablement, Immigration New Zealand	04 896 5460		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
Treasury	🗌 MoJ	🗌 NZTE		TEC	🗌 MoE
🗌 MFAT	🗌 MPI	☐ MfE	🗌 DIA	🗌 ТРК	🗌 МоН
		Other:	DPMC		

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

- Noted
- 🗌 Seen
- See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

U Withdrawn

Comments:



BRIEFING

Increase in allowance for asylum claimants released into the community

Date:	6 April 2020	Priority:	Low
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	2911 19-20

Purpose

This briefing provides information on an increase to the allowance for refugee claimants who, due to their refused entry and unlawful immigration status, are unable to legally support themselves in New Zealand while their claim is being progressed, through either working or claiming assistance from the Ministry of Social Development.

Recommended action

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

a) **Note** that on 6 April 2020 the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment agreed to an increase in the allowance paid to a small number of asylum seekers who have not been issued with visas (and as such are not able to work or claim any benefit from Work and Income) and are not housed at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre

Noted

b) Note that payment of the allowance is consistent with New Zealand's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular Article 11, which provides that States will take appropriate steps to ensure the realisation of the right to an adequate standard of living

Noted

c) **Note** that the allowance has been increased from \$120 per week to \$225 per week, which is the mid-point between the net Job Seeker's benefit for a single 25 year old and a person in a relationship (as at 1 April 2020)

d) Note that increases to the allowance do not require Cabinet approval.

Noted

Geoff Scott Acting General Manager, Verification and Compliance - Immigration Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

6.1.2.12020

Hon lain Lees-Galloway **Minister of Immigration**

..... / /

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Allowances paid to a small group of asylum claimants

- 1. There is currently a small number of refugee and protected person claimants in New Zealand who have been refused entry permission and a visa¹. Because of their refused entry and unlawful immigration status, this category of claimant does not have the ability to legally support themselves in New Zealand while their claim is being progressed (through working or claiming assistance from the Ministry of Social Development). Due to their status as claimants they are also unable to be deported from New Zealand.
- Consistent with New Zealand's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular Article 11 which provides that States will take appropriate steps to ensure the realisation of the right to an adequate standard of living), Immigration New Zealand (INZ) pays a living allowance to these claimants when they are released from detention into the community, or to the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC).
- 3. As at 1 April 2020, 11 asylum claimants have been released on reporting conditions into the community and are eligible to receive the living allowance. Nine of the 11 claimants are released on reporting conditions to the Asylum Seekers Support Trust (ASST) in Auckland and two claimants are released on reporting conditions to other addresses in the community. (Two further claimants released on conditions to the MRRC are eligible only for a lesser allowance of \$85 per week.)
- 4. The last increase in the allowance was made in 2015. An increase in the allowance was considered in response to a number of submissions from members of the public, including the Asylum Seekers Support Trust. Work on the issue was expedited however, in light of the current COVID-19 environment, as more asylum seekers have been released into the community as a result of the COVID-19 lock-down, and it is not considered appropriate for the claimants to remain in detention in corrections facilities at this time.
- 5. On 6 April 2020, the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) agreed to an increase of the allowance to \$225 per week, which is the midpoint between the net Job Seeker's benefit for a single 25 year old (\$250.74) and a person in a relationship without children (\$200.60), as at 1 April 2020²), rounded to the nearest \$5. The increase to the allowance will be effective from 14 April.

Eligibility for the allowance

- 6. The allowance is payable to those who have lodged a claim with the Refugee Status Unit to be recognised as refugees and protected persons under Part 5 of the Immigration Act 2009 (the Act) and whose freedom of movement is restricted³ under the Act in the following circumstances:
 - Released on Conditions into the Community (RoC) under s120 of the Act

¹ A person who comes to New Zealand unlawfully is denied entry and detained until they can be removed. If a claim for asylum is then made, that person will continue to be detained but is not removed. Immigration New Zealand determines where and how they should be detained, and adopts a humanitarian approach to such detention, by allowing them to be released on conditions into the community.

² As set out at <u>https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/benefit-rates/benefit-rates-april-2020.html#null</u>

³ But it is not paid to those who are detained under the Immigration Act 2009.

- Released on Residence and Reporting Requirements Agreement (RRRA) into the community under s115 of the Act.
- 7. Asylum claimants who are detained under a warrant of commitment under the Act and not released on conditions into the community or to the MRRC do not qualify for the payment. Those who have sought asylum more than once in New Zealand and have already had decisions made on their claims are also not eligible.
- 8. As the housing requirements for claimants released to the MRRC are fully met, no increase to the relevant \$85 per week allowance has been proposed.
- 9. The payment of these allowances by INZ is discretionary and dependent on the claimant being able to prove to INZ that they require financial assistance. The allowance is generally only provided if it is requested, and in most cases it would be the individual's representative who requests the payment on behalf of their client and confirms that the claimant had arrived in New Zealand with little or no money.
- 10. The payment of allowances to each individual is reviewed every six months to confirm whether the asylum seeker is still meeting the criteria. As soon as a claim is either approved or declined, the claimant, their representative and Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Finance team are notified, and the payment is ceased.

Rationale for increase

- 11. The current allowance for claimants released into the community and not residing at the MRRC is insufficient to provide adequate support for them as they are waiting for their refugee claim to be determined, especially as the majority reside in Auckland where the cost of living is relatively high. (Claimants released on conditions into the community to the Asylum Seekers Support Trust are required to meet the costs of their own food and to contribute to the rental cost of the accommodation.)
- 12. In determining the level of increase, INZ considered the need to keep the amount less than that provided to single jobseekers aged 25 and above, to ensure that the increase does not in itself incentivise unlawful entry to New Zealand.
- 13. The increase in the allowance may also enable more claimants released on conditions to be housed outside the MRRC, where there are periodic pressures on space for those already determined to be refugees.

POTENTIAL RISKS

14. There are potential media and political risks associated with a decision to increase the allowance, primarily the potential negative perception that claimants are receiving similar entitlements to New Zealand citizens and residents and that increasing the allowance may incentivise individuals to make unmeritorious claims for asylum.

15. Conversely those people who have requested an increase to the allowance to \$250 per week (the Asylum Seekers Support Trust) may consider that the proposed increase is too low.