

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Justice
Minister for Broadcasting and Media
Minister of Immigration



30 MAY 2022

OIA 22-046

Chuck Schooner

fyi-request-18972-89f4e4fb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chuck

Thank you for your email on 25 March 2022 to Hon Kris Faafoi, pursuant to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Another doozy - recently it has been announced we are going to take 150 refugees each year for three years from Australia - yay!

- *Are the refugees required to be vaccinated to enter country - please provide any and all vaccination requirements associated with this policy*
- *who is liable for refugees entering country getting jabbed and getting injured?*
- *If there aren't vaccination requirements, please provide risk assessment associated with these refugees*
- *Please provide all of the documents associated with housing for the refugees - where will they be living, at what cost, who is paying*
- *What is provided to refugees in terms of job availability?*
- *Have the refugees been made aware of if they can find work then do they know the excessive spending / incompetent fiscal policy / stupidity / corruption then the money they earn probably won't buy them a grape?*
- *do the refugees have other options as to countries they can go to?*
- *have there been any focus groups to ask if the refugees want to come to New Zealand?”*

As background to the responses to your request, the following information may be useful:

- The Government is committed to supporting settlement of refugees in New Zealand so that they can contribute and have a sense of belonging. This commitment is demonstrated through the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy, which is an all-of-government strategy that supports the delivery of settlement services and programmes of work to refugees. The Strategy aims to deliver improved settlement and integration outcomes for former refugees.
- As part of the settlement work programme, services and information are provided by several government agencies and through non-governmental organisations. You can

find more information about the Strategy and cross-government settlement work programme at:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/refugee-resettlement-strategy>.

In response to your request, information that has been identified within scope is outlined below.

Part one: “Are the refugees required to be vaccinated to enter country - please provide any and all vaccination requirements associated with this policy - who is liable for refugees entering country getting jabbed and getting injured? - If there aren’t vaccination requirements, please provide risk assessment associated with these refugees”.

Refugees who have been approved for resettlement in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota Programme are not required to be vaccinated to enter the country. This applies to refugees who are approved for resettlement within the scope of New Zealand-Australia refugee resettlement arrangement as they will be resettled as part of our annual Refugee Quota Programme.

Information on the vaccination requirement to enter New Zealand is available at this link: <https://covid19.govt.nz/international-travel/travel-to-new-zealand/vaccination-requirements-for-travel-to-new-zealand/>.

For your background information, following approval for resettlement, Quota refugees are provided the opportunity, if they wish, to participate in offshore settlement health assessments. This offshore assessment supports quota refugees’ settlement in relation to their health outcomes and enables refugees to be up-to-date with the vaccination schedule in New Zealand. Information on that schedule is publicly available at this link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/new-zealand-immunisation-schedule>.

Once in New Zealand, as part of the reception programme at Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa (Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre), quota refugees are offered vaccinations in-line with the vaccination schedule in New Zealand, including COVID-19 vaccinations.

Quota refugees’ health, safety and wellbeing on settling in New Zealand are supported through their access to available public-health services in New Zealand. As permanent residents, quota refugees are eligible to access available publicly funded health services.

Part two: “Please provide all of the documents associated with housing for the refugees - where will they be living, at what cost, who is paying”

Your request for information seeking “...all of the documents associated with housing for the refugees...” is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the documents requested do not exist in relation to the New Zealand-Australia refugee resettlement arrangement.

However, the following information is provided about housing for all quota refugees.

After completion of their reception programme at Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa, quota refugees are settled into one of the thirteen settlement locations established across New Zealand. Please refer to the following link for more comprehensive information on the settlement locations: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/refugee-resettlement-strategy/rqip>.

As permanent residents, quota refugees are eligible to access government-funded services and supports including housing supports.

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) manages the process of securing housing for quota refugees, whether they are public or private rental properties. Quota refugee families do not depart from Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa without a property being secured in their settlement location.

The Ministry of Social Development assesses the housing needs of all quota refugees and places them on the public housing register. Kāinga Ora and Community Housing Providers then match eligible refugees from the public housing register to public houses according to their needs and housing availability. The majority of refugees are housed in private rental accommodation.

The rights and responsibilities of New Zealand tenants are explained to quota refugees prior to their arrival, during the reception programme and until they arrive into their new settlement location.

Part three: What is provided to refugees in terms of job availability? - Have the refugees been made aware of if they can find work then do they know the excessive spending / incompetent fiscal policy / stupidity / corruption then the money they earn probably won't buy them a grape?

Prior to quota refugees arriving in New Zealand, offshore interviews are conducted by INZ, which includes a component that provides an introduction to the New Zealand work environment.

In addition, as part of the reception programme at Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa, quota refugees undertake English language assessments and lessons and are provided information on further education opportunities and employment requirements in New Zealand.

As permanent residents, quota refugees are eligible to access government-funded services including employment supports and services provided by Work and Income. In the community, quota refugees are able to access English language classes and a specific refugee employment programme called Pathways to Employment (P2E), which is funded by the Ministry of Social Development.

You may also be interested in accessing information about the government's Employment Strategy and the specific action plan focused on refugees, recent migrants and ethnic

communities is available in the following link: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/employment-strategy/>.

Part four: Do refugees have other options as to countries they can go to? have there been any focus groups to ask if the refugees want to come to New Zealand?"

Refugees are people who flee their home countries and are not able to safely return as they face a real chance of being persecuted for one of the Refugee Convention reasons.

New Zealand works with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the international community to find durable protection solutions for refugees who need that protection.

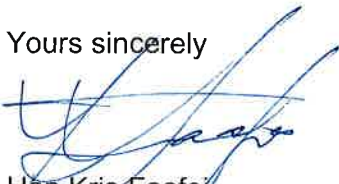
New Zealand is one of around 37 countries which resettles refugees who are referred by the UNHCR for resettlement in a safe third country. The UNHCR identifies refugees who have priority protection needs and who require resettlement, according to internationally accepted guidelines that take into account their physical and legal protection needs, as well as other factors such as family reunification.

Refugees who are referred for resettlement in a safe third country may decide that they do not wish to proceed with that resettlement.

New Zealand does not undertake focus groups as part of New Zealand's Refugee Quota immigration selection process due to the confidential nature of each person's personal circumstances. However, INZ undertakes an interview with each refugee referred for settlement and assesses their commitment to settle in New Zealand as part of the process.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Immigration