

Hon Michael Wood

MP for Mt Roskill

Minister of Immigration

Minister of Transport

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety



08 NOV 2022

MOIA 22-540

A KS

fyi-request-20850-43227c51@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear A KS,

Thank you for your request on 13 October 2022 to my office under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

1:- There was also a high expectation that the NZ government would provide some long-term visitor visa options for the parents of the migrant communities. However, there was no announcement regarding that.

With the newly introduced ballot system, only a lucky 2500 would be able to be with their families, and the rest of the parents will have just one option of 3 years visa, which is not helpful. In 3 years multiple entry Parent Grandparents Visitor visa, the person has to be out of NZ for 18 months which leaves just 1.5 years in NZ out of 3 years, and every time person applies, they have to go for tough medicals. They also need to exit NZ every 6 months, But the total duration is only 18 months out of 36 months of visa duration.

On the other hand, Canada and US provide 10-year parents visitor visas. Australia provides 3 and 5 years visas to the parents, who don't have to exit every 6 months.

Please advise if you are working to introduce long-term continuous visitor visas for parents, like 3,5,10 years, as now the residency quota is too low.

Can you share the details of the undergoing work, like any documents etc., as MBIE/INZ has shown in some OIA responses that such options were discussed in the past?

2:- If not, is your government having this thing on priority, and when will you introduce options for the such visa as elections are due next year?

3:- Also, are you considering an option for longer-term continuous visitor visas for those parents who have been in the old EOI queue since 2016?

In July 2022, I received advice from officials on the Parent Category Resident Visa (Parent Category), which included initial advice on a long-term visitor visa for parents of New Zealand residents and citizens. This briefing is being proactively released, I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be made publicly available.

As you are aware, I recently announced changes to the Parent Category, including an annual cap that has more than doubled from previous settings. This cap strikes a balance between reducing barriers to access the Parent Category, while still managing demand on New Zealand's public health and social services.

I acknowledge that other jurisdictions, such as Australia and Canada, have long-term visitor visa options, however, I am not currently considering changes to the Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa. I consider that the Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa, which allows for up to six months per visit, gives flexibility to those who only want to remain in New Zealand for short periods of time, and those who wish to stay for longer periods should consider applying for the Parent Category. I have directed officials to conduct further work into alternative visa options for parents of New Zealanders, which may include visitor visa for parents. This work is likely to be scoped in late 2023.

I am not considering an interim visitor visa for those who have an expression of interest (EOI) in the Parent Category EOI queue. Based on the number of people in the queue, we expect that it will take up to four years for the queue to be selected but could be completed sooner. More information about timeframes for EOI selections will be added to the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website as INZ gathers information about those in the EOI queue.

I hope you will find this information helpful.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end of the last word.

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Immigration