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## MEMO

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DATE 17 March 2016

TO Alison Marris, Private Secretary, Office of the Minister of Immigration  
Carolyn Van Leuven, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

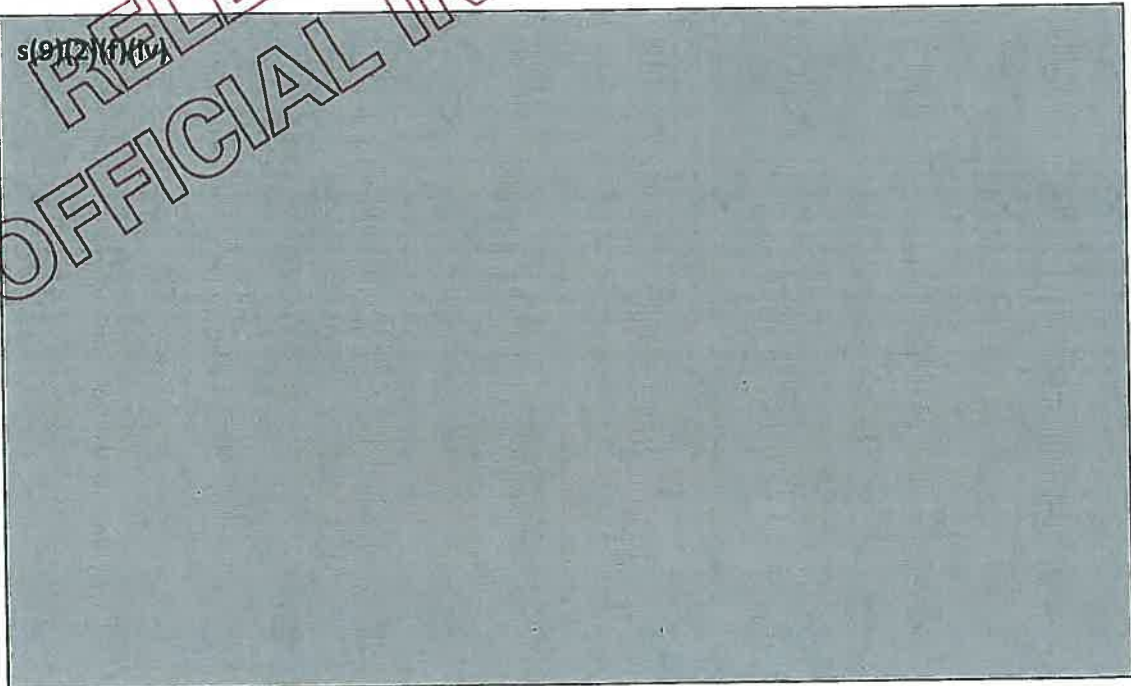
CC Steve McGill, General Manager, Settlement, Protection and Attraction

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SUBJECT Information for the next three year refugee programme

### PURPOSE



### THE NEW ZEALAND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY

3. The Strategy, approved by Cabinet in 2012, provides a whole-of-government approach to delivering improved refugee resettlement outcomes so that refugees more quickly achieve self-sufficiency, social integration and independence. The

Strategy is being implemented progressively and covers quota refugees who arrived in New Zealand after 1 July 2013.

4. Since implementation of the Strategy began in July 2013, the following changes have been made to improve refugee settlement outcomes.

- Changes to the mix of services provided to refugees to place a greater emphasis on employment and living in New Zealand. These include:
  - improved off-shore orientation to help prepare them for life and work in New Zealand
  - a revamped six-week reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRRC) to place a greater emphasis on supporting refugees to achieve employment, social integration and independence
  - the development of settlement plans for each refugee family, and
  - support in the community for the initial 12 month settlement phase strengthened to link refugees through the settlement plans to mainstream services.
- A Ministry of Social Development contract with the New Zealand Red Cross for the "Pathways to Employment" programme is focused on connecting refugees to employment opportunities in the community.
- The Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission have mapped the English language needs for refugees with a view to providing easier access to English language classes at the level required.
- A refugee driver training programme has been implemented in Hamilton, Palmerston North and Nelson. In 2015/16 these programmes are expected to provide 60 refugees with the opportunity to obtain their restricted drivers licence.
- A review of interpreter services and how they are used to support refugees' access to mainstream services is expected to report with findings and recommendations by July 2016.

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