

From: Julia Lindsay **On Behalf Of** Steve McGill
Sent: Friday, 31 March 2017 4:04 p.m.
To: Tim Shadbolt
Cc: Michelle Chapman
Subject: RE: Invitation to meet with Steve McGill, INZ [UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon,

Many thanks for the confirmation to meet with Steve McGill at 2pm on Tuesday 4 April. I have scheduled this meeting into Steve's diary.

Steve looks forward to meeting with His Worship the Mayor and CE Richard King.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Kind regards,
Julia Lindsay

From: Tim Shadbolt [mailto:[59\(2\)\(a\)@in.govt.nz](mailto:59(2)(a)@in.govt.nz)]
Sent: Friday, 31 March 2017 3:10 p.m.
To: Steve McGill
Cc: Michelle Chapman
Subject: RE: Invitation to meet with Steve McGill, INZ [UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon,

On behalf of His Worship the Mayor Tim Shadbolt, thank you for your email extending an invitation for His Worship to meet with Steve McGill on Tuesday, 4 April 2017.

His Worship appreciates receiving your invitation and would be delighted to attend.

His Worship the Mayor and CE Richard King are both available to meet with Mr McGill at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 4 April 2017, in the Mayor's Lounge in the Civic Administration Building, 101 Esk Street, Invercargill.

Could you please confirm this also fits in with Mr McGill's schedule.

Kind Regards

Morina Colyer
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR

From: Julia Lindsay [mailto:[59\(2\)\(a\)@in.govt.nz](mailto:59(2)(a)@in.govt.nz)] **On Behalf Of** Steve McGill
Sent: Tuesday, 28 March 2017 3:11 p.m.
To: Tim Shadbolt
Subject: Invitation to meet with Steve McGill, INZ [UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon Mayor Shadbolt

Steve McGill, General Manager at Immigration New Zealand, will be down in Invercargill next Tuesday 4 April. Would you happen to be available to discuss immigration-related matters with him at a time between 12 midday – 3pm? The invitation also extends to Richard King.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Julia Lindsay

on behalf of

Steve McGill

Julia Lindsay

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO GENERAL MANAGER
Settlement Protection and Attraction, Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

59(2)(a)
Level 1 Stout Street, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, New Zealand



**Ministry of Business,
Innovation & Employment**



www.govt.nz - your guide to finding and using New Zealand government services

Any opinions expressed in this message are not necessarily those of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. This message and any files transmitted with it are confidential and solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivery to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this message in error and that any use is strictly prohibited. Please contact the sender and delete the message and any attachment from your computer.

This e-mail message has been scanned for Viruses and Content, and cleared by MailMarshal at Invercargill City Council

From: Andrew Lockhart
Sent: Monday, 1 May 2017 12:48 p.m.
To: 1 S9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Refugee Settlement in Invercargill [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Hi Richard

I am following up my earlier phone calls to your office regarding the decision by Government Agencies to select Invercargill as the new settlement location for Quota Refugee resettled under the government programme.

Steve McGill has spoken to the Mayor about the selection and we have briefed our Minister. We are now wanting to send out a press release (preferably today) to inform the public of the decision. Ahead of sending the Press Release I would like to talk to you about the release so that we can align our responses and the next steps following the announcement

Can you phone me urgently on my mobile phone at S9(2)(a)

Regards

Andrew Lockhart
National Manager
Refugee Unit, Settlement Protection and Attraction Group
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

L12, 280 Queen Street, P>O Box 90533, Auckland 1142

From: Andrew Lockhart
Sent: Monday, 1 May 2017 4:56 p.m.
To: § 9(2) (a)
Subject: 010517 New refugee resettlement location chosen [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Richard

Further to our earlier conversation please find attached the press release that will be released regarding Refugee Settlement in Invercargill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information

Regards

Andrew Lockhart
National Manager
Refugee Unit, Settlement Protection and Attraction Group
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

§ 9(2) (a)
L12, 280 Queen Street, P>O Box 90533, Auckland 1142



**NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION**

MEDIA RELEASE

27 APRIL 2017

Invercargill chosen as new refugee settlement location

Invercargill has been selected as a new refugee settlement location following a whole of Government assessment.

The assessment included looking at employment, housing and Government services available alongside the support provided by the local community.

The decision to choose Invercargill was made by the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Officials' Group - made up of representatives from Immigration New Zealand (INZ), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, Office of Ethnic Communities and Department of Internal Affairs.

There are currently six settlement locations in New Zealand where quota refugees are settled after they have completed the six week reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre - Auckland region, Waikato, Manawatu, Wellington region, Nelson and Dunedin.

INZ General Manager Steve McGill says an extra settlement location is needed because of the recent ongoing increase to the Quota and the decreasing proportion of refugee families settled in Auckland, meaning that only those quota refugees who have relatives already living in the region are settled there.

Invercargill was considered alongside Christchurch, New Plymouth, Rotorua and Tauranga.

Mr McGill says all the locations had the strengths and potential to be a settlement location but Invercargill edged out the others because of the broad range of employment opportunities in the area.

"Invercargill also has a strong set of services and is a well-connected city where a number of government agencies have a presence," he says. "Suitable housing is available and there is excellent support from the community."

Mr McGill says details are still being worked out, but it is expected that the first group of refugees will arrive in Invercargill later this year.

The settlement of refugees in Christchurch was suspended - except for a limited number of family-linked cases - following the September 2010 earthquake due to the impact on services such as health and housing. But Mr McGill says he expects refugees to be resettled in the city in the future.

“Christchurch will continue to be under review for a resettlement location but we felt that at the moment there are still some infrastructure issues which would make it difficult to resettle large number of refugees. We’re confident that as the rebuild continues to progress further Christchurch will once again be a settlement location.”

For further information contact the media line on 0274 422 141 or email media@mbie.govt.nz

Note to editors:

Quota refugees are given permanent residence on arrival in New Zealand and spend their first six weeks at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre. While there, they complete a reception programme to support living and working in New Zealand and English language. They also complete medical and mental health assessments.

NZ Red Cross is contracted by INZ to provide settlement support in the community over the first 12 months. This includes an orientation programme and connecting refugees to services they require such as doctor’s appointments, English language, education and employment.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: Andrew Lockhart

Sent: Tuesday, 2 May 2017 12:07 p.m.

To: S9(2)(a)

Subject: Re Re Announcement of Invercargill as Resettlement Location [UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

Hi Richard

Are you able to phone me urgently on my mobile regarding the article in the Southland Times this morning relating to Invercargill selection as a new settlement location

My mobile number is S9(2)(a)

Regards

Andrew Lockhart

National Manager

Refugee Unit, Settlement Protection and Attraction Group

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

L12, 280 Queen Street, P>O Box 90533, Auckland 1142

S9(2)(a)



Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees

Project 3.6 – Response to increase in Refugee Quota

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Project Objective

This project aims to identify future resettlement regions for Quota Refugees within New Zealand in response to increases in the number of UNHCR mandated refugees referred to New Zealand.

The allocation of Quota refugees for the 2016/17 year has been completed following Cabinet decisions on the three year resettlement programme in June 2016.

The allocation has decreased the number of refugees being resettled in the Auckland region and there will be an increase in the numbers of refugees being resettled in the remaining regions.

In response to the increasing strain on the existing resettlement regions and the increased number of individuals coming to New Zealand as part of the quota, there is a need to identify a new region for refugee resettlement.

Key Data on Quota Refugee Resettlement areas

There are currently 6 resettlement locations for quota refugees in New Zealand: Auckland, Waikato, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson and Dunedin.

Refugee Quota Programme – allocation to settlement regions								
Financial Year	Auckland	Hamilton	Palmerston North	Wellington	Nelson	Dunedin	New area	Total
2015/16	185 (21%)	115 (13%)	113 (13%)	277 (32%)	89 (10%)	94 (10.7%)	0	876
2016/17	105 (10%)	170 (17%)	170 (17%)	240 (24%)	130 (13%)	185 (19%)	0	1000
2017/18	100 (10%)	150 (15%)	150 (15%)	200 (20%)	100 (10%)	150 (15%)	150 (15%)	1000

Provisional Criteria for resettlement locations

A long list was developed to assess possible future resettlement areas against key economic indicators. Regions were assessed on Local Employment Rate, Regional Unemployment Rate, Projected employment growth and regional NEET (Not in Education/Employment/Training) statistics. Each resettlement location was ranked on the economic variables and scored accordingly. (Appendix 1)

The highest ranked areas formed the short list below.

Short List of resettlement locations for consideration

Location	Local Employment Rate	Regional Unemployment Rate	Regional Projected employment Growth 2016-2019	Regional NEET
Christchurch	71%	3.5%	2.1%	8.6%
Invercargill	67.3%	5.0%	1.6%	13.4%
New Plymouth	65%	5.6%	2.3%	14.1%
Rotorua	65.5%	5.9%	2.3%	15.1%
Tauranga	63.6%	5.8%	1.5%	12.7%

Notes:

Employment Rate: The employment rate is the number of employed, as a percentage of the working-age population. These are annual average figures.

Regional Unemployment rate: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the labour force. These are annual average figures.

NEET: The NEET rate is the total number of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) who are not in education, employment, or training, as a percentage of the total youth working-age population.

Links to data source:

Regional Projected Employment Growth: <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/employment-skills/labour-market-reports/forecasting/short-term-employment-forecasts/short-term-employment-forecasts-2016-2019/region/?searchterm=regional%20growth%20forecasts%2A>

Regional Economic and Employment data: <http://webrear.mbie.govt.nz/summary/new-zealand?bailiwick=W251bGwsdHJ1ZSx0cnVlLHRydWVd>

Detailed Assessment against Key Criteria

The project group have identified the following indicators to be measured against each of the potential new resettlement areas.

Employment

- Availability of a range of employment opportunities
- Access to a Pathways to Employment programme
- Access to Work and Income offices/Community Links
- Occupational Training Opportunities

Housing

- Availability of Housing New Zealand Housing
- Availability of Community/Social Housing
- Availability of low-cost private housing options

Education

- Primary and Secondary schooling including remedial help
- Availability of specials migrant and refugee support
- Appropriately staged ESOL provision

Health and Well-being

- Access to affordable primary health
- Specialist health services where required
- Appropriate counselling and mental health services
- Access to mainstream social work services (eg family violence, parenting support)
- Resettlement casework support agency

Participation

- Interpreting services
- Community Safety
- Welcoming community including Tangata Whenua connection and support
- Local government support
- Ethnic community support
- Faith based leadership and support

Key dates

Activity	Date
Initial cross-agency meeting notification on framework for assessing locations against key criteria (email sent)	October 2016
Key Agency Workshop - Joint analysis of collated information - New settlement location recommendations	November 3rd 2016 Stout St, Wellington 11:00-1:00pm
Decision on the new settlement location by the NZRRS Senior Officials Group	March 2nd 2017
Announcement of new settlement location	March 2017
Engagement and training in new settlement location with the local council, settlement services, interested local groups/organisations and local communities	March 2017
First arrivals to new settlement area	18 th August 2017

Appendix 1

Scoring of Long List

To compare different economic variables each region was scored between 9 and 1. A region scored a "9" if they had the strongest economic data in that category, an 8 if they had the second highest economic rating etc. The shortlist will comprise of the 5 highest scoring regions.

Location	Local Employment rate	Score	Regional Unemployment Rate	Score	Regional Projected employment growth 2016-2019	Score	Regional (NEET)	Score	Total
Christchurch	71%	9	3.5%	9	2.1%	8	8.6%	9	35
Invercargill	67.3%	8	5.0%	8	1.6%	7	13.4%	7	30
New Plymouth	65%	5	5.6%	7	2.3%	9	14.1%	6	27
Rotorua	65.5%	6	5.9%	5	2.3%	9	15.1%	5	25
Tauranga	63.6%	4	5.8%	6	1.5%	6	12.7%	8	24
Taupo	61%	3	5.9%	5	2.3%	9	15.1%	5	22
Napier/Hastings	66.5%	7	6.9%	4	1.1%	5	17.2%	4	20
Whanganui	59.3%	1	7.2%	3	1%	4	21.1%	2	10
Whangarei	60.4%	2	7.9%	2	0.8%	3	17.8%	3	10

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

CHRISTCHURCH		ASSESSMENT NOTES
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability HNZC stock • Availability of community/social housing • Availability low cost private housing options 	<p>Private Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average weekly rent of \$381 per week¹ • Overall rental rates decreasing -4.2%² <p>We tracked 2, 3 and 4 bedroom private rentals across a 3 day period in the lowest average market rent to assess private rental availability. During that period there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Between 67-68 2 bedroom property ○ Between 40-46 3 bedroom properties ○ Between 23-28 4 bedroom properties <p>Social Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 465 applications on the social housing register, 308 of those priority A • 59(2) (3) + 59(2) (f) (iv) • Intention to introduce tenancy reviews in this year 	
<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of a range of employment opportunities • Occupational Training Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong growth rate for employment • 4 largest sectors, manufacturing, retail, health and construction • Red Cross Pathway to Employment programme in place, funded by MSD • Good Training opportunities – Work and Income have industry partnerships with transport/bus industry, Meat industry, Hospitality industry and Security industry 	

¹ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

² <http://www.trademe.co.nz/property/price-index/for-rent/november-2016/>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and Secondary schooling with remedial help • Availability of migrant and refugee support • Appropriately staged ESOL provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of expertise • MoE Senior Advisor – Refugee Education post established in Christchurch • Family based education programmes • ESOL - ILN ESOL and Adult and community classes well established • Christchurch has the most provision for ESOL/LN out of the 5 regions shortlisted. • ESOL provider feels that capacity can be increased easily into existing classes • University and Higher level education options available.
<p>Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to affordable primary health • Specialist health services where required • Counselling and mental health services • Access to mainstream social work services (family violence, parenting support) • Resettlement support agency 	<p>Canterbury DHB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DHB was a refugee settlement centre before the earthquake. Careful thought required here as the DHB is still in post-earthquake recovery mode to an extent • Mental health services may be strained to offer support given the pressures reported by the DHB in coping with the medium term effects of the earthquake. More recently this may have been exacerbated by issues related to the Port Hills fires • Canterbury DHB is managing two very significant building projects post earthquake • The DHB has been put in the later tranche of adopters for major health initiatives such as bowel screening because of the other challenges it faces (as above). • An existing NGO provider for refugee services exists- Christchurch Resettlement Services, which reportedly works in a co-ordinated fashion with the DHB and Pegasus PHO. Further work may be required to establish its capacity to offer specialist mental health services as required
<p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting services • Local Government Support • Welcoming community including Tangata Whenua connection • Ethnic community support, faith based leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic liaison officers and community officers in place • Active refugee community – good infrastructure support • Strong faith community support • Net migration Canterbury region 2016 - 6,847

³ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-arenda/regions/published-report>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

ASSESSMENT NOTES	
<p>INVERCARGILL</p> <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability HNZC stock • Availability of community/social housing • Availability low cost private housing options 	<p>Private Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average weekly rent: \$354⁴ • Overall rental rates increasing +6.4%⁵ <p>We tracked 2, 3 and 4 bedroom private rentals across a 3 day period in the lowest average market rent to assess private rental availability. During that period there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Between 1-2 2 bedroom properties ○ Between 6-8 3 bedroom properties ○ There were 0 4 bedroom properties available during that period <p>Social Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 applications on the social housing register • No community Housing providers • No planned increase in stock from MSD • 59 (2) (w) + 59 (2) (f) (iv)
<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of a range of employment opportunities • Occupational Training • Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked first in employment/economic indicators of the 5 shortlisted regions • Many employment opportunities require transport (eg opportunities in Bluff) • Main sectors – healthcare, Social Assistants, manufacturing, Retail, Training, Farming, freezing works • Pathways to Employment programme could be contracted through Dunedin • Some established training programmes through Southern Institute of Technology

⁴ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

⁵ <http://www.trademe.co.nz/property/price-index/for-rent/november-2016/>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and Secondary schooling with remedial help • Availability of migrant and refugee support • Appropriately staged ESOL provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no adult ESOL provision • Additional funding could be made available • Limited experience/expertise in delivering ESOL /ILN • ESOL provider feels that provision can be increased with a 6 month lead in time
<p>Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to affordable primary health • Specialist health services where required • Counselling and mental health services • Access to mainstream social work services (family violence, parenting support) • Resettlement support agency 	<p>Southern District Health Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care in Invercargill tends to be under pressure, and this is the first line of health service provision for refugees. • There is no infrastructure specifically targeted at refugees. This has been recently developed in Dunedin (for Syrian refugees), which may offer a launching pad for services in Invercargill, but the two centres are geographically distant. • Southern DHB is financially-constrained • Interpreting services are likely to need to be established
<p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting services • Local Government Support • Welcoming community including Tangata Whenua connection • Ethnic community support • Faith based leadership and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal interpreting services • Police have liaison officers/community police who can support • Limited ethnic community support and faith based leadership • Net migration Southland region 2016 - 594⁶

⁶ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

NEW PLYMOUTH		ASSESSMENT NOTES
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability HNZC stock • Availability of community/social housing • Availability low cost private housing options 	<p>Private Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average weekly rent: \$310⁷ • Overall rental rates increasing +\$2.9%⁸ <p>We tracked 2, 3 and 4 bedroom private rentals across a 3 day period in the lowest average market rent to assess private rental availability. During that period there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Between 4-6 2 bedroom properties ○ There were 5 3 bedroom properties ○ There was 1 4 bedroom property available <p>Social Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 applications on the social housing register, 21 are priority A • 7 community housing provider places • No intention to increase purchasing at this time • 59 (27) (v) + 59 (2) (f) (iv) • Stable housing market 	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of a range of employment opportunities • Occupational Training Opportunities
	<p>Social Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest ranked in regards to employment of the 5 shortlisted regions. • Employment sectors include, oil, energy, dairy, agriculture, construction, transport or health. • Many jobs require high skill level to enter • No current Pathways to Employment programme • Training opportunities in Engineering through the Taranaki Employment Migrant Connections 	

⁷ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

⁸ <http://www.trademe.co.nz/property/price-index-for-rent/november-2016/>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and Secondary schooling with remedial help • Availability of migrant and refugee support • Appropriately staged ESOL provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 245 ESOL students across 23 schools • Additional funding for ESOL could be available • English Language Partners main ESOL provider • There is a regional Polytech
<p>Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to affordable primary health • Specialist health services where required • Counselling and mental health services • Access to mainstream social work services (family violence, parenting support) • Resettlement support agency 	<p>Taranaki DHB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium sized DHB • No refugee -specific services which would need to be developed • Interpreting services and CALD (cultural training) would need to be established and developed • Primary care services tend to be under pressure in part because of numbers and distribution of GPs
<p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting services • Local Government Support • Welcoming community including Tangata Whenua connection • Ethnic community support • Faith based leadership and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iwi Liaison officer based in New Plymouth • Net Migration Taranaki Region 2016 - 401⁹

⁹ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/information-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

ROTORUA	ASSESSMENT NOTES	
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability HNZC stock • Availability of community/social housing • Availability low cost private housing options 	<p>Private Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average weekly rent: \$354¹⁰ • Overall rental rates increasing +10.5%¹¹ <p>Social Housing Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low HNZC stock • Low turn over • 78 applications on the social housing register, 51 priority A • No intention by MSD to increase purchasing 	
<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of a range of employment opportunities • Occupational Training Opportunities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly seasonal workforce • Difficult to provide 12 month permanent positions • Employment can be difficult to access for people with barriers • No current Pathway \$ to Employment programme • Tech college offers training in Forestry, Business, Nursing, Trades

¹⁰ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

¹¹ <http://www.trademe.co.nz/property/price-index/for-rent/november-2016/>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and Secondary schooling with remedial help • Availability of migrant and refugee support • Appropriately staged ESOL provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific ESOL or ILN funding provided • English Language Partners has a programme in the centre • Polytech offers some provision
<p>Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to affordable primary health • Specialist health services where required • Counselling and mental health services • Access to mainstream social work services (family violence, parenting support) • Resettlement support agency 	<p>Lakes DHB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallest DHB of the 5 regions assessed and therefore limited marginal capacity to absorb new high needs population • Complex health needs in the population of the district (high proportion of Maori) with possible existing pressure on services • No refugee-specific services, which would need to be developed
<p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting services • Local Government Support • Welcoming community including Tangata Whenua connection • Ethnic community support • Faith based leadership and support • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iwi Liaison officer • Net migration Bay of Plenty region 2016 – 2,597¹²

¹² <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

TAURANGA

ASSESSMENT NOTES

Housing

- Availability HNZC stock
- Availability of community/social housing
- Availability low cost private housing options

Private Housing Market

- Average weekly rent: \$354¹³
- Overall rental rates increasing +10.5%¹⁴

We tracked 2, 3 and 4 bedroom private rentals across a 3 day period in the lowest average market rent to assess private rental availability. During that period there were:

- Between 2-4 2 bedroom properties for rent
- Between 7-11 3 bedroom properties for rent
- Between 2-3 4 bedroom properties for rent

Social Housing Market

- Complete Stock transfer of HNZC properties to Community Housing Provider planned for April 1st 2017
- 160 applications on the Social Housing register, 104 are priority A
- MSD has purchasing intentions for more one, two and four bed properties and maintain current levels of three bedroom places.

¹³ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business/growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

¹⁴ <http://www.trademe.co.nz/property/price-index/for-rent/november-2016/>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of a range of employment opportunities • Occupational Training Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third best employment opportunities out of the 5 shortlisted • Industries include: construction, season work. • Skills shortage in construction, good public transport to employment opportunities • No pathways to employment programme currently established • Partnership with Waikato University
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and Secondary schooling with remedial help • Availability of migrant and refugee support • Appropriately staged ESOL provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More experienced region in delivering ESOL provision. • Higher number of international students • English Language Partners is the main provider • ESOL provider feels that provision can be increased with a 6 month lead in time
<p>Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to affordable primary health • Specialist health services where required • Counselling and mental health services • Access to mainstream social work services (family violence, parenting support) • Resettlement support agency 	<p>Bay of Plenty DHB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No particular issues in accessing services at least compared with some other DHBs • No particular refugee – specific services which will need to be established and developed • Interpreting services and CALD (cultural training) would need to be established and developed • Fewer financial constraints than some other DHBs

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

Participation

- Interpreting services
- Local Government Support
- Welcoming community including Tangata Whenua connection
- Ethnic community support
- Faith based leadership and support

- Ethnic Liaison officer/ Iwi Liaison officer in the region
- Net migration Bay of Plenty region 2016 – 2,597¹⁵

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

¹⁵ <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/business/business-growth-agenda/regions/published-report>

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

Table 1: Breakdown by category A and B by individual rating in each region

Priority	Christchurch	Invercargill	New Plymouth	Rotorua	Tauranga	Total
18	3		1			4
17	8					8
16	14		1	2	4	21
15	27			1	8	36
14	82		4	4	15	105
13	109	2	4	10	24	149
12	61	1	7	12	36	117
11	47		6	14	27	94
10	11	1	3	11	11	37
9	3	1	3	3	4	14
Priority A Total	365	5	29	57	129	585
13	10		3	1	3	17
12	48	2	2	2	14	68
11	51	1	4	9	18	83
10	59	1	2	11	14	87
9	33		4	4	15	56
8	19	2	2	3	6	32
Priority B Total	220	6	17	30	70	343
Grand Total	585	11	46	87	199	928

Table 2: Breakdown by priority, bedroom size and number of households in each region

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

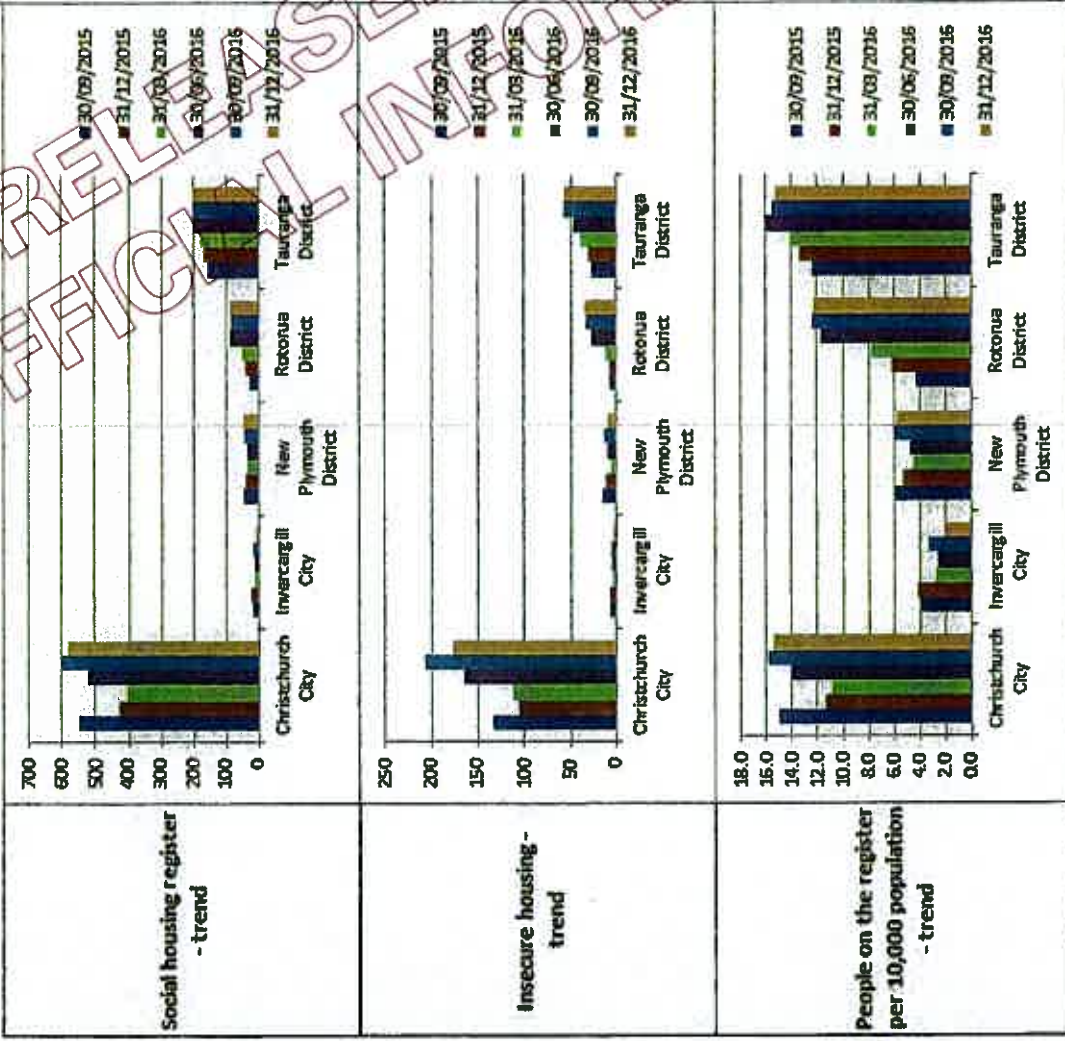
Number of bedrooms required by priority	Christchurch	Invercargill	New Plymouth	Rotorua	Tauranga	Total
1	267	3	12	17	51	350
2	58		9	15	43	125
3	19	1	6	14	22	62
4	16	1	2	7	9	35
5	5			3	3	11
6				1	1	2
Priority A Total	365	5	29	57	129	585
1	106	5	9	14	28	162
2	79		4	9	30	122
3	16		2	4	9	31
4	16	1	2	3	2	24
5	2				1	3
6	1					1
Priority B Total	220	6	17	30	70	343
Grand Total	585	11	46	87	199	928

Table 3: Breakdown by priority and household type in each region

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

Priority and household type	Christchurch	Invercargill	New Plymouth	Rotorua	Tauranga	Total
A						
2+ adults	17		2	2	9	30
2+ adults with child(ren)	8	1	3	5	8	25
Single age 24 years or younger	22				3	25
Single age 25 years +	259	3	19	17	59	357
Single with child(ren)	59	1	5	33	50	148
Priority A Total	365	5	29	57	129	585
B						
2+ adults	21	1	1	3		26
2+ adults with child(ren)	33	1	1	1	6	42
Single age 24 years or younger	4		1			5
Single age 25 years +	98	4	8	14	28	152
Single with child(ren)	64		6	12	36	118
Priority B Total	220	6	17	30	70	343
Grand Total	585	11	46	87	199	928

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes



Comparison of recent trends in demand for social housing in the locations being considered by MBIE as potential resettlement locations

Insecure housing in this context, insecure housing may include homelessness – including shelter, car, tent, mobile home, caravan, staying with friends/family.

Project 3.6 Identifying New Resettlement Locations for Quota Refugees – Assessment meeting notes

The tables below provide information broken down by the five regions identified.

Row Labels	As at end of December 2016
A	3956
B	2154
Grand Total	6110

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT / INFORMATION OFFICIELLE



MEMO

DATE 22 March 2017

TO New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Officials' Group

FROM Steve McGill, General Manager, Settlement Protection and Attraction

SUBJECT ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENT LOCATION FOR QUOTA REFUGEES

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Officials' Group (Senior Officials' Group):

- a **Note** that the allocation of Quota Refugees to the settlement locations for the 2016/17 year has been completed following Cabinet decisions on the three year Refugee Quota Programme in June 2016. The allocation decreased the number of quota refugees being settled in the Auckland region and increased settlement numbers in the remaining locations (Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington region, Nelson and Dunedin);
- b **Note** that an inter-government agency group jointly assessed five shortlisted locations (Christchurch, Invercargill, New Plymouth, Rotorua, Tauranga) against criteria as a new quota refugee settlement location;
- c **Note** that while all locations were seen as potential refugee settlement locations, Christchurch, Invercargill and New Plymouth are being put forward as options for the Senior Officials' Group to select the new settlement location from, based on their strengths against the assessment criteria;
- d **Note** that there is flexibility to transition the number of quota refugees settled in a new settlement location to address any initial constraints; and
- e **Agree** that the new refugee quota settlement location is:
EITHER Christchurch, OR
Invercargill, OR
New Plymouth
Agree/Disagree/Discuss



BACKGROUND

1. Currently New Zealand settles Quota refugees in the following six settlement locations: Auckland region, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington region, Nelson and Dunedin. Christchurch is not currently active as a settlement location following the earthquakes, except for a few family-linked cases.
2. In June 2016 in making decisions about the three-year Refugee Quota Programme (2016/17-2018/19), the Government noted that Immigration New Zealand would progress, through a cross-government agency assessment, the identification of one or two settlement locations during 2016/17. In addition, officials were directed to work together to ensure that, over the next three years, the impact of the settlement of Quota refugees on housing supply is minimised.
3. Since that decision, the number of quota refugees being settled in Auckland has been decreased to 10 percent or less per annum and outlined below is the cross-government agency assessment to identify a new settlement location.

NEW SETTLEMENT LOCATION CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT

Provisional criteria assessment

4. Provisional criteria were established to determine the locations that would be included in the new settlement location assessment. The provisional criteria included Economic indicators of Local Employment Rate, Regional Unemployment Rate, Regional Projected employment growth and Regional NEET data. Nine locations were assessed against these four criteria, and five (Christchurch, Invercargill, New Plymouth, Rotorua, Tauranga) were shortlisted for more detailed assessment.

Detailed assessment criteria

5. An inter-agency group including representatives from the Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Social Development, Health and Education, the Tertiary Education Commission, Housing New Zealand Corporation, the Department of Internal Affairs (Office of Ethnic Communities) and New Zealand Police met in November 2016 to consider the shortlisted locations against the following assessment criteria:

- Employment (employment opportunities and support, training and employment programmes);
- Housing (availability state, community/social and low-cost private housing);
- Education (availability of early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary education, ESOL provision);
- Health and Well-being (access to primary health care, specialist health services, mental health, counselling, social support services); and
- Participation (availability interpreters, welcoming local community and local government, ethnic community support, faith based support).

¹ New Zealand youth (aged 15–24 years) who are not in employment, education, or training.



6. All of the shortlisted locations have potential to be settlement locations. However, based on the strengths assessed against the detailed assessment criteria Christchurch, Invercargill and New Plymouth are put forward as options for the Senior Officials' Group to select the new refugee settlement location from. Annex One provides a summary of the detailed assessment of the three locations for the Senior Officials' Group's consideration.
7. It is planned that the new settlement location will be announced by May 2017 and Quota refugees will begin to be settled in the new location from September 2017. Given the settlement location allocation planning that is undertaken by Immigration New Zealand, there is flexibility to transition the number of quota refugees settled in a new settlement location over a period of time. Transitioning the number of refugees in the new settlement location supports the capacity and capability development of the settlement service providers and the community as well as assisting address initial constraints.

NEXT STEPS

8. Following the decision on the new settlement location by the Senior Officials' Group MBIE will:
 - communicate the decision to the relevant local government of the settlement locations;
 - advise the Minister of Immigration about the decision;
 - develop a communications plan; and
 - develop an implementation and transition plan to establish the new settlement location.

Appendix One: New Settlement Location Assessment Summary (March 2017)

Two cross-agency meetings were held in November 2016 and again in February 2017 to evaluate potential new settlement locations against the assessment criteria (including employment, housing, health and wellbeing, participation and education). Officials from the Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment, Education, Health, and Social Development, the Tertiary Education Commission, New Zealand Police and Housing New Zealand Corporation participated in the meetings.

Regions were initially short-listed based on key economic indicators and the cross-agency meetings have noted the need for the employment and housing criteria to be more heavily weighted. Education and health services are universal services, however, the assessment notes where there are particular strengths or potential impacts in a region.

Location	Summary
Christchurch	<p>Christchurch had identified strengths with its growing economy, opportunities for affordable private housing and well established sector expertise. Christchurch also has an existing former refugee community to support newly arrived refugee families and has existing expertise to support settlement.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong economic growth and employment opportunities including existing refugee employment programmes.• Entry-level employment opportunities, while also potentially providing manufacturing, retail, health and construction employment pathways.• Overall private rent rates are decreasing and there are a range of private rental properties available in the lowest market rent rate.• Social Housing portfolio would suit small families, but limited opportunity for single households• High level of existing expertise in refugee resettlement across all sectors including education, health and social services.• Variety of University and Higher Education opportunities available, including diverse range of ESOL provision. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity of mental health services to respond to additional needs of refugees following ongoing effects of Earthquake and recent Port Hill fires.

<p>New Plymouth</p>	<p>New Plymouth rated well against criteria for Social Housing, Education and Health and Well-being.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment sectors include oil, energy, dairy, agriculture and construction. • Some ESOL provision established through schools and English Language Providers. • Stable social housing market. • Health and Wellbeing services could adapt to work with new communities although possible impact on Primary Health Care providers. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rent rates are increasing slightly and limited private rental availability in the lowest market rent bracket. • Many jobs require skills which may limit initial opportunities for employment.
<p>Invercargill</p>	<p>Invercargill rated well against criteria for Employment.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invercargill has a range of sectors healthcare, social assistance, manufacturing, retail, training, farming and freezing works. Many of these jobs may require transport outside of the main city, which could be a challenge for newly arrived refugees. • Low demand on Housing New Zealand properties, and low stock turnover. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no ESOL provision, however additional funding could be made available. • Private rent rates are increasing and there are limited private rentals available in the lowest market rent rate.

OBTAINED UNDER THE
 OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



BRIEFING

New settlement location for Quota refugees

Date:	20 April 2017	Priority:	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	3184 16-17

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Note that the cross-agency assessment has identified Invercargill as the preferred settlement location Forward the attached to the Ministers of Health, Social Development, Education, Ethnic Communities and Internal Affairs	At your convenience.
Hon Amy Adams Minister for Social Housing	Copy attached for your information	
Hon Jonathan Coleman Minister of Health	Copy attached for your information	
Hon Anne Tolley Minister for Social Development	Copy attached for your information	
Hon Hekia Parata Minister of Education	Copy attached for your information	
Hon Judith Collins Minister for Ethnic Communities	Copy attached for your information	
Hon Peter Dunne Minister of Internal Affairs	Copy attached for your information	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Steve McGill	General Manager, Settlement, Protection and Attraction	5902(a)	
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager, Refugee and Protection		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MoH
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: OEC, HNZA, NZ Police					

New settlement location for Quota refugees

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments:

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



BRIEFING

New settlement location for Quota refugees

Date:	20 April 2017	Priority:	Low
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	3184 16-17

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to inform you that following a cross-agency assessment Invercargill has been identified as the preferred new settlement location for Quota refugees. This briefing also provides you with a high level implementation and transition approach for the new location and asks that you refer the briefing to the Ministers of Social Housing, Health, Social Development, Education, Ethnic Communities and Internal Affairs for their information.

Recommended action

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

- a **Note** that following Cabinet decisions on the Next Three-Year (2016/17 – 2018/19) Refugee Quota Programme, Immigration New Zealand has progressed, though a cross-agency assessment, the identification of an additional refugee settlement location

Noted

- b **Note** that the cross-agency assessment has identified Invercargill as the preferred location based on the broad range of employment opportunities and settlement infrastructure present in the region through the proximity of Dunedin

Noted

- c **Note** that the proposed high level implementation and transition approach for the new location will be further expanded over the next few months as Officials engage with local agencies around the implementation considerations

Noted

- d **Note** that a media release is being prepared by the Ministry of Business, Immigration and Employment for release as soon as practicable in coordination with the Office of the Minister of Immigration

Noted

- e **Agree** to refer this briefing to the Ministers of Health, Social Development, Education, Ethnic Communities and Internal Affairs for their information.

Agree / Disagree

Steve McGill
General Manager, Settlement Protection and
Attraction
Immigration New Zealand, MBIE

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

..... / /

..... / /

Background

1. Currently New Zealand settles Quota refugees in six settlement locations (Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson and Dunedin). Christchurch is not presently active due to the impact of the earthquakes, other than receiving a few family-linked cases.
2. As a result of the decision to permanently increase the three-year Refugee Quota Programme to 1000 places annually from 2018/19 (in addition to the 250 Syrian refugees resettled in 2016/17 and 2017/18 above the annual refugee quota of 750 places) [CAB-16-MIN-0271 refers], Cabinet noted that Immigration New Zealand would progress, through an cross-government agency assessment, the identification of one or two further refugee settlement locations during 2016/17 in order to accommodate the increase in numbers.

Cross-agency assessment

3. Based on economic indicators including regional growth and employment five locations (Christchurch, Invercargill, New Plymouth, Rotorua, Tauranga) were shortlisted for assessment by an inter-agency working group including representatives from the Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Social Development, Health and Education, the Tertiary Education Commission, Housing New Zealand Corporation, the Department of Internal Affairs (Office of Ethnic Communities) and New Zealand Police.
4. The inter-agency working group met in November 2016 to consider the shortlisted locations against the following assessment criteria:
 - Employment (employment opportunities and support, training and employment programmes);
 - Housing (availability state, community/social and low-cost private housing);
 - Education (availability of early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary education, ESOL provision);
 - Health and wellbeing (access to primary health care, specialist health services, mental health, counselling, social support services); and
 - Community support (welcoming local community and local government, ethnic community support, availability of interpreters).
5. The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Officials' Group (SOG) met on 23 March 2017 and decided to proceed with Invercargill as the preferred new settlement location based on the broad range of employment opportunities and existing settlement infrastructure.

6. The SOG also found Christchurch continued to progress towards re-opening as a settlement location and that it would remain under active review.
7. Mayor Shadbolt of Invercargill was informed about the SOG decision to engage with Invercargill on 4 April 2017, with the caveat that the decision be kept confidential until the public announcement.
8. The Mayors of the other locations assessed have been advised of the outcome.

Implementation and transition approach

9. We propose the following implementation and transition approach for Invercargill:
 - initial engagement with key government stakeholders in the region to provide an overview of the resettlement programme and identify any gaps in essential service provision;
 - initial engagement with the city council around the role of the council in refugee resettlement, including leadership and communication planning;
 - development of a more detailed transition plan including the identification of most suitable ethnic group resettlement for the region, informed by employment opportunities, local language resources, existing ethnic communities, etc;
 - wider engagement with operational government and non-governmental organisations to provide an overview of refugee resettlement and inform on timings and transition planning; and
 - sector development training.
10. This approach is informed by the information provided as part of the assessment (a summary is attached as Appendix One) and the recent establishment of Dunedin as a new location.
11. To support the development of capacity and capability of local service providers and community, as well as addressing any initial constraint which may arise, this approach proposes to settle Quota refugees in Invercargill progressively starting from November 2017.
12. Officials will provide more specific information about projected numbers and timeframes for implementation and transition following consultation and engagement with the local community and service providers (including those in Dunedin) in the next coming months.

Next steps

13. A draft media release (attached as Annex Two) has been prepared by MBIE for release as soon as practicable. MBIE will handle any media query in coordination with the Office of the Minister of immigration.

Annexes

Annex One: Assessment summary

Annex Two: Draft media release

Annex One: Assessment summary

Two cross-agency meetings were held in November 2016 and in February 2017 to evaluate potential new settlement locations against the assessment criteria (including Employment, Housing, Health and wellbeing, Participation and Education). Officials from the Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment, Education, Health, and Social Development, the Tertiary Education Commission, New Zealand Police and Housing New Zealand Corporation participated in the meetings.

Regions were initially short-listed based on key economic indicators and the cross-agency meetings have noted the need for the employment and housing criteria to be more heavily weighted. Education and health services are universal services, however, the assessment notes where there are particular strengths or potential impacts in a region.

Location	Summary
<p>Christchurch</p>	<p>Christchurch had identified strengths with its growing economy, opportunities for affordable private housing and well established sector expertise. Christchurch also has an existing former refugee community to support newly arrived refugee families and has existing expertise to support settlement. The Canterbury region has also been selected as one of the pilot locations for the Welcoming Communities initiative.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong economic growth and employment opportunities including existing refugee employment programmes. • Entry-level employment opportunities, while also potentially providing manufacturing, retail, health and construction employment pathways. • Overall private rent rates are decreasing and there are a range of private rental properties available in the lowest market rent rate. • Social Housing portfolio would suit small families, but limited opportunity for single households. • High level of existing expertise in refugee resettlement across all sectors including education, health and social services. • Variety of University and Higher Education opportunities available, including diverse range of ESOL provision. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demands on mental health services resulting from ongoing effects of earthquakes and recent Port Hill fires may impact on the needs of newly settled refugees.

New settlement location for Quota refugees

<p>New Plymouth</p>	<p>New Plymouth rated well against criteria for Social Housing, Education and Health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment sectors include oil, energy, dairy, agriculture and construction. • Some ESOL provision established through schools and English Language Providers. • Stable social housing market. • Health and wellbeing services could adapt to work with new communities although possible impact on primary health care providers. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rent rates are increasing slightly and there is limited private rental availability in the lowest market rent bracket. • Many jobs require skills which may limit initial opportunities for employment.
<p>Invercargill</p>	<p>Invercargill rated well against criteria for Employment and has been selected as one of the pilot locations for the Welcoming Communities initiative</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment sectors include healthcare, social assistance, manufacturing, retail, training, farming and freezing works. • Low demand on Housing New Zealand Corporation properties and low stock turnover. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no ESOL provision, however additional funding could be made available. • Private rent rates are increasing with some limits on private rentals available in the lowest market rent bracket. • Many of the jobs available may require transport outside of the main city, which could be a challenge for newly arrived refugees.
<p>Tauranga</p>	<p>Tauranga rated well against criteria for Employment.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for seasonal and entry level employment. • Experienced ESOL providers and a range of provision.

New settlement location for Quota refugees

	<p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging housing market. Significant increase in rent rates and competitive private rental market in the lowest market rent bracket.
<p>Rotorua</p>	<p>Rotorua has one of the highest projected growth rates for the locations assessed.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High projected growth rate. • Training opportunities in forestry, business, nursing and trades. <p>Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising rent rates and limited Housing New Zealand Corporation stock impacts on the housing market. • Work opportunities are often seasonal, which impacts on ability to provide permanent positions.

Annex Two: Draft media release



MEDIA RELEASE

XXX APRIL 2017

Invercargill chosen as new refugee settlement location

Invercargill has been selected as a new refugee settlement location following a whole of Government assessment.

The assessment included looking at employment, housing and Government services available alongside the support provided by the local community.

The decision to choose Invercargill was made by the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Officials' Group - made up of representatives from Immigration New Zealand (INZ), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, Office of Ethnic Communities and Department of Internal Affairs.

There are currently six settlement locations in New Zealand where quota refugees are settled after they have completed the six week reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre - Auckland region, Waikato, Manawatu, Wellington region, Nelson and Dunedin.

INZ General Manager Steve McGill says an extra settlement location is needed because of the recent ongoing increase to the Quota and the decreasing proportion of refugee families settled in Auckland due to pressure on housing availability.

Invercargill was considered alongside Christchurch, New Plymouth, Rotorua and Tauranga.

Mr McGill says all the locations had the strengths and potential to be a settlement location but Invercargill edged out the others because of the broad range of employment opportunities in the area.

"Invercargill also has a strong set of services and is a well-connected city where a number of government agencies have a presence," he says. "Suitable housing is available and there is excellent support from the community."

The settlement of refugees in Christchurch was suspended - except for a limited number of family-linked cases - following the September 2010 earthquake due to the impact on services such as health and housing. But Mr McGill says he expects refugees to be resettled in the city in the future.

New settlement location for Quota refugees

“Christchurch will continue to be under review for a resettlement location but we felt that at the moment there are still some infrastructure issues which would make it difficult to resettle large number of refugees. We’re confident that as the rebuild continues to progress further Christchurch will once again be a settlement location.”

For further information contact the media line on 0274 422 141 or email media@mbie.govt.nz

Note to editors:

Quota refugees are given permanent residence on arrival in New Zealand and spend their first six weeks at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre. While there, they complete a reception programme to support living and working in New Zealand and English language. They also complete medical and mental health assessments.

NZ Red Cross is contracted by INZ to provide settlement support in the community over the first 12 months. This includes an orientation programme and connecting refugees to services they require such as doctor’s

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT