

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

New Zealand Resettlement Strategy



IMMIGRATION
NEW ZEALAND





What is the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy?

The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy is designed to help refugees once they are accepted to live in New Zealand.

The Strategy is a new way of working to achieve improved resettlement. Government agencies will work together, with non-government organisations and refugee communities, to put the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy into action from July 2013.



The overarching vision for the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy is:

Refugees are participating fully and integrated socially and economically as soon as possible so that they are living independently, undertaking the same responsibilities and exercising the same rights as other New Zealanders and have a strong sense of belonging to their own community and to New Zealand.

The five goals of the Strategy are:

1. **Self-sufficiency** – all working-age refugees are in paid work or are supported by a family member in paid work
2. **Participation** – refugees actively participate in New Zealand life and have a strong sense of belonging here
3. **Health and wellbeing** – refugees and their families enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives
4. **Education** – English language skills help refugees participate in education and in daily life
5. **Housing** – refugees live in safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes, without needing government housing assistance.



What is this Strategy for?

The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy is for refugees who are new to New Zealand and for New Zealanders wanting to help them settle successfully.

In agreeing to the Strategy, the Government has also reaffirmed that there will be a six week programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC). This measure will ensure refugees have a good start to their life in New Zealand.

Settling as a refugee in a new country is difficult. Before they arrive, refugees who are selected for the Refugee Quota Programme will be given information on living and working in New Zealand. On arrival a six-week programme will offer improved orientation, English language classes, health screening and mental health support to help refugees settle. After this, refugees receive the support they need in the community where they live.

Successful settlement is achieved when people can participate fully in their new community. The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy will help people become self-sufficient in their new lives, and this support for refugees settling in New Zealand will benefit the whole country.





How was the Strategy developed?

The New Zealand Government sees refugee resettlement as a priority, and called for a Strategy that would help refugees settle more quickly into their lives in New Zealand, increasingly independent from Government help.

Meetings between Immigration New Zealand, refugees and community groups between June and October 2010 allowed people to share their experience and present their perspectives on the resettlement process.

These meetings found that it is important for government agencies to work together, and directly with refugee communities, to help with refugee resettlement, and that employment is a priority for refugees – helping them quickly become independent and self-sufficient.

Immigration New Zealand worked with government and non-government agencies and refugee communities to design a new Strategy that was clear about what



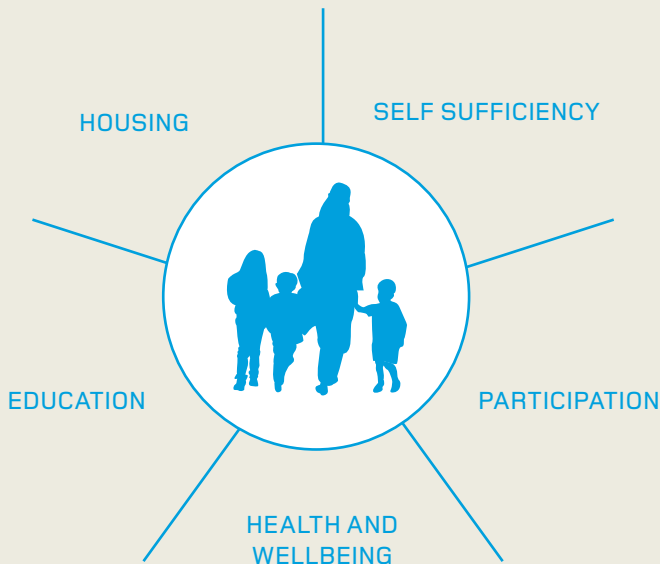
support is the most important for good resettlement results.

At the National Refugee Resettlement Forum in May 2012 the new design for the Strategy was strongly supported by New Zealand's refugee communities.



Goals of settlement

It is important to know that the Strategy is working well. Indicators have been developed to measure progress against the Strategy's five goals.



NEW ZEALAND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY: OUTCOMES

Refugees and their families are living independently with a strong sense of belonging to New Zealand

Self-sufficiency

- ↑ Increased proportions in paid employment (after six months, two years, and five years)
- ↓ Reduced proportions receiving unemployment-related benefits (after six months, two years, and five years)

Housing

- ↓ Reduced housing subsidy for refugees (after two years and five years in New Zealand)

Education

- ↑ 67% of refugee school leavers with five years in the New Zealand education system achieving NCEA Level 2 by 2014

Health

- ↑ Increased Quota Refugee children receiving age-appropriate immunisations (six and twelve months after arrival)
- ↑ Increased utilisation of general practitioner services
- ↑ Increased access to mental health services

Participation

- ↑ Improve adult refugees' achievement of English language





What happens next?

Over the next year, Immigration New Zealand will lead work to:

- Have measures in place that show whether we are making progress towards the five goals
- Make sure the right support is available for refugees before they arrive in New Zealand
- Place a strong focus on employment as part of the central reception programme, and review the services people need for their resettlement in the community
- Support government agencies to work together and provide progress reports to Government
- Explore the options for improving the initial reception programme, and costs for rebuilding the MRRC.





Implementing the Strategy

Resettlement is a complex process that needs many different organisations to act together. Success in any one area (employment, education, health, housing and participation) relies on the success of the other areas.

The Strategy, when implemented from July 2013, will give refugees the help they need – both before getting to New Zealand and after they arrive.

Co-operation between all the parties is the key. Improved planning and coordination will be led by Immigration New Zealand, who will develop a plan for all groups to work together on achieving the five goals of the Strategy.

The Government has also agreed in principle to replace the buildings at the MRRC and develop a new purpose-built facility for refugees.

The Strategy will first apply to Refugee Quota intakes, and in future will apply to all refugees.





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