NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION

Parent Category Guide

A guide for applying for residence in New Zealand

Purpose of this guide

This guide gives information about completing a residence *Parent Category Expression of Interest form online* and a *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*. The guide gives you information about:

- how to make an Expression of Interest (EOI) and an application under the Parent Category, and
- what evidence you need to provide with your residence application.

Please take time to read this guide carefully and refer to it when completing both your EOI form and your residence application.

When making an application, please make sure you answer all the relevant questions and provide all the documents we ask you to, otherwise we may not be able to accept your application. **Please do not submit documents with your Expression of Interest form**. If you are applying for residence while you are in New Zealand, you need to make sure your visa is valid at the time you apply for residence.

Parent Category

This booklet is only a guide to help you understand the terms used in the Parent Category application process. The authoritative detail of the Parent Category is contained in the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual in the Residence Family chapter. You can read this online at **www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual**.

Overview of the Parent Category

Who is this guide for?

This guide is for people who want to submit Expressions of Interest and apply for New Zealand residence under the Parent Category.

Submitting an Expression of Interest

Before you make an application under the Parent Category, you must first submit an Expression of Interest. Your Expression of Interest will be placed in the Parent Category EOI Pool. Once it is selected, we will check whether you are eligible to apply for residence. If you are, we will send you an invitation to apply and you may make a residence application.

The prerequisites

To be considered under this category, you must:

- be of good health and character
- have no dependent children
- have a reasonable standard of English
- have an adult child who is a New Zealand citizen or resident and is eligible to sponsor you, and
- have a sponsor (or sponsors) that meets income requirements.

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Who can be included in my Expression of Interest form?

Only your partner can be included in your Expression of Interest and, later, in your residence application. Children cannot be included and you will not be eligible for residence under the Parent Category if you have dependent children.

If you are invited to submit a residence application and hold a temporary visa and your partner holds a temporary visa linked to your visa, they **must be included and cannot be subsequently removed** from your residence application. Failure to do this may result in your application being declined.

The process

This is an overview of how the process works.

Step one: You can complete an initial self-assessment

You can quickly check whether you meet the requirements of the Parent Category by reading this guide or information can be found on the INZ website. This will help you to decide whether or not to submit an Expression of Interest.

Step two: You submit an Expression of Interest

You can complete and submit an Expression of Interest form online at **www.immigration.govt.nz** You will need to provide us information about your health, character, age, English language ability, and how you meet the specific requirements of the Parent Category.

To find out how much to pay and payment method see: **www.immigration.govt.nz\fees**.

Important information before you submit

Read this information carefully to avoid delays or unnecessary costs.

You can only have 1 active Expression of Interest (EOI) in the Parent Category EOI Pool at any time.

Confirmation of your Expression of Interest to remain in the Pool

Your EOI will remain valid provided you confirm your interest in remaining in the Pool every two years. The two-year intervals are calculated from the submission date of your current EOI. You have six months to submit a Confirmation of EOI form.

If you do not confirm your EOI within the required timeframe, your EOI will expire and be removed from the Pool.

If you need to make changes to an EOI, you can update or withdraw your EOI: **www.immigration.govt.nz/process-to-apply/once-you-have-a-visa/bringing-family-to-new-zealand/coming-to-new-zealand-on-the-parent-resident-visa/update-or-withdraw-your-parent-resident-visa-expression-of-interest-eoi**

If you submit a new EOI while you already have an EOI in the Pool, the new EOI will be removed before the next draw. The EOI fee is non-refundable.

After reviewing this information, consider if you want to continue with your submission.

Step three: We select Expressions of Interest

EOIs are selected either

- in date order (queue), or
- randomly by ballot draw.

A person may only have one EOI in the Pool at any one time. If another EOI is submitted, it will be removed from the Pool.

If, during the time that your Expression of Interest is in a Pool, there is a change in your circumstances or in the information that you have provided to INZ, you must inform INZ.

If any information is found to be false or misleading we may choose not to invite you to apply for residence or, should you be invited to apply based on that information, your residence application may be declined.

Step four: We invite you to apply for residence

If your EOI has been selected from the Pool, and you appear to be eligible, you may be invited to lodge an application for residence. Checking will generally involve assessing whether the claims you have made in your form appear to meet the requirements of the category.

If your Expression of Interest has been successful, you will be sent an Invitation to Apply for residence.

You will have **four months** after we invite you to apply to submit your residence application. If you do not lodge an application within four months, your invitation to apply will lapse.

Step five: You make an application

At this stage, you will need to complete the residence application form, and get your sponsor or sponsors to complete the sponsorship form. Send all of these forms, with the appropriate application fee and immigration levy[1] and all the necessary documentation (original documents or certified copies) to support your application.

Documentation required to enable INZ to validate the claims you have made in your Expression of Interest is likely to include the following items.

- passport(s) (for all applicants, if available)
- the *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*
- a *Sponsorship Form for Residence (INZ 1024)*
- birth certificate(s) (for all applicants)
- marriage certificate(s) (if applicable)
- police certificates for all applicants – the certificates should be no more than six months old when lodged
- medical and X-ray certificates for all applicants – the certificates should be no more than three months old when lodged
- evidence of English language ability for all applicants
- evidence of your relationship with your sponsor
- Inland Revenue tax statements for your sponsor/s to show their income, and
- other documentation as specified by INZ in your Invitation to Apply.

Step six: Decision-making

We assess your application for residence against immigration instructions. We also fully verify everything you have told us in your Expression of Interest. Depending on whether you are able to demonstrate you meet the requirements of the Parent Category, you may have your application approved in principle.

Step seven: Granting residence

If your application is approved in principle, you may need to submit your passport. Once you have done this, you may be granted residence.

Step eight: Welcome to New Zealand

We have a range of tools and resources to help you prepare for living and working in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Now website is a migrant's guide to living, working and moving to New Zealand. It includes tips on getting started in New Zealand and settling in. **www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/**

NZ Ready is a planning tool to help you move to and settle in New Zealand. The tool covers a range of topics, and generates a tailored list of things to know and things to do to make your migration journey a success. **https://nzready.immigration.govt.nz/**

Requirements to gain residence

To be eligible under this category you need to meet all of the requirements to:

- be of good health
- be of good character
- have no dependent children
- have a reasonable standard of English by providing acceptable English language test results (see the guide *English Language Information (INZ 1060)* for details) or meeting other requirements (alternatively, you can agree to pre-purchase English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tuition), and
- have an adult child who is a New Zealand citizen or resident and who is an eligible sponsor.

Your sponsor (or sponsors) will also need to meet eligible sponsor requirements and the minimum income requirement.

For current minimum income figures, please visit our website.

Eligible sponsors

Eligible sponsors for the Parent Category are:

- your adult child; or
- your adult child and their partner (if joint income is to be considered); or
- your adult child and either another adult child or your partner's adult child (if joint income is to be considered).

Eligible sponsors must:

- have been a New Zealand resident or citizen for at least three years before you apply for residence
- be ordinarily resident in New Zealand and have spent at least 184 days in New Zealand in each of the three years immediately before you apply for residence, and
- for the first ten years of your residence in New Zealand, undertake to ensure your maintenance in New Zealand and that you have suitable accommodation, and to pay for any costs of your deportation or repatriation, should it be necessary.

1 This application fee and immigration levy is in addition to the fee for your Expression of Interest.

If costs are incurred by the Crown as a result of your sponsor/s breaching their sponsorship undertakings, you will be deemed to have breached the conditions of your visa and may become liable for deportation. These costs will also be considered to be a debt owed by the sponsor/s, and the sponsor/s will be liable to be pursued by the Crown or a third party to recover this debt.

If your sponsor/s do not meet the residence requirements, you can still submit your Expression of Interest. However, if your Expression of Interest is selected before the requirements are met, you may not be able to apply for residence.

Completing sections of the Expression of Interest and residence application forms

This section provides information on how to complete sections included in the *Parent Category Expression of Interest* and *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*. To complete the application process for the category, you must complete an Expression of Interest form and later, after being invited to apply, a *Parent Category Residence Application*.

Parent Category Expression of Interest

When making an Expression of Interest, you only need to submit an Expression of Interest online along with the fee.

You can submit an Expression of Interest online at **www.immigration.govt.nz/formshelp/parent-resident-visa-expression-of-interest-form**

Parent Category Confirmation of Expression of Interest

When seeking to confirm your interest for your EOI to remain in the Pool you only need to submit a Confirmation of EOI online.

You can submit a Confirmation of EOI online at **www.immigration.govt.nz/formshelp/confirmation-of-parent-resident-visa-expression-of-interest**

Parent Category residence application

When you lodge an application, you will need to provide:

- the *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*
- a *Sponsorship Form for Residence (INZ 1024)*
- the application fee and immigration levy, and
- documentation to support your application.

If you do not include everything we need, we will not process your application and will return it to you.

When completing the *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*, you need to complete all the sections between Section A: Principal applicant's personal details and Section H: Declaration. If a question does not apply to you, write 'N/A or 'not applicable' in the box so we know you have not accidentally missed a question.

Your adviser and/or other person who assisted with your application should then complete Section I: Immigration adviser's details and Section J: Declaration by person assisting the applicant, if applicable, and Section K: Paying your application fee and immigration levy.

Completing identity and personal details

Principal applicant

Section A of the residence application form should be completed by the principal applicant or the person intending to be the principal applicant. If this is you, you are the person who should fill out the Parent *Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)* once you receive an invitation to apply. Please complete this form in English.
If anybody else helps you to complete either form – for example, by interpreting, translating, or filling it in for you – they should also sign in the section at the end of the form titled Declaration by person assisting and Declaration by person assisting the applicant.

Name and address for correspondence or adviser details

Where the form asks you for a residential address, you must give a physical address (not a private bag or post office (PO) Box).

You can apply for residence by completing and submitting the application form yourself or you can ask another person – such as a friend, lawyer, or immigration adviser – to help you (we refer to people who help you in this way as your 'agent', 'adviser' or 'representative'). We give all applicants equal treatment so you are free to choose whether or not to use an agent, adviser or representative.

Please be aware of the following if you do decide to use an agent, adviser or representative.

- You can give your own address or your agent's, adviser's or representative's address as our point of contact. However, there may be times when we want to work directly with you. If you give your adviser's address, we will send them all

correspondence about your application, including notices for interviews and original documents.

- You are responsible for any documents or information you submit with your application as well as any information that your agent, adviser or representative submits on your behalf.

Completing Partner's identity and personal details

You can include your partner in your Expression of Interest and application, but for your partner to be approved residence you must have been living together in a genuine and stable relationship for at least 12 months and meet other minimum requirements for your partnership to be recognised. Please note that if you have a partner who is eligible to be included in your Expression of Interest, but you do not include them, they will not be eligible for residence based on your partnership later on, even if you become a New Zealand resident. Partners are considered eligible for inclusion in an EOI even if it appears that your sponsor (or sponsors) may not meet the income requirement to sponsor multiple Parent category applicants.

Definition of partner

Partner, in relation to an applicant, means the applicant's spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner.

Evidence of relationship to your partner

You must supply evidence of your relationship to your partner if they are included in your application.

Completing Character requirements

When you complete a *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*, you and your partner (if included) must provide:

- a police certificate from your country of citizenship, and
- police certificates from any country you have lived in for 12 months or more (whether in one visit or intermittently) in the last 10 years.

These documents should **not** be provided with your Expression of Interest.

For information on how to obtain a police certificate visit **www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate**. Accessing the website is the quickest means of obtaining this information, however if you do not have access to the internet you can also call us on 0508 55 88 55 if you are in New Zealand, or +64 9 914 4100 (Auckland) or +64 4 910 9915 (Wellington).

If you have previously been removed, deported or excluded from any country, excluding New Zealand, you will need to seek a special direction in order to travel to New Zealand, as your application will not be able to be approved. You may also need a special direction to travel to New Zealand if you have been removed, deported or excluded from New Zealand. You do not need to declare whether you have been removed, deported or excluded from New Zealand as Immigration New Zealand holds this information.

Completing Health requirements

You and your partner (if included) need to be in good health to be approved for residence under the Parent Category.

The questions in this section of your Expression of Interest apply to you and your partner (if included). If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, make sure you provide a full explanation of your circumstances so we can assess your medical condition(s).

There are some medical conditions for which a medical waiver cannot be granted. More information can be found on the INZ website: **www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/medical-info/acceptable-standard-of-health-criteria-for-visa-approvals**. People with these conditions can not normally be granted a residence class visa.

You and your partner (if included) are required to provide a completed *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* and a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* with your application, unless you have previously provided these certificates and they were issued less than 36 months ago.

If you and your partner (if included) have provided a medical certificate and chest X-ray certificate within the last 36 months, you do not need to provide further certificates unless:

- the health status of you or your partner has deteriorated since your previous certificates were issued
- you have been requested in writing by an immigration officer to provide updated certificates, or
- you or your partner (if included) have spent six consecutive months since your last chest X-ray certificate was issued, in a country, area or territory not listed as having a low incidence of tuberculosis (see the leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* for further information).

If you (and any other applicant included in your application) are required to provide a medical certificate or chest X-ray certificate, the certificates

must be less than three months old when we receive your application.

Note: Pregnant women are not required to have an X-ray, unless a special report is required.

In most countries we require the medical examinations to be carried out by one of a selected panel of medical practitioners or institutions. The details of these countries and the names and addresses of the approved panels are listed on our website. Alternatively you can contact us at the following phone numbers: 0508 558 855 (Toll-free from NZ landlines only); +64 9 914 400 (Auckland); or +64 4 910 9915 (Wellington).

You can find more details about our health requirements and medical waivers in our leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)*.

Note: If you have a partner who is eligible for inclusion in your residence application and you choose not to include them, or withdraw them from your application before it is approved, you need to be aware of the implications that this will have on any future visa application made by them. If you are granted a resident visa, should your partner apply for a residence class visa or temporary entry class visa in the future as your partner, they will be required to complete a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* rather than the *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*, which is the medical certificate for partners and dependent children of New Zealand citizens and residents. If, at the time your partner applies for a visa, an immigration officer determines that they do not have an acceptable standard of health, they will not be granted a medical waiver.

Completing Amendments or New Information

All applicants need to advise INZ if there have been any changes to the details supplied in their Expression of Interest. You should then tell us about any additional or updated information by completing the "Amendments or new information" section.

Completing English language ability

All applicants need to show that they meet the minimum standard of English, or pre-purchase English Language for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tuition. You will need to provide evidence that you meet the minimum standard of English. For example, if you stated you had acceptable English language test results, you will need to provide this. For more information on INZ's English language requirements see the guide *English Language Information (INZ 1060)*.

Completing Family details

You will need to provide details of ALL your family, not just your children or your partner's children.

Evidence of relationship to your children

When you make a residence application you will need to provide evidence of the relationship between you and all your children, including your New Zealand resident adult child (you do not need to provide this when you submit an Expression of Interest).

Evidence of a parent's relationship to children is original or certified copies of:

- birth certificates showing the relationship of the children to their parent(s)
- household registration documents, if these establish the relationship of the children to their parent(s), or
- evidence of adoption which establishes the relationship of the children to their parents.

Other evidence proving the relationship of children to their parents may also be provided or requested by INZ.

Legal guardians and grandparents

An adult child's legal guardian and their partner will be considered as parents under the Parent Category if:

- both the adult child's parents died before the adult child turned 18, and
- the legal guardian had custody of the adult child and the right to control the adult child's upbringing before the sponsor attained the age of 18 years.

In the context of the Parent Category, if you are a legal guardian, your children include:

- the New Zealand citizen or resident adult child and all your biological and adopted children
- any children for whom you are or were legal guardian(s), and
- any of your partner's children (whether or not the partner is included in the application) if that child has lived as part of your family unit for most of the child's life between the time your relationship with your partner began and when the child turned 18.

An adult child's grandparent and their partner will be considered to be 'parents' under the Parent Category if both the adult child's parents are deceased. Only one grandparent and their partner may apply under the Parent Category.

In the context of the Parent Category, if you are a grandparent, your children include:

- the New Zealand citizen or resident adult child and all your biological and adopted children, and
- any of your partner's children (whether or not the partner is included in the application) if that child has lived as part of your family unit for most of the child's life between the time your relationship with your partner began and when the child turned 18.

Evidence of an adult child's relationship to a grandparent where the adult child's parents are deceased

If you are applying under the Parent Category as a grandparent, we need to see evidence of your relationship to your New Zealand resident adult child. Evidence is original or certified copies of:

- birth certificates for the adult child and the adult child's parents establishing the relationship of the adult child to the grandparent(s)
- household registration documents, if these establish the relationship of the adult child to the grandparent(s), or
- evidence of adoption which establishes the relationship of the adult child to the grandparent(s).

You may also provide other evidence demonstrating the relationship of the adult child to the grandparent(s) or we may request this from you.

Evidence of legal guardianship where the adult child's parents are deceased

If you are applying under the Parent Category as a legal guardian, we need to see evidence you are the legal guardian of the New Zealand resident adult child. Evidence of legal guardianship may be any documents showing you had custody of the adult child and the right to control the adult child's upbringing before they reached the age of 18. For example:

- legal documents (such as the parents' will) showing that you were named as the guardian
- a court order granting legal guardianship to you after the death of their parents and prior to them reaching the age of 18 years
- documents showing they lived with you after the death of their parents, and prior to them reaching the age of 18 years, or
- documents such as medical and school records showing you acted in the role of a parent after the death of their biological or adoptive parents, and before they reached the age of 18 years.

Evidence an adult child's parents are deceased

If you are applying under the Parent Category as a grandparent or legal guardian, you must provide evidence the adult child's parents are deceased. Acceptable evidence includes:

- original or certified copies of death certificates for both parents, or
- other documents or evidence which prove the parents are deceased, and the date(s) of their death where a death certificate is unobtainable.

A death certificate is considered to be obtainable even if there is a possible delay or expense in obtaining it.

Completing Sponsor details

In order to be eligible to be granted residence under the Parent Category, your sponsor/s must be an eligible sponsor who is 18 years of age or over.

When you make an application, you will need to provide evidence that your sponsor/s have been New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders for at least three years. Evidence of being a New Zealand citizen can include an original or certified copy of:

- a valid New Zealand passport
- a Certificate of New Zealand Citizenship
- a recent official statement confirming their citizenship from the Department of Internal Affairs
- their New Zealand birth certificate, or
- an endorsement in a foreign passport indicating New Zealand citizenship.

Evidence your adult child is a New Zealand residence class visa holder can include an original or certified copy of:

- a current New Zealand residence class visa in their passport or travel document, or
- a valid Australian passport.

You must also provide evidence your sponsor/s are actually residing in New Zealand. Acceptable evidence includes:

- correspondence (including post-marked envelopes) addressed to you from New Zealand
- employment references
- rates demands
- income tax returns

- mortgage documents
- documents showing household effects have been moved to New Zealand, and
- any other documents or evidence that proves they are actually living in New Zealand.

Completing Sponsor's income

You may be sponsored by:

- your adult child; or
- your adult child and their partner; or
- your adult child and either another adult child or your partner's adult child.

In order for a partner's income to be considered, they must meet partnership requirements with your adult child.

The income of all sponsors must meet the required minimum income for any two 12-month periods out of the three years before the date of your EOI being selected.

All sponsors must be a New Zealand residence class visa holder for at least three years or a New Zealand citizen.

All sponsors must agree to be an additional sponsor.

Evidence of meeting the minimum income requirement for sponsors

Your sponsor/s must meet the minimum income requirement to demonstrate that they are able to financially support you.

The minimum income requirement must be met by taxable income that is recorded on Inland Revenue tax statements (Summary of Income) or Inland Revenue Final Tax Summary (if sponsor is self-employed).

Income earned by another legal entity, such as a business or a trust, cannot be included unless it has been paid directly to the sponsor and/or their partner.

When you make an **application**, you will need to provide evidence of income earned by your sponsor(s) (you **should not** provide this with your Expression of Interest).

If you have been granted a Parent Boost Visitor Visa

If you have been granted a Parent Boost Visitor Visa, you must provide evidence of maintaining acceptable travel and/or health insurance while in New Zealand on a Parent Boost Visitor Visa.

You must not have any outstanding debt to the crown incurred while holding a Parent Boost Visitor Visa.

If you fail to meet any of the above requirements, your application for residence may be declined.

Completing Declarations

The declaration must be signed by you and any partner included in your Expression of Interest or application. It is your responsibility to ensure that you and everyone included in your application understand the declarations before signing. If you have any questions about the declarations, please contact the Immigration Contact Centre toll free on 0508 55 88 55 (if you are in New Zealand) or on +64 9 914 4100.

Declaration by people assisting

When you apply for residence, anybody assisting you with the application must understand and sign the Declaration by person assisting the applicant in the *Parent Category Residence Application (INZ 1206)*. Make sure they read and understand the declaration section before they sign them.

Who can help me fill out the forms?

If you are submitting an Expression of Interest form, you may ask another person to help you. Anyone can act as your agent, adviser or representative; however, they will need to be licenced as an immigration adviser or exempt from being licenced. For a register of immigration advisers and a list of the groups of people exempt from being licenced, visit the Immigration Adviser's Authority website at **www.iaa.govt.nz**.

INZ treats all applicants equally. We do not give preferential service to applicants' agents, advisers or representatives.

You may give your own address, or the address of your agent, adviser or representative, as a point of contact for INZ. If you choose to give your agent's, adviser's or representative's address, all correspondence from INZ will be sent to your agent, adviser or representative.

If you stop using the services of your agent, adviser or representative, you must cancel your authorisation to INZ in writing, or INZ will continue to deal with them. If you hire an agent, adviser or representative, you will have to provide a new authorisation to INZ. If you are changing your immigration adviser, please use the form *Immigration Adviser Details (INZ 1160)*.

You need to be aware that you are responsible for any documents or information that you submit to INZ, or that your agent, adviser or representative submits on your behalf.

Completing Paying fees sections

To help us process your Expression of Interest and application as quickly as possible, make sure you complete the payment details sections of the forms.

Important things you need to know

Providing correct and complete information

When completing your Expression of Interest, it is essential that you provide correct and complete information and that you do not withhold any relevant information.

Any information you give us may be checked and verified by immigration officers if your Expression of Interest is selected from the Pool. If any information is found to be false or misleading, we may choose to not invite you to apply.

You will also need to advise INZ if there are any changes to the details you have supplied in your Expression of Interest.

Advance Passenger Screening

New Zealand has implemented a system designed to enhance the security of New Zealand's borders. You may be refused permission to board your flight to come to, or return to, New Zealand if:

- you do not have an appropriate visa to enter New Zealand
- your visa has expired, or
- your visa has not been transferred to your current/new passport or the passport being used to enter New Zealand.

To minimise any disruption to your travel plans ensure your travel documents are up to date and that you have the appropriate and current visa. If you have any questions check **www.immigration.govt.nz**.

VisaView

It is an offence for an employer to employ a person who is not entitled to work for them in New Zealand. It is also an offence for an education provider to allow a person to undertake a course of study if that person is not entitled to do so.

VisaView is an online enquiry system that allows registered employers and education providers to check whether a person who is not a New Zealand citizen can work or study in New Zealand for them.

If you believe that an employer or education provider has been given the wrong information via VisaView you may contact the Immigration Contact Centre (0508 558 855) to request correction of that information.

Tax obligations while residing in New Zealand

If you are planning to open a bank account, work or operate a business, or buy or sell real estate in New Zealand, you will need an IRD number. This is administered by Inland Revenue, New Zealand's tax service. You can apply for an IRD number online at **www.ird.govt.nz/irdnum-individuals**.

Importing your car, boat, and household items

You may be able to bring your car, boat, and/or household items to New Zealand. For detailed information on restrictions, and to find out if you must pay Customs charges, see the New Zealand Customs Service website **www.customs.govt.nz**.

For enquiries telephone 0800 428 786 (within New Zealand) or +64 9 300 5399 (outside New Zealand), or email **feedback@customs.govt.nz**.

When should I start gathering the documents I will need if I'm invited to apply for residence?

The documentation required to lodge an application can take some weeks or even months to gather. Documents that can take the longest to obtain are items such as police certificates, medical certificates and English language test results. It is therefore vital that you begin the process of obtaining these documents as soon as possible.

To find out about our health requirements, see the leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* available on our website at **www.immigration.govt.nz** or from your local office.

For information on how to obtain a police certificate from a particular country visit **www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate**. Accessing the website is the quickest means of obtaining this information, however if you do not have access to the internet you can call us on 0508 55 88 55 if you are in New Zealand or (09) 914 4100 if you are in Auckland.

Sponsorship

For ten years after your resident visa is granted, your sponsor/s must meet the following sponsorship obligations:

- provide suitable accommodation if you don't have your own place to live
- ensure your health and welfare needs are met
- pay any costs associated with your deportation and repatriation (if required).

If Work and Income make welfare payments to you during this time, we may consider that your sponsor/s are not meeting their obligations to care for you.

If your sponsor/s do not meet these obligations, we may determine that you have breached your visa conditions and you will be made liable for deportation as a result.

Your sponsor/s may have to repay any money spent by the New Zealand Government or a third-party as a result of them not meeting their obligations.

Want to know more?

Visit **www.immigration.govt.nz** – the most up-to-date information can be found there.

Summary of terms

This section of the guide will help you understand the terms we have used in the form and in the explanations in the guide.

Acceptable English language test results

A result (no more than 2 years old at the time of application) in any of the following tests can be used as proof that you meet our English language requirements:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - General or Academic Module
- Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)
- Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)
- Cambridge English B2 First (FCE) or B2 First for Schools (FCE for Schools)
- Occupational English Test (OET)

See the guide *English Language Information (INZ 1060)* for information on the minimum test scores required.

Acceptable standard of health

We consider you to have an acceptable standard of health if you are unlikely to be a danger to public health, unlikely to be a burden on health services and are fit for the purpose of entry to New Zealand. Please refer to the guide *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* for more information.

Adult child

An adult child is a child who is 18 years of age and older, unless they are dependent.

Character requirements

For your Expression of Interest to be considered for the Pool and for you to be granted residence, we need to be assured that you are of good character. We have set a number of requirements that help us determine this. See 'Good character'.

Citizenship

You are usually automatically a citizen of the country in which you were born, but you may also hold citizenship in another country. Your citizenship(s) will be listed in your passport(s).

Dependent children

Dependent children of a principal applicant are children aged up to 24 years who are unmarried and who have not had their own children (unless your child is under 17 years). They need not live with you but must at least rely mainly on an adult for financial support. Children aged 18 to 20 years may be considered dependent whether or not they are financially dependent on their parents for financial support.

ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) training

This is English-language training. If a principal applicant or their partner does not meet the minimum standard of English, they will need to purchase ESOL training in New Zealand. You need to pay the tuition charge before an application for residence can be granted.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

An Expression of Interest notifies us of your desire to be invited to apply for residence under the Parent Category. To make an Expression of Interest under the Parent Category you need to complete the Parent Category Expression of Interest online form on our website. It is also your opportunity to present all the information we will need to make an informed decision on whether we invite you to apply for residence. Once this is submitted, your Expression of Interest will be placed in the Parent Category EOI Pool. If selected, we will check your Expression of Interest and determine your eligibility.

If it appears you may be eligible for residence under the Parent Category from this check, we will invite you to apply for residence.

Expunged criminal records

Expunging a criminal record is a legal process that can clear criminal convictions from a person's record.

Genuine and stable relationship

We need to be satisfied that you and your partner entered your relationship intending to remain in it long-term and to be exclusive to each other. We also need to be satisfied that your relationship is likely to last. See 'Partner'.

Good character

We consider that a person of good character does not pose a potential security risk and is unlikely to have served time in prison, been deported from any country, or involved in any criminal or dangerous activities.

Health requirements

For your Expression of Interest to be considered for the Pool we need to be assured that you are healthy. We make this requirement to safeguard the well-being of New Zealanders and the operation of the country's health services. Please read the guide *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* for further details.

Issuing authority

This is the government agency of the country or region that granted your document (for example, passport or birth certificate).

Legal adoption

We need to see proof of adoption. If you have adopted your child through legal means we need to see the original adoption papers – or a certified copy – from the country in which you adopted the child.

Minimum standard of English

We require people to have a reasonable standard of English to ensure they have the best opportunity to settle readily into work and life in New Zealand. There are a number of ways you can show you meet our minimum standard of English requirements, including an acceptable English language test result or having recognised qualifications taught entirely in English. We may also consider other factors such as other countries in which you have lived, other languages you speak and your family's English skills. See the guide English Language Information (INZ 1060) for information.

New Zealand Business Number

Where you enter the details of an organisation or business, the form will have a field for a New Zealand Business Number (NZBN). The NZBN should have 13 numbers and always begins with 94. An NZBN is a unique identifier for all organisations operating in New Zealand. You do not have to fill in the NZBN if you do not know what it is or if the organisation you are providing details about is based outside New Zealand. You can find more information about the NZBN, including finding an NZBN for a specific organisation, by going to **www.nzbn.govt.nz**.

Non-principal applicant

If you are including your partner in your application, they are considered to be a non-principal applicant.

Partner

A partner of a principal applicant is someone who is legally married, or joined in a civil union, to the applicant or who is living in a partnership that is like a marriage. The partnership can be between people of the opposite or same sex.

The partnership must be genuine and stable. We recognise partnerships where both partners:

- are aged 18 years or over (or have parental/guardian or other consent if aged 16 or 17 years)
- met each other before any residence application was submitted, and
- aren't close relatives.

A partner will only be granted residence if both people in the partnership have been living together for at least 12 months.

Partnership

A partnership exists where you are in a genuine and stable relationship with another person.
See 'Partner', 'Genuine and stable relationship'.

Permanent place of residence

This is your main residential address.

Police certificates

Certificates you obtain from the police to prove you are of good character. You must obtain these from your country of citizenship and any country in which you have lived for over 12 months in the past 10 years (whether on one visit or intermittently). Anyone 17 years or older included in your Expression of Interest will require a police certificate if you are invited to apply for residence.

Principal applicant

You are the principal applicant if you are the primary person making the application for residence. The principal applicant should be the same person as the principal submitter.

Principal submitter

You are the principal submitter if you are the primary person making the Expression of Interest. The principal submitter should be the same person as the principal applicant.



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa