
KEI MUA I TE AROARO O TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA
I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI
BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

WAI 2750

IN THE MATTER OF the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Kaupapa inquiry into claims concerning
Housing Policy and Services

CROWN BUNDLE OF EVIDENTIAL FACT SHEET FOR
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI - MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT

5 Poutū-te-rangi | March 2021

RECEIVED Waitangi Tribunal
<i>8 Apr 2021</i>
Ministry of Justice WELLINGTON

CROWN LAW**TE TARI TURE O TE KARAUNA**

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EVIDENTIAL FACT SHEET

RESETTLED REFUGEE HOUSING

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INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT)**

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1.	Basic information	<p>Title of policy / programme: Resettled Refugee Housing</p> <p>Year introduced: 2018</p> <p>Still current?: Yes</p> <p>Administering agency(ies): Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)</p> <p>High level summary of policy/programme: Quota refugees move to public or private housing following their completion of a five-week reception programme conducted by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Education (through Auckland University of Technology), Refugees as Survivors and the Ministry of Health at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC). Prior to 2018, there was no specific policy underpinning the housing of refugees in public and private housing. In 2018, Ministers agreed to adopt the policy that all quota refugees are provided with safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes and that refugees are placed into housing (public or private) that best suits their assessed needs.</p> <p>Overlapping/Related policies/programmes: Public Housing Plan policy</p> <p>Other agencies involved in development, implementation, or ongoing administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) • Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (Kāinga Ora) • Ministry of Social Development (MSD)
2.	Description of Policy / Programme	<p>On completion of a five-week reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC), quota refugees move to public or private housing in one of 14 settlement locations around New Zealand. The process of providing refugees with housing following the reception programme is administered by MBIE.</p> <p>In the absence of clear policy settings, operational practice developed whereby eligible quota refugees were informally prioritised for access to public housing through a fast track process to enable houses to be secured by the time quota refugees leave MRRC.</p> <p>In 2018, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development and Minister of Immigration were briefed on this informal fast track arrangement, as well as the issue that this resulted in some eligible refugees being housed ahead of other applicants on the public</p>

		<p>housing register who may have been assessed by MSD as having a higher need and/or may be eligible for a formal fast track. Ministers were also advised:¹</p> <p>“The provision of public housing to refugees also contributes to pressure on emergency and transitional housing in some locations where a notable proportion of available public housing stock is taken by quota refugees making it difficult for those in transitional housing to move into public housing. This creates an on-going trade-off between housing quota refugees and other high priority applicants on the register.”</p> <p>Ministers agreed to adopt the policy that all quota refugees are provided with safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes and that refugees are placed into housing (public or private) which best suits their assessed needs. This policy confirmed that the Government would aim to provide quota refugees with housing that best suits their needs, and that the allocation of public housing to quota refugees should be closely linked to their assessed need for public housing.²</p> <p>After the adoption of the above operational policy in 2018, a new operational understanding developed between Kāinga Ora and MBIE whereby Kāinga Ora would continue to house as many refugees as it can, but not by prioritising them over others of higher need (as determined by the housing register) via a ‘fast track’ process. Any public housing now allocated to refugees is through the housing register process (administered by the Ministry of Social Development) and is based on matching housing to those most in need first.</p> <p>With the increase of the refugee quota programme from 1000 to 1500 refugees on 1 July 2020, additional funding was secured to increase the public housing stock to account for the impact of the increase on public housing. The additional housing is being built over three years and is not earmarked specifically for refugees. It is to increase public housing stock for all those in the register in the 14 refugee settlement areas and will be matched to those most in need at the time.</p>
3.	<p>Outline of the process to develop this Policy / Programme</p>	<p>Prior to 2012 there were no specific goals or policies on refugee housing. In 2012 the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy introduced a goal around housing outcomes for refugees (achieving long-term independence)³ – but no operational policy was put in place until 2018.</p> <p>The development of an operational policy on housing was informed by the projected increase in refugee quota from 1000 to 1500 refugees per year, the ongoing shortage of affordable housing stock, and the adverse outcomes of existing operational arrangements.</p>

¹ MBE.002.0568.

² MBE.002.0577.

³ MBE.002.0831.

4.	Aims or Objectives of the Policy / Programme	<p>The overarching vision of the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy (the Resettlement Strategy), which was agreed by Cabinet in 2012, is that: “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”.⁴</p> <p>One of the five outcomes which underpins the vision for the Resettlement Strategy relates to housing: “Refugees live in safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes without needing government housing help.” The indicator of success for housing included in the Resettlement Strategy is a “reduction in the proportion of refugees receiving housing assistance after two years and five years in New Zealand”.</p> <p>Until 2018, there was no specific principle underpinning the initial housing of refugees, which is an operational responsibility of MBIE. In 2018, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development agreed to adopt the following principle to inform operational practice regarding the housing of refugees:⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“that all quota refugees are provided with safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes and that refugees are placed into housing (public or private) which best suits their assessed needs.”</p>
5.	Outline of steps taken to implement the Policy / Programme	<p>As noted above, public housing allocated to refugees now occurs through the housing register process and is based on matching housing to those most in need first. In practice, the majority of refugees are housed in private housing.⁶</p> <p>The additional public housing stock is funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban development. The housing is being delivered in the 14 planned refugee resettlement regions throughout New Zealand. It is a three-year delivery programme overseen by the multi-agency Refugee Housing Working Group.⁷ This group meets every 6 weeks to oversee the allocation of housing to each group of refugees and addresses any concerns in regard to operational issues in finding refugees new homes.</p>
6.	Outline of monitoring and evaluation built in to Policy / Programme	<p>There is nine monthly and one to three-year outcomes reporting against the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy.</p>

⁴ MBE.002.0831.

⁵ MBE.002.0568.

⁶ MBE.002.0547.

⁷ MBE.002.0814.

7.	Availability of quantitative or qualitative data to demonstrate success or failures of the Policy / Programme to achieve its stated aims	The number of refugees achieving housing independence is monitored through the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy reporting: https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/refugee-resettlement-strategy
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