

Refugee Resettlement in New Zealand

FACT SHEET FOUR: Refugee needs

Most refugee families arrive with little or nothing to set up a home in NZ.

Through Immigration NZ they are provided with limited household items including the minimum furniture. People can help by donating household items which are not covered.

The Red Cross provide a list of the kinds of things that would help a family. See the lists below.

As well as that there is a list of groups around that country that help with different kinds of welcome and support.

The Red Cross advise that they are unable to accept donations of whiteware which is provided through Immigration NZ, and only some areas are able to accept furniture.

Donation of goods

The Red Cross are usually looking for the following items (in good condition):

Auckland

- Pots and pans, rice cookers, jugs
- Quality wool blankets, duvet inners, bed linen and towels
- Cutlery, plates, cups and glasses
- Donations of brand new pillows (still in packaging)
- Lawn mowers and vacuum cleaners
- Contact: auckland@redcross.org.nz or 09 262 0942

Waikato

- Quality blankets, duvet inners
- Lawn-mowers, vacuum cleaners
- Bikes (adults & children)
- Contact: waikato@redcross.org.nz or 07 849 0285

Manawatu

- Quality blankets, duvets and bed linen
- Cutlery, plates, cups and glasses
- Coffee tables
- Bikes (adults & children)
- Contact: manawatu@redcross.org.nz or 06 356 8152

Wellington

Due to storage limitations, Wellington Refugee Services office is currently only accepting donations on an as needed basis. If you have a donation of un-used quality goods, please contact: wellington@redcross.org.nz or 04 805 0304

Nelson

- Bikes, gardening tools
- Quality blankets, duvet inners, bed linen and towels
- Pots and pans, crockery/cutlery sets
- Vacuum cleaners, kettles, toasters (in good working order)
- Coffee tables
- Contact: nelson@redcross.org.nz or 03 548 4978



Donating services

Here are some of the ways organizations in the community help:

- Crosspower Ministries Trust (Hope Centre Manukau) provides food and buckets full of household cleaning products on moving day in Auckland.
- Wellington International Airport gives volunteers free parking at the airport on arrival day.
- Lower Hutt Food Bank, Wellington City Mission Food Bank, and Thorndon New World provide donations for welcome packs for new refugee families in Wellington.
- Coastal Quilters club in Porirua donates quilts to incoming families.
- Little Sprouts provide baby packs for babies up to the age of one in our new refugee families in Wellington.
- St Anne's Catholic Church in Wellington and St Vincent de Paul's in Manawatu assist with food parcels for newly arrived Refugee families.
- Catholic Church in Palmerston North provide donations towards a welcome bag for each refugee family arriving in the area.
- Olive Tree Church in Wellington and Palmerston North Fire Station provide subsidised venue hire for orientation programmes, welcome dinner and volunteer training.
- Snapper donate free snapper travel cards to each newly arrived family in Wellington.
- Nelmac provides new families in Nelson with recycling bins.
- Red Cross branches and area groups provide various donations towards Refugee Services programme (in the form of physical and monetary donations)
- St Vincent de Paul Society work with refugee families in many parts of New Zealand.

You may wish to donate cash or goods to these organisations to help refugees.

Donating money for refugee resettlement

Your local diocese will receive donations for refugee resettlement.

Housing

Immigration NZ coordinates housing for quota refugees. Assistance with housing could be offered to refugees joining family here under the family reunification category.

Employment

Finding stable employment is an important part of integrating into a new community. As well as the dignity and financial stability that comes with employment it also benefits language skills and making New Zealand feel like home. While agencies assist in finding work and identifying skills, the most sustainable way to find employment is if individual employers make an effort to give someone a chance, and assist them in settling into employment with them. This often happens through word of mouth, and Churches should encourage their parishioners to think of their own places of work and people they know to see if there are job opportunities.

Red Cross have a programme called Pathways to Employment which helps individuals from refugee backgrounds plan their employment and career goals and ultimately find work. If you are in a position to provide a job for a refugee or would like to discuss this you should contact your local Red Cross office. They will be happy to know of any work opportunities available or with any employers who may be interested. They are looking for full time, part time and work experience opportunities.

