

# Refugee Resettlement in New Zealand

## FACT SHEET TWO: The resettlement process

The New Zealand refugee quota comprises up to six intakes a year of around 125 people each. The quota allows for women at risk, protection cases, family reunification and a small number of medical cases.

New Zealand's annual quota is 750 and is reviewed every three years. The next review is due in 2016. As part of this review the priorities are decided for the quota for three years.

Immigration New Zealand is the Government agency responsible for refugees. This includes their selection, arrival and initial orientation.

Quota refugees are given permanent residence on arrival in New Zealand and spend their first six weeks at the Department's Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre. Refugees can be resettled here in a number of ways, by;

- Quota (annual 750)
- Family reunification programme (300 per year, this is where a family member has resettled in NZ they can apply to bring family members out – priority is given to refugees that are here by themselves)
- Asylum seekers going through the process to be granted refugee status – usually around 100 people per year
- Emergency intake (such as the Government has announced with Syrian refugees. Their process is much like the quota refugee process.)

### Refugee selection

Refugees arrive every two months in an intake of about 100-150. Often the make-up of the group arriving is not known until about 3-4 weeks before they arrive.

They are screened off-shore by UNHCR who then refer suitable cases to New Zealand. Immigration NZ officials travel to where the refugees are to make their selection. (Approximately 95% of those referred by UNHCR are accepted by Immigration NZ to come to New Zealand).

For the special intake of Syrian refugees according to news reports the Prime Minister said that *Immigration officials will travel to Lebanon in October and again in December to screen the first groups of refugees selected for resettlement in New Zealand.*

### On arrival

On arrival refugees are welcomed by Immigration NZ staff who oversee the arrival/orientation programme at Mangere. They are taken to Mangere and settled into accommodation there.

They complete an orientation programme focusing on English language skills and information needed to help people live and obtain work in New Zealand, including law and customs, understanding the New Zealand workplace, shopping and cooking. They also complete physical and mental health checks to assess their settlement needs.

Following the six week orientation programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre refugees are then resettled around New Zealand. Currently resettlement is in five areas of New Zealand – Auckland, Waikato, Manawatu, Wellington and Nelson. The New Zealand Government determines where refugees will be resettled, based on a number of different factors including where there are already communities of the same ethnic background. It may only be 2-3 weeks before they leave Mangere that their settlement location is known.

