

## **PARENT RESIDENCE CATEGORY**

### **SUMMARY**

Parent Residence enables New Zealand Citizens or Residents to support one or more parents to come to live permanently in this country. Ability to apply depends upon sponsors earning more than a certain threshold income.

The Government has capped the number of Resident Visas that can be granted under this scheme every year. This means that families interested in going down this route should get started sooner rather than later.

### **SELECTION OF APPLICANTS**

The Parent Residence category involves a two stage process:

1. An Expression of Interest (EOI) is submitted to Immigration New Zealand (INZ) for entry into a Pool.
  - ◇ Only the EOI Form (and the prescribed fee) is required, but the form must contain correct information about the applicants and the criteria which they rely upon to qualify for Residence.
  - ◇ Two Pools contain the Parent Category EOIs:
    - a Queued Pool contains EOIs submitted in the prescribed manner on or before 11 October 2022; and
    - a Ballot Pool contains EOIs submitted in the prescribed manner on or after 12 October 2022. EOIs in this Pool are current for a period of two years from the date of initial entry into the Pool.
  - ◇ The number of Resident Visas that can be granted under the Parent Category is limited to 2,500 people for each year ending 30 June.
  - ◇ Until the Queued Pool is cleared, 2000 visas per year are allocated to people from the Queued Pool, and from July 2023, 500 visas per year are allocated to those whose EOIs are in the Ballot Pool.
  - ◇ EOIs are randomly selected from the Ballot Pool until the annual quota of potential applicants for Resident Visas has been filled.
  - ◇ If an EOI is selected, an Invitation to Apply for Residence (ITA) is issued by INZ.
2. Based on the ITA, the Residence application is submitted to INZ for processing with full documentation including evidence to back up the claims made in the EOI about how the applicant qualifies.

## QUALIFYING CRITERIA

The principal applicant must:

- have no dependent children – that is, none of their children relies on them for financial support;
- have good health and be of good character;
- meet the English language requirements, either by having a defined English-speaking background and/or qualifications gained in particular English-speaking countries, or by having a suitable ESOL test score (e.g., overall score of IELTS 5.0);
- have at least one sponsoring adult child who is in New Zealand and has held NZ Citizenship or Residence for at least three years immediately preceding the date of the application.

A maximum of two people can act as sponsors. A sponsor or sponsors on a Parent Category application must be:

- The adult child of the principal applicant; or
- The adult child of the principal applicant and that adult child's partner (joint sponsorship); or
- The adult child of the principal applicant and one other adult child of either applicant included in the application (joint sponsorship).

A sponsor can sponsor a maximum of 6 parents.

The sponsor must live in New Zealand and meet the undertakings of sponsorship for the first 10 years of the applicant's stay in New Zealand as a resident. This means, for example, that the parents are not normally entitled to receive any Government benefits or financial support during that period.

## QUALIFYING SPONSOR INCOME

The sponsor or joint sponsors must show that they have earned the following minimum annual income for two years out of the last three years immediately before being Invited to Apply for Residence.

Only taxable income recorded on New Zealand's Inland Revenue tax statements (Summary of Income) will be recognised.

Income earned by another legal entity, such as a company or a trust, cannot be included unless it has been paid directly to the sponsor in the form of shareholder-employee salary or dividends, or is income derived from the trust. This income must appear on the Inland Revenue tax statements of the sponsor(s).

1. **Sponsor Income for one parent:** is met by either:

- ◇ One sponsor must earn \$92,539.20 from 1 May 2023 onwards. From 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2023 - \$86,611.20; from 1 January to 31 December 2021 - \$84,240; and from 1 January to 31 December 2020 - \$79,560.
- ◇ Joint sponsors must earn a combined income of NZ\$123,385.60 from 1 May 2023 onwards. From 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2023 - \$115,481.60; from 1 January to 31 December 2021 - \$112,320; and from 1 January to 31 December 2020 - \$106,080.

If income earned by the sponsor's partner is relied upon to meet the income threshold, then that partner must also have held Residence for 3 years and have been living with the sponsor for a period of at least 12 months in partnership that is genuine and stable.

2. **Sponsor Income for two parents:**

- ◇ One sponsor must earn \$123,385.60 from 1 May 2023 onwards. From 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2023 - \$115,481.60; from 1 January to 31 December 2021 - \$112,320; and from 1 January to 31 December 2020 - \$106,080; or
- ◇ Joint sponsors must earn a combined income of \$154,232 from 1 May 2023 onwards. From 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2023 - \$144,352; from 1 January to 31 December 2021 - \$140,400; and from 1 January to 31 December 2020 - \$132,600.

**OUR SERVICE**

As your immigration professionals, our role is to ensure that all criteria are met and that all documentation provided in support of your application is in the form required by INZ, that it assists your application, and it does not create confusion or difficulty.

We keep in contact with INZ to ensure that each application is processed promptly and in a manner that is fair and in accord with natural justice.

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