

REFUGEE FAMILY SUPPORT CATEGORY – SUMMARY

There are 300 places per year for sponsored persons under the Refugee Family Support Category.

There are two tiers of sponsors;

1. A Tier 1 Sponsor has no immediate family [partner, parent or non-dependent child] living lawfully and legally in NZ. Tier 1 registrations will be selected first.
2. Tier 2 has lower criteria but we consider it unlikely that any Tier 2 Sponsors will ever be selected.

Applications for registration are selected in date order. If the number of potential applicants exceeds the number of places in a year, Immigration New Zealand will delay further selections until spaces become available.

A Tier 1 Sponsor may sponsor one family member plus that person's partner or dependent child.

The Sponsor must have no other family member who is eligible for residence in New Zealand under any other category.

APPLYING FOR REFUGEE FAMILY SUPPORT RESIDENCE

It is a two-stage process:

1. Registration of the Sponsor by submitting a Form and information about the Sponsor and the people that they wish to bring to New Zealand; and
2. If the Sponsor's Registration is chosen by Immigration New Zealand (INZ), the overseas family member then prepares and files a full Residence application including their partner and children.

WHAT WE DO TO HELP YOU?

- We get a copy of the Sponsor's file from INZ to get background information about the Sponsor and their family which INZ already has from the time when the Sponsor applied for residence.
- We work with the Sponsor to prepare his/her Registration as a Sponsor. This also means that we make sure that the information which the Sponsor provides in the Registration process is the same as when they applied for Residence themselves.

- When Refugee Family Support Residence spaces become available and the Sponsor's Registration is selected, we work with the Sponsor and the applicants to prepare the Residence application.
- We handle the application process on behalf of the applicant and the Sponsor to deal with issues that come up – such as identity, proof that the applicant and the Sponsor are from the same family, and so on.