

## Ella Pearce

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**From:** Andrew Craig  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 October 2021 4:39 pm  
**To:** Kristin Svendsen  
**Cc:** Ben Lindsay; Sarah Parker  
**Subject:** RE: long-stay parent visa

Some context.

We did discuss the situation of parents here with the Minister when we did the change to allow people to apply for another visitor visa if they had reached their maximum time in New Zealand. It was agreed with the Minister that there wouldn't be a further extension – the change gave people enough to prepare to return home.

There is a parent and grandparent visitor visas that allows people to come and

Parents who came on that visa (or another visitor) visa arrived in NZ with the expectation this was temporary and there was no pathway to residency open.

They will have generally been able to spend longer in New Zealand than expected with various extensions, and the temporary suspension of the time in New Zealand rules while travel was difficult.

The parent category was capped to 800 places per annum. Demand far exceeds this.

There is no surety where visiting parents would be in the queue or how long it would take for their application to be considered and approved even if the category was reopened.

When decisions about resuming the category and the threshold changes are made, parents will be able to apply to become NZ residents if they meet the criteria.

There is also a parent retirement resident visa – but this is only open to parents who have substantial annual income \$60,000 per annum plus \$1 million to invest and a further \$500k to live on.

[Information about : Parent Retirement Resident Visa | Immigration New Zealand](#)

2021 resident visa – no parents can't be included in the initial application. But once people are resident, they may be eligible to sponsor their parents when the parent category reopens.

AC

### Andrew Craig

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**From:** Kristin Svendsen <Kristin.Svendsen@mbie.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 October 2021 3:06 PM

**To:** Andrew Craig <Andrew.Craig@mbie.govt.nz>

**Subject:** FW: long-stay parent visa

Hi AC,

Peter had received another query from s 9(2)(a) at s 9 about the parent category (see below). He's already provided the following response to s (highlighted). We've used the second line in a previous response about extending visas of elderly parents. Is there anything else we can add in this instance? I think we need something that addresses the fact these parents who would probably have been able to stay in NZ if the parent category was open are now having to go home where they won't have the support of their children as originally planned. The MO might need to provide this context though?

No decisions have been taken on resuming selections for the parent category. A planned review of the category closer to when border travel is more available will look at barriers to access, including considering the income thresholds.

In February, the Government announced a two month extension for all visitor visas, during which time those here on visitor visas were able to apply for a new visa to remain in the country longer. There are no plans to provide further extensions to visitor visas as these people were only ever meant to be in the country temporarily.

Thanks,  
Kristin

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**From:** Peter Stevens <[Peter.Stevens@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Peter.Stevens@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 October 2021 2:00 PM  
**To:** Yvette McKinley <[Yvette.McKinley@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Yvette.McKinley@mbie.govt.nz)>; Kristin Svendsen <[Kristin.Svendsen@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Kristin.Svendsen@mbie.govt.nz)>; Marc Piercey <[Marc.Piercey@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Marc.Piercey@mbie.govt.nz)>; Alastair Stewart <[alastair.stewart@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:alastair.stewart@mbie.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Jordan Fallow (Parliament) <[Jordan.Fallow@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jordan.Fallow@parliament.govt.nz)>; Chris Holland (Parliament) <[Chris.Holland@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Chris.Holland@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: long-stay parent visa

Folks,

Could I get your suggested lines on this and checks on whether this idea of an extended parent visa has ever been mooted?

I am happy to provide the response from the Minister's office.

Does the 2021 Resident Visa offer some possibility of certainty for eligible applicants who will then be able to have their parents covered too?

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 Oct 2021, 13:53  
**To:** Peter Stevens <[Peter.Stevens@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Peter.Stevens@parliament.govt.nz)>, Media MBIE <[Media@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Media@mbie.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** long-stay parent visa

Kia ora

People are calling for the government to introduce a long-stay parent visa, so their parents can come and visit without having to reapply for a short visitor visa. Countries including [Australia](#) have this type of visa.

Some of their parents came on a visitor visa in 2019 before the pandemic closed NZ borders. They are now in the process of replying for a new visitor visa. They worry their application won't be approved and say they want some certainty.

They say given the parent resident visa is not being reopening soon, it's essential to allow their parents, who're already here, to be able to stay longer.

Will the minister consider introducing such a visa, or provide any other options for parents who're already here to stay longer, and those who're overseas to come and visit their children?

It would be great if you can come back to me by the end of the day. Thanks very much!

Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

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