



20 May 2024

OIA 24-087

MD Sunny  
Email: fyi-request-26442-cbe568a8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe MD Sunny

Thank you for your email of 15 April 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I would like to understand the progress that has been made so far on the proposed 5-year renewable parent visa.*

*National party campaigned on this promise and it seems like the immigration minister and government agencies have forgotten how important this promise is to a significant number of migrants. While the community understands that the government is currently working on fixing migration numbers, it is still unacceptable for the government to completely ignore the issue of the 5-year parent visa which they proposed. Families are waiting eagerly to plan for their future while the only statement from the government seems to be "Resourcing is required" or "Its in the pipeline". We understand that its in the pipeline, as it must be because it was the government's election promise so we expect them to act on it.*

*Could MBIE please provide the following information:*

- 1. Is the government committed to make this promise a reality?*
- 2. Is MBIE currently working on it?*
- 3. If MBIE is not working it, is it because of resourcing issues?*
- 4. If MBIE is working on it, what is an estimated time frame for the visa to open to public? Please kindly note this is really important for families who plan to reunite under this visa. A visa application takes considerable amount of time and preparation so even an estimated time frame is immensely helpful.*
- 5. What are the details that have been discussed and agreed on for the proposed visa so far?*
- 6. Does the government consider this as high priority?*
- 7. Does the government and MBIE understand that this is high priority for migrants?*
- 8. Why is the government and the immigration minister purposefully avoiding giving updates regarding this visa to the public? Are we to assume that the government intentionally misled migrants in order gain migrant votes in the election?*

On 24 April 2024 MBIE wrote to you to advise that it would be transferring your request to my office for a response, as your request is more closely aligned with the functions of the Office of the Minister of Immigration.

I recognise the importance of providing avenues for migrant families to unite in New Zealand. This is why the Government's key priority for family settings for this term remains introducing a renewable, five-year visa for parents and grandparents of New Zealand citizens and residents, as set out in the coalition agreement between the National and ACT parties.

I am yet to receive any detailed advice from MBIE on the design or implementation of a five-year parent and grandparent visa, but I am actively working with officials on determining a work programme that will deliver on a wide range of priorities for the immigration portfolio this term. At this stage, I am unable to confirm at this time when policy work on the design and implementation of the five-year parent and grandparent visitor visa will commence.

No substantive advice has been provided to date or details have been agreed at this stage. Please note that designing and implementing new visa products requires significant time and resourcing, so may take some time to develop. Once decisions have been taken on the details of the visa, announcements will be made publicly.

In the meantime, parents remain able to join their children in New Zealand either as a visitor or permanently through existing channels, such as:

- Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/parent-and-grandparent-multiple-entry-visitor-visa>.
- Parent Category Resident Visa: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/visas/visa/parent-resident-visa>.

There are four documents in scope of your request that either cover your request for *details that have been discussed and agreed on for the proposed visa so far* or the potential timing for the development and implementation of the 5-year parent and grandparent visa policy, which are listed in the following table:

No	Document Type	Date	Title	Decision
1	Briefing	27 November 2023	Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Immigration	Refused under section 18(d)
2	Briefing	4 December 2023	2324-1070 Advancing your immigration priorities	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
3	Briefing	18 January 2024	2324-1508 Immigration Work programme Priorities	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	Briefing	3 April 2024	Delivering a GPS and the Immigration Policy Work Programme	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

The document *Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Immigration* has been proactively released on the MBIE website and is available at the following link:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28012-briefing-for-the-incoming-minister-of-immigration-proactiverelease-pdf>

Most information relating to the 5-year parent and grandparent visa in documents numbered 2,3 and 4 in the table above is still under consideration and the remainder of the information contained in these documents is out of scope. Therefore, I am withholding this information under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

However, I am releasing the following extract from briefing 2324-1070 *Advancing your immigration priorities* which is advice I received to provide context for future discussion of the 5-year parent and grandparent visa.

**Extract from 2324-1070 *Advancing your immigration priorities*:**

***“Providing facilitative pathways for parent visitors while minimising taxpayer costs***

*The key design considerations for a renewable 5-year parent visa will be the health requirements, including the availability of comprehensive health insurance or ability to recover costs through other mechanisms such as a health levy; and the checks and obligations on sponsoring children to maintain parent wellbeing, and the parents to retain connections to their home country. The renewable status could also blur the lines with residence and right to remain expectations. This work can draw on experiences with existing longer duration visas in Australia and Canada.”*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Erica Stanford  
**Minister of Immigration**