



**Longitudinal Immigration Survey:
New Zealand (LisNZ)**

Te Ara O Nga Manene

**Key User Group Update
June 2001**

Introduction

This is the third in a series of updates for members of the LisNZ Key User Group on progress with the development of the Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ). These updates are provided every six months, either as a face-to-face meeting or as a mailed summary.

The main objective of the Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ) is to provide reliable, authoritative data about migrants' initial settlement experiences in New Zealand and the outcomes of immigration policies. The LisNZ is being developed in partnership between the Department of Labour (DOL) and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ).

Interviewing for the LisNZ pilot survey is due to start on 1 July 2001. While interviewing for the main survey will be conducted throughout New Zealand, for the pilot survey interviews are being held in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. Interviews with around 750 migrants will take place in July and August, and again in May and June 2002. Interviewing for the main survey starts in early 2003.

Over the last six months, the DOL and SNZ have continued to work together to finalise the questionnaire and survey methods in preparation for the pilot. The purpose of the pilot survey is to test the survey methodology and the questionnaire. Both SNZ and the DOL will be working intensively with the pilot survey results to refine the questionnaire and survey methods for the main survey.

SNZ and the DOL are still in close contact with those working on the Australian, Canadian and US longitudinal immigration surveys. Their experiences have already proved very useful in informing the development of the LisNZ. The DOL has also continued to work with members of the LisNZ external advisory group who provide advice on the survey methodology and analysis of the survey data.

The main areas of progress on the survey since the last Key User Group update include:

- respondent management for the pilot survey,
- finalisation of the pilot questionnaire,
- interviewer training and
- communications.

These topics are discussed in more detail below.

Respondent management for the pilot survey

Initial and subsequent contact with new migrants is being managed by SNZ so that the confidentiality of the migrants is maintained. Only SNZ staff will know who actually participates in the survey, and the survey is being conducted under the provisions of the Statistics Act 1975.

SNZ is responsible for making contact with migrants who are selected to take part in the survey, and for conducting the interviewing. Sampling off-shore respondents for the pilot survey commenced in August 2000. Approved applications from the New Zealand Immigration Service's (NZIS) Application Management System (AMS) form the basis for the survey sample frame. Daily extracts of the approval data are downloaded and then transferred to SNZ for the sample selection.

Due to the time lag between residence approval and arrival in New Zealand, it was necessary to start sample selection of off-shore migrants several months earlier than the on-shore migrants. Sample selection for on-shore migrants started in January 2001. Only migrants who arrived (if approved off-shore) or were approved (if on-shore) in January and February this year are included in the pilot survey. This means that six months will have elapsed before they are interviewed.

For the pilot, we also tested the use of New Zealand Passenger Arrival Cards for obtaining New Zealand contact addresses for migrants. This may prove to be a very successful way of obtaining address information for migrants once they have arrived in New Zealand. Other methods used by SNZ to obtain address information for migrants have included directly contacting them by letter and using the electronic version of the white pages.

Pilot questionnaire

The objectives for the survey were developed after an extensive consultation and prioritisation process. A significant number of agencies and individuals contributed to this information gathering process to assist in determining the key information needs for the survey.

The DOL and SNZ worked intensively together to develop the pilot questionnaire from detailed topic specifications and information needs. Questionnaire flow charts were then used to programme the electronic questionnaire. Concept testing was used to ensure that consistent information could be collected from all migrants participating in the survey. Focus groups and cognitive testing of the questionnaire with migrants from different ethnic groups were used by SNZ to help develop the questionnaire.

The pilot questionnaire has been translated into Chinese, Samoan and Tongan and SNZ has also recruited bilingual interviewers for the survey. In addition to English, we will interview in Samoan, Tongan, Cantonese and Mandarin for the pilot. For the main survey the questionnaire will be translated into a number of other languages and additional bilingual interviewers will be employed.

Interviewer training

Interviewers for the LisNZ pilot survey undertook a week long training programme. This included a briefing on immigration policy and procedures, cultural sensitivity training, training in the use of the lap-top computers and general familiarisation with the electronic questionnaire.

SNZ are bound by the requirements of the Statistics Act, which governs all of their survey work, and which has provisions for safe guarding the identity of people who respond to their surveys and the integrity of the data. SNZ has wide experience in working with different groups of people to collect and produce survey information of national importance.

Communications

A key focus for the DOL over the last few months has been communications with ethnic and community groups to raise awareness of and support for the survey. Equally important has been managing expectations in terms of results from the pilot survey. Because we are only interviewing around 750 people for the pilot survey, and the purpose is to improve the survey methodology and questionnaire, results will not be made publicly available at this stage of the project. This does not mean that the Government will have to wait until 2005 before making changes in the area of service provision for new migrants to New Zealand. The Government has recently embarked on a concerted effort to establish an effective migrant settlement policy, with a number of settlement pilots being established throughout New Zealand.

Development of a new brochure

Early this year we designed a new brochure about the survey specifically targeted at ethnic groups and associations who come into contact with new migrants. The purpose of the brochure was to provide information on the LisNZ that built on the considerable support for the survey already evident among New Zealand's ethnic communities. All Key User Group members received a copy of the brochure in May 2001.

Meetings with community representatives

We have recently held a number of meetings, in the survey pilot areas, with community representatives who have a high level of contact with new migrants. The purpose of these meetings was to update people on the LisNZ and increase awareness and understanding of the benefits of the survey.

We are aware that for many migrants the decision to participate in both the pilot and the main survey will not be taken lightly and may be made in consultation with respected ethnic, church or community leaders. Therefore, it is very important that ethnic and community groups are well informed about the LisNZ so that their communications with migrants about the LisNZ are accurate and encouraging in terms of participation.

Handout for ethnic and community groups

A summary handout about the pilot survey has also been produced for ethnic and community groups. This has been translated into Samoan, Tongan, Chinese, Punjabi and Hindi. Many of you have already received copies of this material however, those of you who would still like to receive this handout in English or any of the translated languages should contact Sharon Boyd (phone 915 4078, e-mail: sharon.boyd@nzis.dol.govt.nz).

Focus until December 2001

The main focus for both SNZ and DOL over the next six months will be to begin reviewing the contact methodology and pilot wave 1 questionnaire. In our next Key User Group update we hope to provide information on the insights we have gained on the survey methodology and questionnaire from conducting the Wave 1 pilot.

Survey timelines

The timelines for the survey remain as follows:

July 2001 – August 2001:	Wave 1 interviews for pilot survey
May 2002 – June 2002:	Wave 2 interviews for pilot survey
October 2002 – March 2005:	Sample selection for main survey
April 2003 – September 2005:	Wave 1 interviews for the main survey
April 2004 – September 2006:	Wave 2 interviews for the main survey
October 2005 – March 2008:	Wave 3 interviews for the main survey

Wave 1 interviews for the pilot survey are being conducted six months after residence approval (for migrants approved on-shore) or six months after arrival in New Zealand (for migrants approved off-shore). Wave 2 interviews for the pilot will take place ten months later.

For the main survey, Wave 1 interviews will again take place six months after residence approval (for migrants approved on-shore) or six months after arrival in New Zealand (for migrants approved off-shore). Wave 2 interviews will take place 12 months after this, and Wave 3 interviews 18 months later or 36 months after residence approval/arrival. Timelines for the main survey may be amended depending on the results obtained from the pilot.

Further information

If you have any questions or require further information on the survey, please send an e-mail to longitudinal.survey.policy@nzis.dol.govt.nz, or write to:

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New Zealand Immigration Service
Department of Labour
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WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND.

Key User Group updates can also be found on [www.immigration.govt.nz/research and information](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/research_and_information) and by clicking on the Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ) tab.

The next up-date on the survey will be provided to the
Key User Group in December 2001