



File Ref: SDE-32

**WORKFORCE (IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND)
INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION CIRCULAR NO: 09/06**

To: All Workforce/Immigration New Zealand (INZ) staff **Date:** 21 July 2009

**PRIORITISATION OF THE 2009/2010 RESIDENCE PROGRAMME AND
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Please **READ** this information and ensure that all staff members who may be affected are aware of what is required of them.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Internal Administration Circular (IAC) is to confirm the prioritisation of residence categories within the 2009/2010 New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) and to give general instructions as to the order and manner of processing applications for residence visas and permits.

General Instruction as to the order and manner of processing

2. The 2009/2010 NZRP is divided into four streams.

Skilled/Business

International/Humanitarian

Family uncapped- Partners/Dependent Children

Family capped- Parents/Adult Children/Siblings

3. Section 13BA of the Immigration Act 1987 allows the Chief Executive of the Department of Labour to give general instructions to visa and immigration officers as to the order and manner of processing any application for a visa or permit. This enables the prioritising of categories of applications to be processed other than on a "first come first served" basis. This power of the Chief Executive has been delegated to the Group Manager, Service Delivery.
4. For branches dealing with a range of residence application types, this general instruction requires that priority be given to applications for residence visa and permits under certain categories in preference to applications under other categories. Note that where a branch processes one category type, for example Business applications, priority is offered by virtue of that specialisation.

First Priority

Skilled Migrant Category (SMC): (with priority given to applicants with job offers)

All Business Categories

Residence from Work:

- Talent (Accredited Employer);
- Talent (Arts, Culture and Sport); and
- Long Term Skill Shortage List.

Refugee Policy

Partnership and Dependent Child applications (where sponsored by a New Zealand expatriate) is:

- a) A New Zealand Citizen, or
- b) The holder of an Indefinite Returning Resident Visa, and who has been absent from New Zealand for a period of at least two years prior to the date of the application being accepted for consideration, apart from short visits within that period.
(Note that in the case of a partnership application, the New Zealand sponsor and their partner must have been living together for at least 12 months in a partnership that is genuine and stable).

Second Priority

Partnership and Dependent Child applications (which do not meet the criteria above).

Third Priority

Family sponsored applications (Parent, Adult Sibling and Adult Child policies).

Management of Applications in Third Priority Categories

5. Non-priority family sponsored applications (Parent, Adult Sibling and Adult Child policies) must be added to a managed queue and processed in order. Global parity of processing in this stream means that branches are given an annual decision allocation based on the age of work on hand so that applicants have a similar waiting time no matter where they apply. Branches are required to process family capped applications throughout the year to meet, but not exceed, the overall decision allocation. However, if there is greater than forecast demand in the priority categories, or there is a change in available resource, non priority category processing may be reduced.

6. These instructions do not prevent visa and immigration officers according urgency to the processing of any particular residence application when the individual circumstances so warrant that.
7. The previous General Instructions made pursuant to section 13BA of the Immigration Act 1987 are revoked.
8. The amendments described in this IAC will be published in the INZ Operational Manual on 27 July 2009.