



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

Te Ara O Nga Manene
(The Pathway of the Migrants)

**Key User Group Update
June 2004**

LISNZ KEY USER GROUP UPDATE – JUNE 2004

Introduction

This is the seventh in a series of updates for members of the LisNZ Key User Group on progress with the Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ).

We are very pleased to advise that the pilot survey report from the LisNZ, Migrants' Experiences of New Zealand - Pilot Survey Report, was launched by the Minister of Immigration in April at the New Directions: New Settlers: New Challenges Seminar. While the results of the pilot survey are not generalisable to all migrants, they provide very useful insights into the processes of settlement and some of the outcomes being achieved.

We are also happy to report that sampling for the main LisNZ survey will start in the second half of this year. Sampling was delayed from February 2003 due to the impact of new immigration policies. The Skilled Migrant Category was introduced in December 2003 and, with the expectation that flows through this Category will stabilise over the next few months, we are keen to restart the survey.

Background

The LisNZ is being jointly developed by the Department of Labour (DOL) and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ). The main objective of the LisNZ is to provide reliable, authoritative data about migrants' initial settlement experiences in New Zealand and the outcomes of immigration policies. The information collected will be used to inform the development of immigration policy and settlement services.

Each migrant will be interviewed at around six months, 18 months and 36 months after they take up residence in New Zealand. The aim is to achieve a sample of around 5,000 migrants at the third interview.

The pilot survey

The LisNZ pilot survey was undertaken to trial aspects of the survey 'in the field' in preparation for the main survey. The primary purpose was to test the electronic questionnaire and survey methodology, including ways to establish and maintain contact with those taking part in the survey. The results of the Wave 1 and 2 pilot tests were used to assist with the final design of the LisNZ main survey. Interviews for Wave 1 of the pilot survey were conducted six months after migrants took up residence, in July and August 2001. The Wave 2 interviews were undertaken 12 months later, in July and August 2002. For Wave 1 of the pilot survey, 691 migrants were interviewed and 546 of these migrants were re-interviewed at Wave 2.

The pilot data also provided an opportunity to analyse the settlement experiences of this cohort of migrants, and presenting these findings is the main purpose of the LisNZ pilot survey report.

Overall, the results from the LisNZ pilot survey show that most migrants were settling well in New Zealand. Some migrants, however, had experienced problems finding work and getting the specific help, advice and information needed with various aspects of life in New Zealand.

Recent changes to skilled immigration policy have been designed to improve employment outcomes for skilled migrants. The New Zealand Immigration Service is also introducing a new long-term business strategy, 'Customised Service', to help ensure migrants' initial settlement needs are met in a timely and effective way.

The main LisNZ survey will enable an objective evaluation of how effectively immigration selection policies and settlement programmes are working to achieve good outcomes for recent migrants and for New Zealand.

The Executive Summary from the pilot report is enclosed with this update. The report can be downloaded from our website at:

www.immigration.govt.nz/Migrant/General/GeneralInformation/Research/LisNZ/

Or, you can obtain a copy of the published report by contacting:

Kay Barns
Executive Assistant
NZIS National Office
Department of Labour
P O Box 3705
Wellington

kay.barns@nzis.dol.govt.nz
Phone: 64 – 4 - 915 4267

The report is also available at the main public, university and polytechnic libraries in New Zealand.

LisNZ progress

The introduction of the Skilled Migrant Category temporarily delayed the LisNZ, which was due to start in February 2003. Delaying the start of sampling until late 2004 means that the skilled migrants taking part in the survey will have been approved through the new policy criteria and will also have experienced Customised Service. Therefore, the delay has helped ensure the continued relevance of the LisNZ data.

Final decisions about the actual start date for sampling will be made in the next few months. In the meantime, final preparations for the survey are being made so that the survey is ready to start.

In the last 12 months, work has focused on analysing the pilot survey data, writing the pilot survey report and completing preparations for the LisNZ main survey. These preparations have included finalising the questionnaire, translations and respondent management methods, and working on the sampling scheme and survey systems for the main survey.

To assist SNZ with respondent management, NZIS staff will be handing out contact material about the LisNZ to all principal applicants approved for residence

offshore. Newly approved migrants will be asked to return the reply paid card with New Zealand contact address information to SNZ. SNZ will be the only agency to have contact with migrants selected for the survey.

Key challenges

There are two main challenges for the LisNZ. The first is establishing and maintaining contact with selected migrants. Migrants are selected into the survey at residence approval. Many migrants are offshore at this time. Obtaining good address information for these migrants is a major challenge and much effort is being expended in this area. The second challenge is the potential for policy changes and/or external world events to impact on the quantity, categories and source countries of migrants. Flows of migrants will be closely monitored and adjustments may be made to the sample rate and sample period if necessary.

The next six months

The focus of activities until December 2004 will be on reviewing and refining the sampling scheme once a decision has been made on the start date for sampling. Work will continue on finalising respondent management material and systems design for the survey. Training material will also be revised for the Statistics New Zealand field staff who will be conducting the interviews with selected migrants.

We will also be disseminating key findings from the pilot survey to encourage use of the data and to raise awareness of the importance of the survey among stakeholders who include researchers, policy makers and planners, ethnic and community groups, non-government organisations and academics.

Further information

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list or have anyone added, or if you have general questions on the survey, please e-mail research@nzis.dol.govt.nz, or write to:

LisNZ Project Manager
Department of Labour
PO Box 3705
Wellington

Key User Group updates and more information on the LisNZ can be found on our website at:

www.immigration.govt.nz/Migrant/General/GeneralInformation/Research/LisNZ/

For information about Statistics New Zealand please go to:

www.stats.govt.nz