



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

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

Key User Group Update
December 2002



Introduction

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

We are pleased to be able to report that Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) will start selecting newly approved migrants to take part in the LisNZ main survey in February 2003, with interviews starting in July 2003.

The main objective of the LisNZ is to provide a reliable profile of migrants to New Zealand, by linking their initial settlement experiences and outcomes with those characteristics that are, or can be, used in immigration selection policies. The information collected will be used to inform the development of immigration policy and assist with the development of settlement services.

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

LisNZ progress

Over the last six months, the LisNZ work has focussed on conducting the Wave 2 pilot survey, incorporating feedback from the pilot survey into the main survey development and completing preparations for the LisNZ main survey. This includes finalising the questionnaire and sampling scheme for the main survey, finalising migrant contact and tracking methods, and developing and printing the initial respondent contact material.

To assist SNZ with respondent management, New Zealand Immigration Service off-shore staff and Business Migration Branch staff are now handing out contact material about the LisNZ to all principal applicants approved for residence. We are asking newly approved migrants to return a reply paid card with a New Zealand contact address information to SNZ. Those migrants selected for the survey will then be contacted by SNZ after they have arrived in New Zealand.

LisNZ pilot survey Wave 2 methodology report

The main focus of the December 2002 update is to overview the LisNZ pilot Wave 2 methodology report results. The Wave 2 pilot methodology report documented methodology and questionnaire issues arising from the second wave of pilot interviews, completed in July and August 2002. Some of the information and findings from that report are summarised below. These results are being used to assist with the main survey development and implementation.

Overall, the piloting process has worked very well and the second interviews with the migrants were successfully conducted.

Questionnaire

The LisNZ questionnaire is administered using a laptop computer. The main advantages of using an electronic questionnaire (EQ) for the LisNZ are the ease of questionnaire administration, the coding of data in the field and ease and speed of transferring the survey data onto a central database. The EQ not only establishes the routing of questions but also allows other data (i.e. administrative data and data from previous waves of interviewing) to be brought through into the questionnaire.

Overall, there were few areas of the questionnaire that caused any issues in terms of content or comprehension. The questionnaire was generally well received by respondents and interviewers. Exceptions were the order and flow of specific questions within the health module, the detail required for relatives living in New Zealand and overseas, and the repetitive nature of the series of questions about the use of services in New Zealand. These issues have been addressed as much as is possible.

Interviewers reported that respondents reacted better to the labour market and income questions than at the Wave 1 interview. This improvement resulted from a combination of factors, including, respondents having more straight forward labour market situations as a result of the settling in process, and the 'training' effect of the first interview, so that respondents knew what types of questions to expect.

Field procedures

Field procedures for the LisNZ are more complicated than those used for other household surveys. Difficulties were experienced with contacting respondents during Wave 1 because many of the addresses used were out of date. In Wave 2 interviewers were supplied with respondents' telephone numbers including home and work numbers, to contact respondents and schedule appointments. Interviewers were not allowed to conduct the interview over the telephone. The feedback from interviewers about the use of telephone numbers for contact was overwhelmingly positive.

Interviewers found the majority of refusals were due to the respondent being too busy to do the interview. In general, the interviewers felt that they had been given sufficient information for converting refusals and offering reasons why respondents should take part in the survey. However, there were some interviewers who felt that more time could be spent in training on how to deal with refusals on the doorstep.

Non-English language issues

Many of the respondents could not speak English as their first language, which created a number of issues relating to communication and comprehension. The Pilot Test was administered in English, Samoan, Tongan, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

There were some problems with the translated questionnaire. In many cases the questions were translated too literally, which resulted in some uncomfortable language, off-putting descriptions and convoluted questions. This translation issue is being worked through with the contractor undertaking the translations for the main survey.

Sample design / Contact and response rates

The number of Wave 1 respondents was 687 migrants. In Wave 2 there were 546 respondents, which exceeded the target of 500 migrants. The response rate was comparable to many other SNZ household surveys. Overall, the contact/response rate was in line with similar international surveys. There is scope for improvement in the main survey. Interviewers will have a longer period of time to contact respondents, and there will be an improved respondent management process.

Respondent load issues

Interviewers were asked to assess the respondents' reaction to the length of the interview. Ten of the 11 interviewers said that respondents reacted "very" well" or "well" to the interview length, and one interviewer said that "they had no feeling either way" regarding respondents' reaction to the interview length.

As expected, the Wave 2 interview length was considerably shorter than Wave 1 (due to fewer information needs). The interview length for all respondents who had full responses was 47 minutes. This interview length often included the time taken by respondents to do other activities in the home, such as answering the telephone.

Key challenges

There are two main challenges facing us with the LisNZ. The first is establishing and maintaining contact with selected migrants. Obtaining good address information for these migrants is still a major challenge. Inability to contact a significant number of migrants could impact on the success of the survey. Much effort is being expended in this area. The second challenge is the potential for policy changes to impact on the quantity, categories and source countries of migrants. Flows of migrants will be closely monitored and adjustments made to the sample rate and sample period (for example, extending to an 18 month sampling period) if this is considered necessary.

The next six months

The focus of activities for the next six months will be on implementing sampling for the main survey, contacting and managing potential survey respondents, translating the questionnaire into the seven survey languages in addition to English, and recruiting and training interviewers for the main survey. Department of Labour staff will also be working on a summary report of findings from the pilot survey.

Survey timelines

The timelines for the survey are as follows:

February 2003 – January 2004:	Sample selection for main survey
July 2003 – July 2005:	Wave 1 interviews for the main survey
August 2004 – July 2006:	Wave 2 interviews for the main survey
February 2006 – January 2008:	Wave 3 interviews for the main survey

Further information

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

LisNZ Project Manager
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Key User Group updates and more information on the LisNZ can be found on our website at: www.immigration.govt.nz/research_and_information/lisnz.html.

For information about Statistics New Zealand please look at: www.stats.govt.nz

The next update on the survey will be provided to the
Key User Group in July 2003.