



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

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

**Key User Group Update**  
**June 2002**



## Introduction

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

The long-term nature of a project like the LisNZ sometimes gives the impression that not much is happening, however we can assure you that the hard work continues. Over the last six months, LisNZ work has focussed on reviewing the questionnaire and completing preparations for wave two of the pilot survey. We are also finalising the survey methodology for the main survey. The key challenges for us will be to ensure we can locate and interview a high proportion of people for the second pilot interviews and to increase the number of migrants we manage to contact for the main survey.

## Questionnaire

The wave one pilot survey generally worked well in the field. While there were a few issues to address regarding the administration of the electronic questionnaire, interviewers were positive about the content of the questionnaire. Ways to improve the quality of the translated questionnaire have also been identified and implemented.

Questionnaire work since then has involved looking at responses from the wave one pilot data to help assess how well various questions and response categories worked. Changes have been made to some of the survey showcards where it was felt that particular categories needed clarification or where additional response categories were required. Feedback from interviewers was also very useful in informing questionnaire development.

For the main survey we are reviewing how we collect the following:

- Subjective/opinion information about children's schooling. We are now intending to collect this information from both parents, where we are interviewing both parents. For the pilot survey we only collected information on children from one parent. This change is being made because we believe that parents may have different opinions on factors such as how well settled their children are in New Zealand and what has helped their children settle into school;
- Information on the spouse or partner. In the pilot survey, interviewers found that some respondents perceived the questions we asked about their spouse/partner as repetitive, where both partners of a couple were already being interviewed for the survey. For the main survey we are investigating copying over some information from the respondent questionnaire to the relevant spouse/partner questionnaire where both partners in a couple are being interviewed.

Reviewing these particular areas of the questionnaire does not affect the original information needs for the survey, however it will assist in delivering a questionnaire that flows well for interviewers and respondents.

## **Sampling for the main survey**

For the pilot survey, we are interviewing the principal applicant plus one other person in the application unit (where there is more than one person in the application unit). One of the main reasons for choosing the 'one plus one' sampling option for the pilot was the lower flow of migrants into New Zealand at the time. With increased numbers of migrants to New Zealand, we have now decided to use a simple random sample for the main survey. This means that all eligible migrants will have an equal chance of being selected into the survey. As a result of this sampling approach, in around 12 percent of cases we will interview two respondents from the same application unit. We will still balance the sample to ensure that we have sufficient numbers from certain countries and also for some of the smaller immigration policy categories.

## **The pilot survey**

On July 8 2002, Statistics New Zealand will start interviewing for the second wave of the pilot survey. This second wave of interviews was delayed by two months due to the amount of development work required on the survey and the need for more rigorous quality checks. We also wanted to ensure that the pilot wave two questionnaire was thoroughly tested before it was used.

This delay means that the wave two pilot interviews will take place one year after the first wave of interviews, which will be the same interval as for the main survey. One benefit of having this period of time between the wave one and wave two interviews is that contact/response rates for the wave two pilot are likely to be a reasonably accurate guide in terms of what we can expect for the main survey.

The flow-on effect of the delay to the pilot survey means that interviewing for the main survey has been delayed until July 2003.

## **Contact / response rates**

As discussed in the December 2001 key user group update, an issue for the survey is to improve contact/response rates, particularly for offshore arrivals. The contact/response rate is the percentage of selected migrants eligible for the survey who complete an interview. The overall contact/response rate for the wave one pilot was 42 percent. It should be noted that the Canadian pilot test, for a similar longitudinal survey, achieved a lower contact response rate (37.6 percent). The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia had a contact/response rate of 43 percent at wave one of the main survey.

Our key concern is that we are currently obtaining a useable New Zealand contact address for only just over half of those migrants approved for residence off-shore.

Among a number of options, we are currently investigating the possibility of sending out the initial offshore contact letter and reply paid card with the final residence approval letter. For the pilot, this material was sent to selected survey respondents once Statistics New Zealand had an offshore contact address for them on their database. We believe we were unable to contact some survey respondents because

they had changed address by the time the letter arrived about the survey or because an immigration agent did not pass on the letter as their contact with the migrant had ceased. By sending an initial contact letter at the same time as the residence approval letter we could improve contact rates with migrants who are still offshore.

## **Milestones for the next six months**

Over the next six months we will finish interviews for the pilot survey and complete preparations for the main survey. Sampling for the main survey is due to commence in January 2003, with the first interviews starting in July 2003.

## **Survey timelines**

The timelines for the survey are as follows:

July 2002 – August 2002:	Wave 2 interviews for pilot survey
January 2003 – June 2005:	Sample selection for main survey
July 2003 – December 2005:	Wave 1 interviews for the main survey
July 2004 – December 2006:	Wave 2 interviews for the main survey
January 2006 – June 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](mailto:lisnz@nzis.dol.govt.nz), or write to:

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Key User Group updates can also be found on our website at: [www.immigration.govt.nz/research\\_and\\_information/lisnz.html](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/research_and_information/lisnz.html).

The next update on the survey will be provided to the  
Key User Group in December 2002.