



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

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

**Key User Group Update
May 2003**

LISNZ KEY USER GROUP UPDATE - MAY 2003

Introduction

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

The main purpose of this update is to let you know that the LisNZ has been temporarily delayed. The reasons for this delay are outlined below. This update also provides some feedback on the Wave 2 pilot survey.

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 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 Delay

Due to the impact of the November 2002 policy changes and the introduction of the New Zealand Immigration Service's (NZIS's) new strategic direction, the LisNZ has been temporarily delayed.

Late last year, the Minister of Immigration announced changes to the English Language, Job Search Visa and Business migration policies. Sampling for the survey has been delayed so that sufficient numbers of migrants approved under the November 2002 policies are sampled into the survey. This will ensure the continued relevance of the LisNZ data.

In addition, the NZIS is developing a business strategy of customising service for individual migrants. This strategy will be gradually implemented from July 2003.

Delaying the start of sampling until mid 2004 will mean that a larger proportion of skilled migrants selected to take part in the survey will have been approved through the November 2002 policy criteria and will also have experienced customised service.

Decisions about when sampling for the survey can start will be made in the next few months. In the meantime, all the final preparations for the survey are being made so that the survey is ready to go into the field.

LisNZ progress

Since July 2002, 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 respondent management methods, working on the sampling scheme for the main survey, and finalising, developing and printing respondent contact material.

To assist SNZ with respondent management, NZIS staff will be handing out/sending out contact material about the LisNZ to all principal applicants approved for residence offshore. Newly approved migrants will 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 into the survey.

LisNZ pilot survey Wave 2

The piloting process has worked very well and the second wave of interviews with migrants was successfully completed. Below is a summary of the LisNZ pilot Wave 2 methodology report results.

Questionnaire

The LisNZ questionnaire is administered face to face 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.

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 given 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 that the majority of refusals were due to the respondent being too busy to do the interview.

Non-English language issues

Many respondents did not speak English as their first language, and this created some communication and comprehension issues. The Pilot Test was administered in English, Samoan, Tongan, Mandarin and Cantonese.

There were a few problems with the translated questionnaire, with some questions translated too literally. 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, as interviewers will have a longer period of time to contact respondents, and there will be an improved respondent management process.

Respondent load issues

As expected, the Wave 2 interview length was considerably shorter than at Wave 1. The average 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. Almost all interviewers said that respondents reacted "very well" or "well" to the interview length.

Key challenges

There are two main challenges facing us with 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. The 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 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 made to the sample rate and sample period (for example, extending to an 18 month sampling period) if this is considered necessary.

The next eight months

The focus of activities until December 2003 will be on completing preparations for the main survey, including reviewing and refining the sampling scheme once a decision has been made on the start date for sampling. The questionnaire is currently being translated into the six survey languages and work continues on finalising respondent management material and systems design for the survey. Department of

Labour staff will also be working on a summary report of findings from the pilot 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
Department of Labour
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Wellington
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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 December 2003.