



Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ)

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

LisNZ Key User Group Update:
December 2006

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1. Introduction

Kia ora

This is the ninth update in a series intended to inform members of the LisNZ Key User Group on progress with the Longitudinal Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ). Enclosed with this update is a new brochure about the LisNZ that describes the survey and highlights the benefits of this research. We are very pleased to report that the survey is progressing very well, with Wave 1 interviews nearly complete and Wave 2 interviews beginning in May 2006.

2. Background

The LisNZ has been jointly developed by the Department of Labour (the Department) and Statistics New Zealand. The main objective of the LisNZ is to provide reliable and 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 and will also 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.

Each migrant is interviewed at six months, 18 months and 36 months after taking up residence in New Zealand. The aim is to achieve a sample of 5,000 migrants at the third interview. The survey population includes all migrants aged 16 years or over who are approved for residence in New Zealand over the specified sampling period. It includes migrants approved for residence onshore in New Zealand and those approved offshore, who arrive in New Zealand within 12 months of approval. The LisNZ is funded by the Migrant Levy, paid by approved migrants, and has no taxpayer funding.

3. Survey management

3.1 Progress of the survey

During the review period, the overall project plan was amended by SNZ and reviewed by the (July, 2005), sample selection was completed (October, 2005), development work continued on survey systems, the majority of the field work and interviewing for wave 1 of the survey took place (to be completed by April 2007), and wave 2 interviews began on 1 May 2006. The high level timeframe for the LisNZ is as follows:

Survey selection	November 2004 to October 2005
Offshore arrival	November 2004 to September 2006
Wave1 interviewing	May 2005 to April 2007
Wave2 interviewing	May 2006 to April 2008
Wave3 interviewing	November 2007 to October 2009

Final reporting	by March 2011
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3.2 Sampling

During the sample selection period (December 2004-October 2005), the sampling and strata allocations were made according to the sample design paper signed-off at the October 2004 Steering Group meeting. This paper outlined some of the changes in migration flows and adjusted the number of participants for each stratum accordingly.

The survey aims to achieve a sample of 7000 respondents at the end of wave 1, an estimated 6900 respondents at the end of wave 2, and maintain at least 5000 of these respondents at the end of wave 3. Sampling fractions were closely monitored and adjusted during sample selection to counter the risk of not achieving the target sample size. Extending the sampling period for 2 – 4 weeks was also considered at one stage, however further investigation showed that this was not necessary as the overall sample was not at risk and sampling ended on 31 October 05.

Wave 1 interviews for the survey began in May 2005 and will be completed by April 2007, and wave 2 interviews began in May 2006. To-date there has been approximately 6359 complete responses for wave 1, and 1616 complete responses for wave 2. Interviewing is progressing well and response rates are being carefully monitored.

3.4 Dissemination of pilot survey results

There continues to be a high level of interest in the pilot survey results. Dissemination of results from the LisNZ pilot survey will continue until wave 1 of the main survey becomes available in July 2008.

This year, the data have been presented at 3 meetings.

- 1) In April 2006 the project manager for LisNZ (DoL) presented pilot data to approximately 75 interviewers in Wellington, Auckland, and Christchurch.
- 2) In July 2006 the project manager for LisNZ (DoL) presented some of the findings at an international conference (Athens) and,
- 3) to members of an offshore New Zealand Immigration office (London).

3.5 Communications

We have published a new updated brochure about the LisNZ. Further copies of the brochure are available from the Department (see contact details below). The brochure is aimed at people with an interest in the survey and, in particular, those who may come into contact with new migrants who have been selected to take part in the survey.

We are aware that some migrants may be unsure about continuing to participate in the survey and these migrants may seek the advice of community representatives. It is important that people in the community whom they trust can help them understand why the survey is being conducted and how the information from the survey will be used to improve programmes and services for new migrants. A high level of participation in the LisNZ is crucial to the success of the survey. Staff from the Department

are available to come and talk to groups and individuals who may want further information on specific aspects of the LisNZ.

4. The coming year

Wave 1 interviews will be completed in April 2007 and the first interviews for Wave 2 of the LisNZ began in May 2006 (12 months after the first interviews for Wave 1).

Over the next twelve months, interviewing for wave 1 and wave 2 will continue.

The major milestones for the next twelve months are:

- Media release will be made to raise the profile of the survey and to reach strata that are at risk of being underrepresented in LisNZ (i.e., Pacific Radio, Asia Down Under, Ethnic community publications etc., ongoing)
- Meetings with Key User Group members and other ethnic and communities groups held (ongoing)
- Organizing a series of workshops involving members of the steering and advisory groups, as well as invited academics with expertise in migration and longitudinal survey research methodology. The workshop will be based around the development of an analysis plan (March 2007-June 2007)
- Analysis Plan complete (August 2007)

5. Key challenges

The main challenge for the LisNZ at this stage is maintaining contact with selected migrants. Migrants are selected into the survey at residence approval. Obtaining good address information for these migrants is a major challenge and much effort is being expended in this area.

All stages of the respondent management systems have been completed. Upgrades to these systems have also been finalised.

Respondents receive a mid-wave thank you letter between waves 2 and 3, and a pre-notification letter shortly before their interview period. These letters remind respondents to update Statistics NZ with new contact details if they should change address.

Another challenge is managing the impact on the survey of any changes that occur in migrant flows to New Zealand over the sample selection period. The quantity, approval categories and source countries of migrants are being closely monitored.

The forecasted sample sizes are being monitored fortnightly.

Detailed examination of the characteristics of respondents and sub-populations will be undertaken prior to the release of survey data. The results of this investigation will feed into the imputation and weighting estimation methodology, to minimise any observed bias.

6. Further information

Key User Group updates and further information on the LisNZ can be found on our website at: www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/lisnz. The pilot survey report from the LisNZ can be accessed via the website and it is also available at the main public, university and polytechnic libraries in New Zealand. For information about Statistics New Zealand please go to: www.stats.govt.nz.

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

LisNZ Project Manager
Department of Labour
PO Box 3705
Wellington

Please contact the Department of Labour if you would like additional copies of the LisNZ brochure enclosed with this update. We are keen to ensure that the brochure is widely circulated and would therefore appreciate any assistance that individuals or groups can offer in distributing this information about the LisNZ.

Thank you.