



# Policy Framework for the use of biometrics by INZ

## 1. Objective

To ensure a consolidated and consistent best practice approach to the collection and handling of biometric information at Immigration New Zealand (INZ). Our actions will be principled and consistent with privacy and immigration law and with New Zealand's national and international obligations and agreements.

## 2. Purpose of collection and handling of biometric information

INZ is the authoritative source for identity information on foreign nationals travelling to, entering and staying in New Zealand. INZ will use biometric information to:

- maintain the integrity of the immigration system
- contribute to New Zealand's safety and security, and
- facilitate efficient immigration processes.

## 3. Biometric information

Section 4 of the Immigration Act 2009 defines biometric information as:

**biometric information**, in relation to a person,—

(a) means any or all of—

(i) a photograph of all or part of the person's head and shoulders:

(ii) the person's fingerprints:

(iii) an iris scan; and

(b) includes a record, whether physical or electronic, of any of the above things

## 4. Context

Immigration is a key contributor to economic prosperity and increased standards of living for all New Zealanders. Immigration is critical for filling skill and labour shortages and supplementing 'home grown' talent by building the skill capacity of the New Zealand workforce. Migrants can contribute to trade linkages, investment and innovation. Immigration also supports critical tourism and export education earnings.

To promote a prosperous and thriving society, migrants who threaten the safety, health, or security of New Zealand's people need to be identified and kept out. Having confidence in people's identity facilitates the movement of travellers, reduces immigration fraud, and supports good and fast immigration decision-making. Biometrics allow us to tie an identity assuredly to an individual.

## 5. Principles for the collection and handling of biometric data Immigration New Zealand will:

### Collection

1. Only collect biometric information that is necessary and lawful, consistent with the purpose of the Immigration Act
2. Where possible, collect biometric information directly from the individual.
3. Collect and handle biometric information openly and transparently, by appropriately informing the individual about the collection and handling of their biometric information.
4. Ensure that the collection of biometric information is fair, respectful of the individual and is not unreasonably intrusive. When collecting biometric information, we will be sensitive to the social, cultural and physical characteristics of the individual.

### Security

5. Protect the biometric information we collect and handle against loss and unauthorised access, use, modification, or disclosure and any other type of misuse.

### Handling

6. Provide timely access for individuals to their own information, consistent with privacy and other obligations regardless of the location of the individual.
7. Provide a way for individuals to have their biometric information corrected or to have a statement of correction attached to it. We will inform anyone else who has been given the disputed information about the correction or statement of correction.
8. Ensure that the biometric information we collect and handle is accurate and up-to-date. Give individuals a reasonable opportunity to respond to harmful information.
9. Only keep biometric information for as long as we have valid reasons to do so.
10. Use biometric information only for immigration purposes, other authorised or required purposes or for those permitted by an exception in the Privacy Act.
11. Only disclose biometric information lawfully and when necessary.
12. Ensure that biometric information is associated only with the individual to whom it relates.