MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
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IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND INSTRUCTIONS: Amendment Circular No. 2026-07

AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND OPERATIONAL MANUAL

Introduction

This circular outlines changes to immigration instructions. A copy of the amended instructions is attached.

All immigration officers dealing with immigration applications should read the amendments and operate in accordance with the amended instructions from the effective date.

Note

The amendments described in this circular will be published in the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual in due course.

Information about these changes is available on our website www.immigration.govt.nz.

Description of changes

S1.40 Pacific Access Category

S1.10 Samoan Quota Scheme

F4.35 Sponsorship Requirements

V4.25 Requirement for sufficient funds

Changes have been made to immigration instructions to implement the annual updates to funds and sponsorship income thresholds for the Pacific Access Category (PAC), Samoan Quota (SQ), Parent Residence, and Parent Boost Visitor Visa.

These changes come into effect on 30 April 2026.

Appendix 1: Amendments to Residence instructions, effective on and after 30 April 2026

S1.40 Pacific Access Category

S1.40.1 Objective

a. The Pacific Access Category allows up to 250 citizens of Fiji, 250 citizens of Tonga, 75 citizens of Tuvalu, and 75 citizens of Kiribati to be granted residence class visas in New Zealand each year. The total number of individuals granted resident visas under each category includes principal applicants, their partners and dependent children.

b. Despite (a) above, an additional 650 resident visas may be granted to citizens of the participating countries each year for 2023 and 2024 following the closure of the registration period and the electronic draw of the ballot registrations in each year. The additional resident visas for each year and country are as follows:
   i. Fiji – 250 citizens
   ii. Tonga – 250 citizens
   iii. Tuvalu - 75 citizens
   iv. Kiribati – 75 citizens

Note: This reallocation of unused places is due the closure of the scheme between 2020-2021. The additional 650 resident visas may be granted each year to individuals from the participating countries under each category includes principal applicants, their partners and dependent children.

S1.40.5 Criteria for a resident visa

a. To qualify for a resident visa under the Pacific Access Category, the principal applicant must:
   i. be a citizen of Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, or Kiribati; and
   ii. have their Pacific Access Category registration drawn from the relevant Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, or Kiribati pool of the Pacific Access Category; and
   iii. lodge their application for a resident visa under the Pacific Access Category within eight months of written advice from INZ that their registration has been drawn from the relevant Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, or Kiribati pool of the Pacific Access Category; and
   iv. have been aged between 18 and 45 (inclusive) at the registration closing date; and
   v. have an acceptable offer of employment or have a partner, included in the application, who has an acceptable offer of employment (see S1.40.30 below); and
   vi. (if they have dependent children) meet the minimum income requirement set out at S1.40.35 below; and
   vii. meet a minimum level of English language ability (see S1.40.45 below); and
   viii. meet health and character requirements (see A4 and A5).

b. Principal applicants who are citizens of Fiji:
   i. must be either in Fiji or lawfully in New Zealand at the time their application under the Pacific Access Category is made; and
   ii. must have been born in Fiji or born overseas to a Fijian citizen who was born in Fiji.

c. Principal applicants who are citizens of Tonga:
   i. must be either in Tonga or lawfully in New Zealand at the time their application under the Pacific Access Category is made; and
   ii. must have been born in Tonga or born overseas to a Tongan citizen who was born in Tonga.

d. Principal applicants who are citizens of Kiribati:
   i. must be either in Kiribati or Fiji or lawfully in New Zealand at the time their application under the Pacific Access Category is made; and
   ii. must have been born in Kiribati or born overseas to a Kiribati citizen who was born in Kiribati.

e. Principal applicants who are citizens of Tuvalu:
   i. must be either in Tuvalu or Fiji or lawfully in New Zealand at the time their application under the Pacific Access Category is made; and
   ii. must have been born in Tuvalu or born overseas to a Tuvaluan citizen who was born in Tuvalu.

f. Partners and dependent children included in applications under the Pacific Access Category must also meet health and character requirements (see A4 and A5).

g. An immigration officer may extend the eight-month timeframe referred to in paragraph (a)(iii) if the officer believes the special circumstances of the applicant justify such an extension.

h. A Director Visa, or Operations Director (or a person in a higher line management position) may extend the eight-month timeframe referred to in paragraph (a)(iii) in relation to a class of applicants if they believe the special circumstances of the class of applicants justify such an extension.

S1.40.10 Registration process

a. Principal registrants may register for entry into the relevant Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, or Kiribati pool of the Pacific Access Category within a set registration period. The dates of the registration period will be announced each year prior to the registration opening.

b. Principal registrants must be aged between 18 and 45 (inclusive) at the registration closing date for their registration to be accepted into the ballot.

c. Registrations must be made on the appropriate registration form for the Pacific Access Category.

d. Registrations must be submitted during the registration period to the appropriate receiving office specified on the Pacific Access Category registration guide applicable to the country.

e. Registrations will be accepted for entry into the ballot only if they are fully completed, signed by the principal registrant, submitted together with the appropriate fee and accompanied by any documents or evidence as required by the registration form.

f. Any person included in a registration must either:
   i. be in New Zealand lawfully at the time the registration is made; or
   ii. be offshore at the time the registration is made.

g. Any person who has previously overstayed in New Zealand, but has departed voluntarily, and is not subject to a removal order or period of prohibition on entry, can register under the Pacific Access Category.

S1.40.10.1 Definition of 'principal registrant'

The principal registrant is the person who is declared to be the principal registrant on the registration application form and who intends to be the principal applicant of any resulting residence class visa application.

S1.40.15 Inclusion in registration of immediate family members of the principal registrant

a. Where the principal registrant has a partner and/or dependent children all of those people must be included in the registration.

b. If a registration is successful in the pool draw, only a partner and/or dependent children included in the registration may be included in the resulting application for a resident visa under the Pacific Access Category. This limitation applies despite R2.1 concerning the inclusion of family members in an application.

c. Any partner and/or dependent children who were eligible for inclusion in the registration but were not included must not subsequently be granted a residence class visa under the Partnership or Dependent Child Categories.

d. Despite (b) and (c) above, a partner or dependent child who was included in the registration but not in the resulting application for a resident visa may be granted a residence class visa as a principal applicant under the Partnership or Dependent Child Categories.

e. Notwithstanding (b) above, in the event an applicant includes any partner and/or dependent child in their application who was not included in their registration, officers should allow the principal applicant an opportunity to explain the non-declaration in accordance with R5.15 before applying the limitation referred to in (b).

f. Where a person is not eligible to be included at the time of registration but is eligible at the time of the application for a resident visa (e.g. in the case of a new-born child), they may be included in the resident visa application provided R2.1 is met.

S1.40.20 Number of registrations that may be lodged

Registrants must lodge (or be included in) only one registration within the registration period. If a registration is lodged that includes registrants who are already included in a registration accepted by INZ, the subsequent registration(s) will not be accepted.

S1.40.25 Selection process following closure of registration

a. INZ will conduct an electronic draw as soon as practicable after the closure of the registration period.

b. Registrations will be randomly drawn from the pool of registrations, until the appropriate number of potential registrants to meet the various quotas of available places within the annual period has been drawn.

c. Principal registrants whose registrations have been drawn from the various pools will be notified by INZ in the month following the draw that their registration has been successful and that they must lodge a full application under the Pacific Access Category to the appropriate receiving office of INZ not more than eight months after the date of that advice.

d. Principal registrants who are unsuccessful in the registration process within a particular registration period are able to re-register within subsequent registration periods at a reduced fee.

S1.40.30 Acceptable offers of employment

a. Acceptable offers of employment may be in either a skilled or unskilled occupation but must be for on-going and sustainable employment. On-going and sustainable employment is:
   i. an offer of employment or current employment with a single employer which is permanent, or indefinite, and of which the employer is in a position to meet the terms specified; or
   ii. an offer of employment or current employment, with a single employer for a stated term of at least 12

months.

Note: When assessing whether employment is sustainable, officers may consider, but are not limited to, such factors as the residence status of the employer, the period for which the employing organisation has been established as a going concern, and the financial sustainability of the employing organisation.

Where an offer of employment or current employment is for a stated term of at least 12 months, the stated term must be valid both at the time the application is lodged and when the application is decided, in particular:
~ if the applicant has current employment, he or she must be in that employment, or
~ if the applicant has an offer of employment, the offer must continue to be valid.

b. Acceptable offers of employment must also be:
   i. for full-time employment (employment is full-time if it amounts to, on average, at least 30 hours per week) unless S1.40.35.1 (c) applies; and
   ii. current at the time of assessing the application and at the time of grant the visa; and
   iii. genuine; and
   iv. for a position that is paid by salary or wages (i.e. positions of self-employment, payment by commission and/or retainer are not acceptable); and
   v. accompanied by evidence of professional or technical registration if this is required by law to take up the offer; and
   vi. compliant with all relevant employment law in force in New Zealand.

c. An acceptable offer of employment must be from an employer who complies with all relevant employment and immigration law in force in New Zealand. Compliance with relevant New Zealand employment and immigration law will be assessed on the basis of past and current behaviour, and includes, but is not limited to:
   i. paying employees no less than the applicable minimum wage rate; and
   ii. meeting holiday and leave entitlements and other minimum statutory requirements; and
   iii. meeting occupational safety and health obligations; and
   iv. only employing people who are entitled to work in New Zealand.

d. An employer is considered to not have a history of compliance with employment law if it fails to meet the requirements set out at R5.110 or if it is included on a list of non-compliant employers maintained by the Labour Inspectorate (see Appendix 10).

e. For the purposes of S1.40.30(a)(ii), INZ must be satisfied that the employer:
   i. has genuine reasons based on reasonable grounds for specifying that the employment is for a stated term; and
   ii. has advised the employee of when or how their employment will end and the reasons for their employment ending; and
   iii. is in a position to meet the terms specified.

f. 'Genuine reasons' for the purposes of S1.40.30(e)(i) do not include reasons:
   i. that exclude or limit the rights of a person under employment law; or
   ii. to determine the suitability of a person for permanent or indefinite employment.

Note: In order to meet employment law, employment agreements that are for a stated term must specify in writing the way in which the employment will end and the reasons for ending the employment.

g. If the principal applicant has dependent children, the offer of employment must also meet the minimum income requirement set out at S1.40.35 below.

S1.40.35 Minimum income requirement

a. Principal applicants with dependent children must show that they will meet the minimum income requirement if they come to New Zealand, which is intended to ensure they can support themselves and their dependent children.

b. The gross minimum income requirement is NZ $55,404.96. This is based on the Jobseeker Support (married and civil union rate) plus the maximum Accommodation Supplement (as set by the New Zealand Government).

c. The minimum income requirement must be derived from the acceptable offer of employment - see S1.40.30.

S1.40.35.1 Ability to include the partner's income as part of the minimum income requirement

a. If both the principal applicant and their partner included in their application have an acceptable offer of employment in New Zealand, both of their wages or salaries may be taken into account when determining if the minimum income requirement is met.

b. In such cases the partner's employment and income will only be taken into account if, at the time the application is assessed, an immigration officer is satisfied the principal applicant and partner have been living

together for 12 months or more in a partnership that is genuine and stable (see R2.1.15.1(b) and R2.1.15.5(a)(i)).

c. Where the employment (and income) of both the principal applicant and their partner is used to meet the minimum income requirement, both offers of employment must meet all the requirements in S1.40.30, except that only one has to meet the requirement that the offer be for full-time employment.

S1.40.40 Evidence of employment offer

a. Evidence of an offer of employment is original or certified copies of the following documents:
   i. a written offer of employment; and
   ii. a detailed job description; and
   iii. a letter from the employer stating whether or not any occupational registration is required by law for the principal applicant to take up the position; and
   iv. an employment agreement entered into by the employer and the principal applicant, stating:
      - the terms of employment; and
      - the hours of work; and
      - the period during which employment may begin.

b. Additional evidence may include, but is not limited to:
   i. any information requested by INZ; and
   ii. the results of any verification undertaken by INZ; and
   iii. information from the employer or recruitment agency.

S1.40.45 Minimum English language requirement

Immigration officers determine whether principal applicants meet the minimum English language requirement by assessing whether they are able to:

a. read English; and

b. understand and respond to questions in English; and

c. maintain an English language conversation about themselves, their family, or their background.

S1.40.50 Determining applications

a. Immigration officers must sight the original job offer and verify that it is genuine and current by checking:
   i. directly with the employer; or
   ii. through the nearest office of INZ to the employer in New Zealand; or
   iii. by some other appropriate arrangement.

b. Immigration officers must assess the applicant's English language ability against the criteria at S1.40.45 above.

S1.40.55 Grant of visas

a. If an application for a resident visa under the Pacific Access Category is approved and the applicant is in New Zealand lawfully, a resident visa will be granted.

b. If an application for a resident visa under the Pacific Access Category is approved and the applicant is in Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, or Tuvalu, the principal applicant will be granted a resident visa with travel conditions allowing first entry within three months, while the partner and dependent children will be granted resident visas with travel conditions allowing first entry within 12 months.

S1.10 Samoan Quota Scheme

S1.10.1 Objective

a. The Samoan Quota Scheme allows up to 1,100 Samoan citizens to be granted a resident visa each year. The total number of Samoan citizens granted resident visas under this category includes principal applicants, their partners, and dependent children.

b. Despite (a) above, an additional 550 resident visas may be granted to Samoan citizens each year for the four years from 2023 to 2026 following the closure of the registration period and the electronic draw of the ballot registrations in each year.

Note: This reallocation of unused places is due the closure of the scheme between 2020-2021. This additional 550 resident visas that may be granted each year to Samoan citizens under this category includes principal applicants, their partners, and dependent children.

S1.10.5 Criteria for a resident visa

a. To qualify for a resident visa under the Samoan Quota Scheme, the principal applicant must:
   i. be a Samoan citizen (having been born in Samoa or born overseas to a Samoan citizen who was born in Samoa); and
   ii. be either in Samoa or lawfully in New Zealand at the time their application for a resident visa is made; and
   iii. have their registration drawn from the Samoan Quota Scheme pool; and
   iv. lodge their application for a resident visa under the Samoan Quota Scheme within eight months of written advice from INZ that their registration has been drawn from the Samoan Quota Scheme pool; and
   v. have been aged between 18 and 45 (inclusive) at the registration closing date; and
   vi. have an acceptable offer of employment, or have a partner included in the application who has an acceptable offer of employment (see S1.10.30 below); and
   vii. (if they have dependent children) meet the minimum income requirement (see S1.10.35 below); and
   viii. meet a minimum level of English language ability (see S1.10.45 below); and
   ix. meet health and character requirements (see A4 and A5).

b. Partners and dependent children of the principal applicant who are included in the resident visa application must also meet health and character requirements for a resident visa (see A4 and A5).

c. An immigration officer may extend the eight month timeframe referred to in paragraph (a)(iv) if the officer believes the special circumstances of the applicant justify such an extension.

d. A Director Visa, or Operations Director (or a person in a higher line management position) may extend the eight month timeframe referred to in paragraph (a)(iv) in relation to a class of applicants if they believe the special circumstances of the class of applicants justify such an extension.

S1.10.10 Registration process

a. Principal registrants may register for entry into the Samoan Quota pool within a set registration period. The dates of the registration period will be announced each year prior to the registration opening.

b. Principal registrants must be aged between 18 and 45 (inclusive) at the registration closing date for their registration to be accepted into the ballot.

c. Registrations must be made on the appropriate registration form for the Samoan Quota Scheme.

d. Registrations must be submitted during the registration period to the appropriate receiving office specified in the appropriate registration guide for the Samoan Quota Scheme.

e. Registrations will be accepted for entry into the ballot only if they are fully completed, signed by the principal registrant, and accompanied by any documents or evidence specified as required by the registration form.

f. Any person included in a registration must either:
   i. be in New Zealand lawfully at the time the registration is made; or
   ii. be offshore at the time the registration is made.

g. Any person who has previously overstayed in New Zealand, but has departed voluntarily, and is not subject to a removal order or period of prohibition on entry, can register under the Samoan Quota Scheme.

S1.10.10.1 Definition of 'principal registrant'

The principal registrant is the person who is declared to be the principal registrant on the registration application form and who intends to be the principal applicant of any resulting resident visa application.

S1.10.15 Inclusion in registration of immediate family members of the principal registrant

a. Where the principal registrant has a partner and/or dependent children all of those people must be included in the registration.

b. If a registration is successful in the pool draw, only a partner and/or dependent children included in the registration may be included in the resulting application for a resident visa under the Samoan Quota Scheme. This limitation applies despite R2.1 concerning the inclusion of family members in an application.

c. Any partner and/or dependent children who were eligible for inclusion in the registration but were not included must not subsequently be granted a residence class visa under the Partnership or Dependent Child Categories.

d. Despite (b) and (c) above, a partner or dependent child who was included in the registration but not in the resulting application for a resident visa may be granted a residence class visa as a principal applicant under the Partnership or Dependent Child Categories.

e. Notwithstanding (b) above, in the event an applicant includes any partner and/or dependent child in their application who was not included in their registration, officers should allow the principal applicant an opportunity to explain the non-declaration in accordance with R5.15 before applying the limitation referred to in (b).

f. Where a person is not eligible to be included at the time of registration but is eligible at the time of the application for a resident visa (e.g. in the case of a new-born child), they may be included in the resident visa application provided R2.1 is met.

S1.10.20 Number of registrations that may be lodged

Registrants must lodge (or be included in) only one registration within the registration period. If a registration is lodged that includes registrants who are already included in a registration accepted by INZ, the subsequent registration(s) will not be accepted.

S1.10.25 Selection process following closure of registration

a. As soon as practicable following the closure of the registration period, INZ will conduct an electronic draw.

b. Registrations will be randomly drawn from the pool until the appropriate number of potential applicants to fill the number of available places within the annual period has been drawn.

c. Principal registrants whose registrations have been drawn from the pool will be notified by INZ in the month following the draw that their registration has been successful, and will be invited to lodge an application for a resident visa under the Samoan Quota Scheme at the appropriate receiving office of INZ not more than eight months after the date of that advice.

S1.10.30 Acceptable offers of employment

a. Acceptable offers of employment may be in either a skilled or unskilled occupation but must be for on-going and sustainable employment. On-going and sustainable employment is:

   i. an offer of employment or current employment with a single employer which is permanent, or indefinite, and of which the employer is in a position to meet the terms specified; or

   ii. an offer of employment or current employment, with a single employer for a stated term of at least 12 months.

Note: When assessing whether employment is sustainable, officers may consider, but are not limited to, such factors as the residence status of the employer, the period for which the employing organisation has been established as a going concern, and the financial sustainability of the employing organisation.
Where an offer of employment or current employment is for a stated term of at least 12 months, the stated term must be valid both at the time the application is lodged and when the application is decided, in particular:
~ if the applicant has current employment, he or she must be in that employment, or
~ if the applicant has an offer of employment, the offer must continue to be valid.

b. Acceptable offers of employment must also be:

   i. for full-time employment (employment is full-time if it amounts to, on average, at least 30 hours per week) unless S1.10.35.1(c) applies; and

   ii. current at the time of assessing the application and at the time of grant of the visa; and

   iii. genuine; and

   iv. for a position that is paid by salary or wages (i.e. positions of self-employment, payment by commission and/or retainer are not acceptable); and

   v. accompanied by evidence of professional or technical registration if this is required by law to take up the offer; and

   vi. compliant with all relevant employment law in force in New Zealand.

c. An acceptable offer of employment must be from an employer who complies with all relevant employment and immigration law in force in New Zealand. Compliance with relevant New Zealand employment and immigration law will be assessed on the basis of past and current behaviour, and includes, but is not limited to:

   i. paying employees no less than the applicable minimum wage rate; and

   ii. meeting holiday and leave entitlements and other minimum statutory requirements; and

   iii. meeting occupational safety and health obligations; and

iv. only employing people who are entitled to work in New Zealand.

d. An employer is considered to not have a history of compliance with employment law if it fails to meet the requirements set out at R5.110 or if it is included on a list of non-compliant employers maintained by the Labour Inspectorate (see Appendix 10).

e. For the purposes of S1.10.30(a) (ii), INZ must be satisfied that the employer:
   i. has genuine reasons based on reasonable grounds for specifying that the employment is for a stated term; and
   ii. has advised the employee of when or how their employment will end and the reasons for their employment ending; and
   iii. is in a position to meet the terms specified.

f. 'Genuine reasons' for the purposes of S1.10.30(e)(i) do not include reasons:
   i. that exclude or limit the rights of a person under employment law; or
   ii. to determine the suitability of a person for permanent or indefinite employment

Note: In order meet employment law, employment agreements that are for a stated term must specify in writing the way in which the employment will end and the reasons for ending the employment.

g. If the principal applicant has dependent children, the offer of employment must also meet the minimum income requirement set out at S1.10.35 below.

S1.10.35 Minimum income requirement

a. Principal applicants with dependent children must show that they will meet the minimum income requirement if they come to New Zealand, which is intended to ensure they can support themselves and their dependent children.

b. The gross minimum income requirement is NZ$55,404.96. This is based on the Jobseeker Support (married and civil union rate) plus the maximum Accommodation Supplement (as set by the New Zealand Government).

c. The minimum income requirement must be derived from an acceptable offer of employment - see S1.10.30.

S1.10.35.1 Ability to include partner's income as part of the minimum income requirement

a. If both the principal applicant and their partner included in their application have an acceptable offer of employment in New Zealand, both of their wages or salaries may be taken into account when determining if the minimum income requirement is met.

b. In such cases the partner's employment and income will only be taken into account if, at the time the application is assessed, an immigration officer is satisfied the principal applicant and partner have been living together for 12 months or more in a partnership that is genuine and stable (R2.1.15.1(b) and R2.1.15.5(a)(i))).

c. Where the employment (and income) of both the principal applicant and their partner is used to meet the minimum income requirement, both offers of employment must meet all the requirements in S1.10.30 except that only one has to meet the requirement that the offer be for full-time employment.

S1.10.40 Evidence of employment offer

a. Evidence of an offer of employment is original or certified copies of the following documents:
   i. a written offer of employment; and
   ii. a detailed job description; and
   iii. an employment agreement entered into by the employer and the principal applicant, stating:
      - the terms of employment; and
      - the hours of work; and
      - the period during which employment may begin.

b. Additional evidence may include, but is not limited to:
   i. any information requested by INZ; and
   ii. the results of any verification undertaken by INZ; and
   iii. information from the employer or recruitment agency.

S1.10.45 Minimum English language requirement

The immigration officer determines whether principal applicants meet the minimum English language requirement by assessing whether they are able to:

a. read English; and

b. understand and respond to questions in English; and

c. maintain an English language conversation about themselves, their family or their background.

S1.10.50 Determining applications

a. The immigration officer must sight the original job offer and verify that it is genuine and current by checking:
   i. directly with the employer; or
   ii. through the nearest office of INZ to the employer in New Zealand; or
   iii. by some other appropriate arrangement.

b. The immigration officer must then assess the applicant's English language ability against the criteria at S1.10.45 above.

S1.10.55 Grant of visas

a. If an application for a resident visa under the Samoan Quota Scheme is approved and the applicant is in New Zealand lawfully, a resident visa will be granted.

b. If an application for a resident visa under the Samoan Quota Scheme is approved and the applicant is in Samoa, the principal applicant will be granted with a resident visa with travel conditions allowing first entry within three months, while the partner and dependent children will be granted resident visas with travel conditions allowing first entry within 12 months.

Appendix 2: Amendments to Residence instructions, effective on and after 30 April 2026

F4.35 Sponsorship Requirements

F4.35.1 General Requirements

a. A sponsor or sponsors on a Parent Category application must be:
   i. the adult child of the principal applicant; or
   ii. the adult child of the principal applicant and that adult child's partner (joint sponsorship); or
   iii. the adult child of the principal applicant and one other adult child of either applicant included in the application (joint sponsorship).

b. Each sponsor must:
   i. meet the requirements to be an acceptable sponsor as set out at R4.5; and
   ii. meet the relevant minimum income requirement for sponsors outlined at F4.35.5; and
   iii. agree to meet the undertakings set out at R4.10 for the required sponsorship period (see (c) below); and
   iv. must not be a dependent child (see F4.20.10).

c. The sponsor(s) must sponsor the applicant or applicants for a sponsorship period of 10 years.

d. A maximum of two people can act as sponsors in a Parent Category application.

e. A sponsor can sponsor a maximum of six parents.

F4.35.5 Minimum income requirements for sponsors

a. The sponsor or joint sponsors must:
   i. have total income that meets the minimum income threshold set out at F4.35.5.1; and
   ii. meet that income threshold for two 12-month periods within the 3 years prior to their EOI being selected (as set out at F4.35.5.1); and
   iii. demonstrate that income through the evidential requirements set out at (F4.35.5.10).

b. The calculation of the minimum income threshold will consider any parents currently sponsored by the sponsors, as set out at F4.35.5.15.

c. The two 12-month periods may not overlap.

d. If there are joint sponsors, the 12-month periods must be the same for both sponsors.

e. The income of a sponsoring adult child's partner may only be considered if:
   i. the partner is acting as a joint sponsor; and
   ii. the partner has been living with the sponsoring adult child for a period of at least 12 months in a partnership that is genuine and stable (see F2.10.1); and
   iii. they meet the requirements for the recognition of a partnership set out at F2.15.

F4.35.5.1 Minimum income thresholds

a. The minimum income threshold for sponsors under the Parent Category is based on the following and is set out in the tables at (b) and (c) below:
   i. 1.5 times the median income if sponsoring a single parent; and
   ii. an additional 0.5 times the median income for each additional parent sponsored; and
   iii. an additional 0.5 times the median income (combined) if two people are acting as sponsors.

b. Minimum income thresholds for one sponsor:

	Number of Parents						
Effective date	Median income	1	2	3	4	5	6
30 April 2026 onwards	$72,800.00	$109,200.00	$145,600.00	$182,000.00	$218,400.00	$254,800.00	$291,200.00
28 February 2025 to 29 April 2026	$69,804.80	$104,707.20	$139,609.60	$174,512.00	$209,414.40	$244,316.80	$279,219.20
28 February 2024 to 27 February 2025	$65,748.80	$98,623.20	$131,497.60	$164,372	$197,246.40	$230,120.80	$262,995.20

1 May 2023 to 27 February 2024	$61,692.80	$92,539.20	$123,385.60	$154,232	$185,078.40	$215,924.80	$246,771.20
1 January 2022 to 30 April 2023	$57,740.80	$86,611.20	$115,481.60	$144,352	$173,222.40	$ 202,092.80	$230,963.20
1 January to 31 December 2021	$56,160.00	$ 84,240	$ 112,320	$ 140,400	$ 168,480	$ 196,560	$224,640
1 January to 31 December 2020	$53,040.00	$ 79,560	$ 106,080	$ 132,600	$ 159,120	$ 185,640	$ 212,160

c. Minimum income thresholds for two (joint) sponsors:

		Number of parents					
Effective date	Median income	1	2	3	4	5	6
30 April 2026 onwards	$72,800.00	$145,600.00	$182,000.00	$218,400.00	$254,800.00	$291,200.00	$327,600.00
28 February 2025 to 29 April 2026	$69,804.80	$139,609.60	$174,512.00	$209,414.40	$244,316.80	$279,219.20	$314,121.60
28 February 2024 to 27 February 2025	$65,748.80	$131,497.60	$164,372	$197,246.40	$230,120.80	$262,995.20	$295,869.60
1 May 2023 to 27 February 2024	$61,692.80	$123,385.60	$154,232	$185,078.40	$215,924.80	$246,771.20	$277,617.60
1 January 2022 to 30 April 2023	$57,740.80	$115,481.60	$144,352	$173,222.40	$202,092.80	$230,963.20	$259,833.60
1 January to 31 December 2021	$56,160.00	$ 112,320	$ 140,400	$ 168,480	$ 196,560	$ 224,640	$252,720
1 January to 31 December 2020	$53,040.00	$106,080	$132,600	$159,120	$185,640	$212,160	$238,680

d. The income threshold required to be met for each 12-month period is calculated based on the median income that is in effect at the end of each 12-month period the sponsor is providing evidence for, according to the tables above.

e. The median income for each year is based on the median hourly earnings from wages and salaries released periodically by Statistics New Zealand. It is converted into an annual rate based on a 40-hour working week.

Note: The median income salary of $72,800.00 for sponsors under the Parent Category resident visa (F4.35.5.1) reflects the June 2025 quarter publication of median wage data by Statistics New Zealand.

F4.35.5.10 Evidential requirements for sponsor's income

a. Only taxable income that is recorded on New Zealand's Inland Revenue tax statements (Summary of Income) of the sponsor(s) will be recognised when calculating a sponsor's income.

b. For self-employed sponsors, only taxable income recorded on the New Zealand's Inland Revenue Final Tax Summary at the end of the three most recent financial years will be considered when calculating a sponsor's income.

c. Income earned by another legal entity, such as a company or a trust, cannot be included unless it has been paid directly to the sponsor in the form of shareholder-employee salary or dividends, or is income derived from the trust. This income must appear on the Inland Revenue tax statements of the sponsor(s).

d. All sponsors whose income is considered when meeting the minimum income threshold must meet the evidential requirements set out above.

F4.35.5.15 How to calculate the number of people being sponsored

a. The total number of parents being sponsored includes:
   i. any person and their partner who:
      - has been sponsored in an earlier Parent Category resident visa application by a sponsor in the current visa application; and
      - is still being sponsored within the required sponsorship period; and
   ii. any person and their partner who is included in the current Parent Category resident visa application.

Note: Where a partner's income was used in support of an application processed using Parent Category instructions in place before 7 October 2019, but that partner did not act as a sponsor, this is not considered 'sponsorship' for the purposes of these instructions.

Appendix 3: Amendments to Temporary Entry instructions, effective on and after 30 April 2026

V4.25 Requirement for sufficient funds

a. Applicant(s) must have funds that will be genuinely available to the applicant(s) for the duration of their visa.

b. Despite V2.20, applicant(s) must have one of the following:
   i. maintenance funds (see V4.25.1) of a minimum of:
      - NZ$170,000 for the principal applicant, if they are the sole applicant; or
      - NZ$260,000 for the principal applicant and their partner included in the application; or
   ii. annual income (see V4.25.5) at the time of application of at least:
      - NZ$33,663.24 for the principal applicant, if they are the sole applicant; or
      - NZ$51,182.56 for the principal applicant and their partner included in the application; or
   iii. a sponsor or joint sponsors who meets the relevant minimum income requirement for sponsors (see V4.25.15).

Note:
- The maintenance funds at (b)(i) above reflects five years New Zealand Superannuation as at 1 April 2026 (converted into an annual rate before tax and based on 26 fortnightly payments) rounded to the nearest $10,000.
- The annual income at (b)(ii) above reflects New Zealand Superannuation as at 1 April 2026. It is converted into an annual rate (before tax) based on 26 fortnightly payments.
- The maintenance funds and annual income set out at V4.25(b)(i) and (ii) will normally be updated in April each year.

V4.25.1 Maintenance funds

a. Funds may be owned either:
   i. solely by the principal applicant; or
   ii. jointly by the principal applicant and partner who is included in the application.

b. The principal applicant may claim the full value of jointly owned funds for assessment purposes provided the principal applicant and partner are living together in a genuine and stable partnership (see E4.5.20 and E4.5.25).

c. If funds are owned jointly by the principal applicant and a person other than their partner who is included in the application, the principal applicant may only claim the value of that portion of the funds for which they provide evidence of ownership.

d. Evidence of maintenance funds may include:
   i. funds held in a New Zealand bank account(s); and/or
   ii. funds held in an offshore bank account(s), together with evidence that the funds can be accessed from New Zealand.

e. Funds cannot be borrowed or gifted and must be unencumbered.

f. Funds are unencumbered if they are not subject to any mortgage, lien, charge, set off and/or encumbrance (whether equitable or otherwise) or any secured creditor claims.

g. Funds will not be considered to be genuinely available to the applicant(s) if an immigration officer has reason to believe that the applicant(s) is under an obligation that would prevent them from keeping the funds (for example, if they received the funds with the expectation that they will pay it back) or that the funds cannot be accessed by the applicants to maintain themselves throughout the duration of the Parent Boost visitor visa.

V4.25.5 Annual income

a. Annual income can either be earned:
   i. solely by the principal applicant; or
   ii. be a combined income of the principal applicant and their partner who is included in the application.

b. Applicants must:
   i. meet the annual income for the 12-month period immediately prior to the lodging of the Parent Boost visitor visa application; and
   ii. demonstrate that the annual income will be ongoing.

c. Annual income may include, but is not limited to:
   i. pensions;
   ii. earnings from rental properties;
   iii. dividends from share portfolios;
   iv. interest from investments;
   v. profits from company ownership;
   vi. share market trading.

Note: A combination of sources can be submitted to meet the annual income requirement.

d. Annual income means gross income except where expenses must first be deducted (such as, but not limited to, earnings from rental properties), in which case the annual net income will be considered.

e. Annual income will not be considered to be funds genuinely available to the applicant(s) if an immigration officer has reason to believe the source of income will not continue to provide an income to the applicants for the duration of Parent Boost visitor visa (for example, if at the time of the application an investment has been recently sold).

V4.25.10 Evidence of maintenance funds and annual income

a. All documents provided as evidence to meet the requirements of maintenance funds or annual income must be:
   i. produced by an external and reputable agency or employer; and
   ii. credible, as determined by an immigration officer.

V4.25.15 Minimum income requirements for sponsors

a. The sponsor or joint sponsors must:
   i. have total income that meets the minimum income threshold set out at V4.25.15.1; and
   ii. meet the minimum income threshold for each of the two completed tax year periods within the three completed tax years (1 April to 31 March) immediately prior to the lodging of the Parent Boost visitor visa application.

b. The calculation of the minimum income threshold will consider any parents currently sponsored by the sponsors, as set out at V4.25.15.10 if the sufficient funds requirement at V4.25(b) is met through sponsor income.

c. If there are joint sponsors, the two completed tax years must be the same for both sponsors.

d. Despite (a)(ii) and (c) above, where a sponsor cannot meet the minimum income threshold (see V4.25.15.1) because they have been on parental leave during any of the completed tax years (see (a)(ii) above), the sponsor may instead provide evidence of:
   i. parental leave, including dates (such as the letter from the employer confirming parental leave arrangements); and
   ii. current income to demonstrate they meet the minimum income threshold (see V4.25.15.1), including:
      - an employment agreement which sets out the salary or hourly rate and weekly hours to be worked; and
      - a letter from their employer confirming the date they returned to employment from parental leave.

e. The income of a sponsoring adult child's partner may only be considered if:
   i. the partner is acting as a joint sponsor; and
   ii. the partner has been living with the sponsoring adult child for a period of at least 12 months in a partnership that is genuine and stable (see E4.5.5); and
   iii. they meet the requirements for the recognition of a partnership set out at E4.5.15.

V4.25.15.1 Minimum income thresholds

a. The minimum income threshold for sponsors under the Parent Boost visitor visa instructions is based on the following and is set out in the table at (b) below:
   i. the median income if sponsoring a single parent; and
   ii. an additional 0.5 times the median income for each additional parent sponsored; and
   iii. an additional 0.5 times the median income (combined) if two people are acting as sponsors.

b. Minimum income thresholds:

	Number of Parents					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Single Sponsor	$72,800.00	$109,200.00	$145,600.00	$182,000.00	$218,400.00	$254,800.00

Joint Sponsors	$109,200.00	$145,600.00	$182,000.00	$218,400.00	$254,800.00	$291,200.00

c. The income threshold required to be met for each completed tax year is calculated based on the median income that is in effect at the time the application was lodged, according to the tables above.

Note:
- The median income for each year is based on the median hourly earnings from wages and salaries released periodically by Statistics New Zealand. It is converted into an annual rate based on a 40-hour working week.
- The median income salary of $72,800.00 for sponsors under the Parent Boost visitor visa reflects the June 2025 quarter publication of median wage data by Statistics New Zealand.
- The median income as set out at V4.25.15.1(b) will normally be updated in April each year.

V4.25.15.5 Evidential requirements for sponsor's income

a. Only taxable income that is recorded and confirmed by New Zealand's Inland Revenue will be considered when calculating a sponsor's income, unless V4.25.15(d) applies.

b. Income earned by another legal entity, such as a company or a trust, cannot be included unless it has been paid directly to the sponsor in the form of shareholder-employee salary or dividends, or is income derived from the trust. This income must appear on the Inland Revenue tax statements of the sponsor(s).

c. Income tax statements submitted may be verified with the Inland Revenue Department.

V4.25.15.10 How to calculate the number of people being sponsored

The total number of parents being sponsored includes:

a. any person and their partner who:
   i. has been sponsored in an earlier Parent Boost visitor visa application by a sponsor recorded in the current visa application; and
   ii. is still being sponsored by that same sponsor within the required sponsorship period (E6.15 (d)); and any person and their partner who is included in a current Parent Boost visitor visa application.

b. any person and their partner who is included in a current Parent Boost visitor visa application.