

VISA PAK ISSUE 646 — 3 OCTOBER 2025

PARENT BOOST VISITOR VISA – BONA FIDE APPLICANT CRITERIA; FAIRNESS IN DECISION MAKING

This Visa Pak provides guidance when determining applications made under Parent Boost visitor visa immigration instructions, particularly in relation to ‘bona fide applicant’ assessments and applying fairness in decision making.

The Parent Boost visitor visa (see [V4](#)) is five-year visitor visa (nominally allowing a five-year stay) for the parents (and in limited circumstances grandparents or legal guardians) of New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders. Eligible applicants may be granted a second Parent Boost visitor visa, for a total (nominal) stay in New Zealand of 10 years. Partners may be included in an application even if they do not intend travelling and staying in New Zealand at the same time (see [V4.5 \(d\)](#)).

As set out at [V4.1](#):

The objective of the Parent Boost Visitor Visa is to enable New Zealand citizens and residents to have their parents join them in New Zealand for long term visits to:

- a. enable family reunification; and*
- b. support labour force participation of New Zealand citizens and residents with childcare responsibilities; and*
- c. attract and retain skilled migrants; and*
- d. improve settlement outcomes.*

To be granted a visa under Parent Boost visitor visa immigration instructions applicants must, among other requirements (see [V4.5 \(a\)](#)):

- meet health requirements for residence
- have an acceptable sponsor
- have sufficient funds available
- have acceptable travel and/or health insurance.

Holders of Parent Boost visitor visas must, during the currency of their visa, leave New Zealand and provide updated evidence that they continue to meet health requirements for residence and have maintained acceptable travel and/or health insurance while in New Zealand (see [V4.35.5](#) for the imposition of these requirements as visa conditions).

Assessing bona fides for Parent Boost visitor visa applicants

Instructions require all applicants for temporary entry class visas or entry permission to be ‘bona fide’ in that they must show that they ‘genuinely intend a temporary stay in New Zealand for a lawful purpose’ ([E5.5\(b\)](#)).

[E5.10](#) states (in summary) that immigration officers must take into account:

- any evidence of genuine intent and lawful purpose submitted by the applicant
- the ability of the applicant to leave or be deported from New Zealand to their country of citizenship
- any relevant information held about previous applications, and
- the personal circumstances of the applicant, and
- the type of temporary entry class visa applied for.

The provision of evidence by the applicant that addresses these factors is not sufficient in of itself to demonstrate that a particular applicant is a bona fide applicant (see [E5.5 \(a\)](#)).

As noted in [Internal Administration Circular 13/09](#) (Assessing ‘bona fide applicant’ criteria), these factors should also be viewed in light of all relevant information that is held by INZ, including, but not limited to:

- information submitted by the applicant
- the objectives of temporary entry immigration instructions ([see E1](#)), and
- the objectives of the particular application category and visa type that is being applied for.

The objective of the Parent Boost visitor visa is to enable long term visits by parents of New Zealand citizens and residents. In many cases applicants may no longer be actively engaged in employment and may have comparable ties to both their home country and New Zealand where their sponsoring child(ren) live(s). Some applicants may also sell property or other assets in order to demonstrate they meet funds requirements, or to minimise the need to manage assets while on long term visits to New Zealand. The assessment of whether an applicant for a Parent Boost Visitor Visa is a bona fide applicant must take into account these circumstances of the applicant with regard to the explicit objectives of the policy.

The potential that an applicant may stay in New Zealand for five to ten years and may apply for further visas, including residence does not in itself mean that they do not genuinely intend a temporary stay in New Zealand for a lawful purpose. Situations where applicants have previously remained in New Zealand after the expiry of a visa, or breached previous visa conditions, or have outstanding debts to the Crown may have greater bearing on whether a particular person is a bona fide applicant for a Parent Boost visitor visa.

Concerns that applicants may remain in New Zealand unlawfully ([E5.1\(a\)](#)) or be unable to leave or be deported from New Zealand ([E5.10](#)) particularly due to declining health or reduced ties to their home countries are addressed in part by the policy design of the visa, which includes more frequent health checks (at residence level) and the need to go offshore part way through the visa and between visas.

Fairness in decision making

Informing applicants of information that may jeopardise their visa application and providing them with an opportunity to comment before an application is declined are factors that contribute to whether a particular decision is fair or not, regardless of the decision itself (see [A1.5 \(a\)](#)).

As set out in [A1.5 \(b\)](#), what can be considered fair for a particular visa applicant depends on the circumstances of the applicant and the consequences of the decision for the applicant.

When considering whether to provide an opportunity to an applicant to comment on any potentially prejudicial information (PPI), immigration officers must follow relevant immigration instructions regarding PPI ([E7.15](#) for temporary entry class visa applications). These set out at minimum when applicants must be invited to comment before a decision is made.

To be granted a Parent Boost visitor visa applicants must be outside New Zealand both when they apply and when the visa is granted. Applicants who are offshore would normally be provided an opportunity to comment on PPI in limited circumstances (see [E7.15.1](#)).

However, due to the necessary family ties to New Zealand, the application costs, and the relatively long duration of the visa, applicants for a Parent Boost visitor visa should in most cases be provided an opportunity to comment before an application is declined, in accordance with overarching principles of fairness and natural justice (see [A1.5 \(b\)](#) in particular).

In situations where the circumstances of the applicant may not justify seeking further comment (for example they do not have an eligible New Zealand sponsoring child and have never travelled to New Zealand previously), immigration officers should consult with a practice lead or technical advisor if considering declining a visa application without seeking comment from the applicant.