



NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION

Immigration Factsheets

Victims of domestic violence

May 2021

- The *Victims of Domestic Violence Policy* enables partners of New Zealand citizens or residents to seek residence on the basis of a relationship that has ended because of domestic violence.
- This policy applies to people who cannot return home because of the impacts of stigma, or because they would have no means of independent financial support from employment or other means. Domestic violence is defined in the Domestic Violence Act 1995 [here](#).
- In addition to this special circumstances residence category, there is a special work visa which may be granted for up to six months (or up to nine months if also applying for residence). In both categories the applicant needs to provide evidence that domestic violence occurred. Applications are determined by specially trained immigration officers and are prioritised for processing.
- Details of the policies are contained in the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual and are available on the INZ website.
- The following table shows the number of people decided under the Victims of Domestic Violence policy for the last five financial years (1 July to 30 June).

| Financial year | Residence visa Approved | Residence visa Declined | Work visa Approved | Work visa Declined |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2015/16 | 34 | 16 | 116 | 11 |
| 2016/17 | 31 | 30 | 126 | 19 |
| 2017/18 | 32 | 22 | 112 | 11 |
| 2018/19 | 43 | 22 | 122 | 17 |
| 2019/20 | 45 | 14 | 113 | 10 |