

Recommendation 5

The allowable volume of temporary migrant visas with potential residence pathways should be managed to be compatible with the number of residence visas on offer

Respond: Agree. The temporary migrant visa with a clear pathway to residence should be considered as provisional visas. It is similar to the Australian visa system.

Recommendation 6

Immigration New Zealand should continue counting points past the minimum thresholds and candidates within the Expression of Interest pool. It should select those with the highest points first; actively publicise the point ranges of the successful applicants to emphasise that the minimum threshold is not the target, and raise the minimum threshold on a regular basis to manage application volumes.

Respond: Agree.

1. The government should only select the EOIs with the highest points first. The skilled shortage occupations should be granted extra points.
2. The occupations required registration should not be granted extra points universally because some of them do not have a skilled shortage at all.
3. The skilled shortage list and the EOIs minimum threshold should be reviewed annually.

Question 5

Should the right to return for permanent residents who re-migrate out of New Zealand be limited? Under what conditions? What would be the costs and benefits?

Respond: Agree. In particular, a considerable amount of people under the 2021 one-off Resident Visa programme will leave Aotearoa after getting the permanent resident visa, because they do not have plans and abilities to live in Aotearoa for the long term. A large amount of them will struggle to find jobs.

My suggestions are to phase out the permanent resident visa over time:

1. Replace the permanent resident visa with a five-year return resident visa. To be eligible for the return resident visa, applicants should have firm connections with Aotearoa, such as living in Aotearoa for at least two years out of the five-year period. This is a common practice that is widely adopted worldwide, such as in Australia, Canada and the United States.
2. Close the permanent resident visa from December 2023. This is aligned with that 2021 One-off Resident visa holders might apply for the permanent resident visa from 2023. Instead, they should be able to apply for a five-year return resident visa.
3. For the current permanent resident visa holders, their visas should be replaced by the five-year return resident visa when they renew their passports.