



## New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Inc.

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New Zealand  
Newcomers Network

Connecting People

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Inquiry Director  
New Zealand Productivity Commission  
*Submitted online*

### Immigration Settings Inquiry

Tēnā koe

Earlier this year, the Government asked New Zealand Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into what immigration policy settings would best facilitate New Zealand's long-term economic growth and promote the wellbeing of New Zealanders. The Commission released its preliminary findings and recommendations on 8 November 2021.

Multicultural New Zealand supports these recommendations which are as follows:

- Issue regular policy statements on immigration.
- Change the law to require governments to give explicit consideration to how well New Zealand can successfully accommodate and settle new arrivals.
- Explicitly acknowledge the Treaty of Waitangi interest in immigration policy.
- Remove visa conditions that tie migrant workers to a specific employer.
- Link the number of temporary visas with potential residence pathways to the number of residence visas on offer.

The Commission is still seeking further feedback on recognising efforts to learn te reo in decisions about residence or permanent residence and limiting rights to return for permanent residents who leave.

Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) since its inception in 1989, has always maintained proactive stance on immigration policies and included immigration as point number five in the recommendations prepared for the incoming government in 2020.<sup>1</sup> All the political parties were requested to show their immigration policy directives clearly within their election manifestos and to maintain those directives within coalition negotiations—for transparency and democracy.

MNZ is for high-quality migrants based on long-term skill shortages to be supported by an equally high-quality settlement strategy.

MNZ recommended several priorities for the incoming government:

1. Migrant levy to be made available for community use in a more effective way.
2. Inclusion of tangata whenua, as first nation people, in immigration policy development, consultation and considerations.
3. To build awareness in a New Zealand context among migrant communities for:

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[https://cdn.fld.nz/uploads/sites/multiculturalnz/files/pdfs/2020/Multicultural\\_New\\_Zealands\\_2020\\_Advocacy.pdf](https://cdn.fld.nz/uploads/sites/multiculturalnz/files/pdfs/2020/Multicultural_New_Zealands_2020_Advocacy.pdf)

- a. Safety concerns and rights of women,
- b. The bicultural nature of government, and the multicultural framework of society, and
- c. Climate change.

MNZ also recommended expanding legislation around environmental migration and business immigration.

Huarahi Hou is MNZ pathway to Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa New Zealand.<sup>2</sup> It is a community led initiative founded on the strong belief that cultural contact between migrants and the receiving community will smoothen the path to successful settlement and to developing a sense of belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand.

On the Huarahi Hou pathway, MNZ has successfully been working closely with recent migrants in Aotearoa, former refugees from different countries, and Māori leaders and pākeha New Zealanders to bring all communities closer together.

MNZ embraced E Tū Whānau, a movement for positive change, from the very early on.<sup>3</sup> At MNZ, we strongly believe that six values of E Tū Whānau are the milestones for new migrants and former refugees. These six values are: aroha (giving with no expectation of return), whanaungatanga (it's about being connected), whakapapa (knowing who you are and where you belong), mana/manaaki (building the mana of others, through nurturing, growing and challenging), kōrero awahi (positive communication and actions) and tikanga (doing things the right way, according to our values).

Huarahi Hou pathway can easily be embedded into the Immigration New Zealand policy where it remains a community-led whakawhanaungatanga programme under MNZ mana whakahaere.

We ask the Commission to specifically recognise the relevance and importance of Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori. There is a fundamental connection between language and culture where language is embedded in culture and expresses culture. Migrants and former refugees initially learning about tikanga Māori would seamlessly progress towards learning Te Reo Māori.

For the other point about limiting rights to return for permanent residents who leave, we are inclined to support it. However, we need to see more research and implementation plan of frameworks before this matter becomes a recommendation.

We hope MNZ feedback is helpful, and we would welcome the opportunity to contribute further.

Sincerely,



Pancha Narayanan  
President, MNZ

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[https://cdn.fld.nz/uploads/sites/multiculturalnz/files/pdfs/2020/Huarahi\\_Hou\\_Kai\\_Korero\\_Report\\_2020\\_SOF\\_T\\_COPY.pdf](https://cdn.fld.nz/uploads/sites/multiculturalnz/files/pdfs/2020/Huarahi_Hou_Kai_Korero_Report_2020_SOF_T_COPY.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://etuwhanau.org.nz/>