

Skill migrant and Expression of interest

New Zealand has always been one of the top places for migration because of its multicultural society and lifestyle. Many people consider NZ a very safe place to live. The government took some very positive steps towards focusing on highly skilled people many New Zealanders wanted this change since decades. Too many low skills applicants are qualifying under current skill migrant program which is creating huge pressure on infrastructure, unemployment, Healthcare and many other areas. The current covid environment is the best time to make these changes. As per recent media reports there are currently 22,000 EOIs in pool since the program is suspended these are very big numbers. It is very important for government to maintain this number and only invite people those who are highly skilled. SM2.5 Selection from the Pool (b) The total points required for selection may be adjusted by the Minister of Immigration certifying amended Residence instructions as necessary to manage the achievement of the overall New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP). Current residence visa policy allows us to make changes for selection criteria. We should use above instruction and increase the minimum point to 180 or 200 this change will automatically put high skilled workers in pool because majority of points come from qualification and number of work experience. For example Recognised level 9 or 10 post-graduate qualification (Master's degree, Doctorate) will qualify for 70 points, skilled work experience of 6 years will have 30 points.

Current policy also offers Bonus points for skilled employment outside of Auckland which is 30 points, this needs immediate changes bonus points may be awarded if they are outside Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Dunedin. Extra points outside of Auckland has put significant pressure on housing market especially in Wellington.

Occupation that requires registration and paid 200% of median wage should be considered as priority when selecting from pool and processing SMC application.

50,000 offshore visa application refund was one of the challenging works for government and MBIE. This will give a lot of space to process existing applications. Government and MBIE should consider refund for All EOIs that are currently in pool (except those who work in occupation that require registration and those

who earn double the median wage) and ones the new skill migrant policy is set they can re-apply if they qualify under the new requirement. This will be one off key change in our immigration setting and many New Zealander would be benefited with this. The change that took placed in 2019 for parent category EOI can be used as an example.

None of policy indicate that by submitting EOI you will received an invitation to apply EOI is you lodge your expression therefore this change can be done.