

Foreign Nationals Support Programme

Stakeholder briefing pack

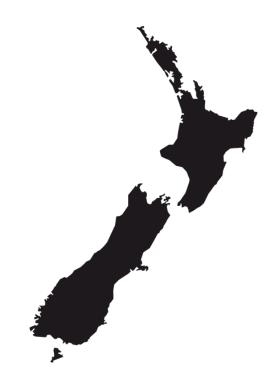




Programme overview

There are approximately **355,000** people in Aotearoa on temporary visas. This group includes around **211,000** people on Recognised Seasonal Employer visas, **75,000** holding student visas, and **55,000** holding visitor visas. Of this, an estimated **20,000** are in immediate and serious hardship due to COVID-19, and are unable to meet their basic needs.

The Department of Internal Affairs is proud to be working with New Zealand Red Cross to deliver inkind assistance to Foreign Nationals experiencing serious hardship due to COVID-19, under the \$37.6 million <u>Assistance for Foreign Nationals Impacted by COVID-19</u> programme.





Working with the



Who is eligible?

Each person's circumstances will be considered at an individual level to ensure support is reaching those who are eligible and need it most.

In-kind assistance will be provided to all classes of temporary visa holders, where it has been established that:

- The person is experiencing serious hardship, and
- All other avenues of potential support have been exhausted.

Eligibility will be established through a series of checks on visa and employment status, savings, outstanding debts and alternative sources of income or in-kind support.





Scope of assistance

Dependent on eligibility, the online system will process:

- Accommodation (including rent, boarding costs and rent arrears);
- Utilities (electricity, gas. This excludes internet and broadband connection and plans)
- GP costs (where urgent and immediate)

No cash payments will be offered. In some cases, there will be a requirement for in-kind assistance, such as a grocery voucher. Dependent on eligibility, New Zealand Red Cross will deliver:

- Pre-paid phone cards to enable emergency communication and communication with consulate/embassy
- Petrol/travel costs
- Food and household goods required to meet urgent and immediate needs
- Winter warmer packs to meet immediate needs
- Over-the-counter medication to meet urgent and immediate needs



How to apply

Foreign nationals in need of assistance can check their eligibility and apply online at:

Foreignnationals.services.govt.nz

If applicants require further assistance with:

- Translation support
- Psychosocial support
- Appealing the application outcome, or
- Questions about criteria and eligibility

They should call **0800 RED CROSS** and ask to speak with the Visitor Care Manaaki Manhuri team.





Contacts

Department of Internal Affairs contacts

Role	Person	Contact
Department of Internal Affairs Programme team	Programme team	foreignnationalssupport@dia.govt.nz

New Zealand Red Cross project team contacts

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