

Refugee Family Support Category Tier Two Opening (2017) Frequently Asked Questions

The registration system for sponsors

How does the Refugee Family Support Category system work?

There are 300 residence places available annually under the Refugee Family Support Category (RFSC) that are filled by sponsored family members from both tier one and tier two sponsor registrations. Each year, tier one registrations are selected to fill these places. If there are not enough tier one registrations, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will select tier two registrations to fill any remaining places.

When is the 2017 tier two opening and how long will sponsors have to submit registrations?

The registration period for tier two sponsors will open on **Tuesday, 28 November 2017** and will close on **Thursday, 30 November 2017**. INZ will only accept tier two registrations date stamped by New Zealand Post or an alternative New Zealand registered delivery company within this period. See 'Registration process' below for more details.

Why hasn't tier two opened since 2012?

The queue of tier two registrations that was created after the first tier two opening in April 2012, combined with tier one registrations received each year, has been large enough to fill the 300 places.

How many registrations are in the tier two queue currently?

There are 59 registrations received from 2012 still remaining in the tier two queue waiting to be selected. Following the 2017 tier two opening, all new registrations will be added to the end of the queue.

How many tier two registrations are selected each year?

The number of tier two registrations that are selected in any given year will vary depending on the number of tier one registrations received. Due to fluctuations in how many tier two registrations will be selected each year, INZ is not able to provide information on how long tier two sponsors may be waiting. For many people, it may be some years before their registration is selected.

Are there any changes happening to tier one?

No, tier one is not affected by the re-opening of tier two. Eligible tier one sponsors are free to submit a registration at any time. Find out more about the tier one criteria and process on the INZ website (www.immigration.govt.nz/rfsc).

Registration process for tier two sponsors

How do I register as a tier two sponsor?

1. Ensure you are eligible to be a tier two sponsor and that the family member (the principal nominee) and any partner or dependent children of theirs (secondary nominees) you wish to sponsor qualify for residence under the RFSC. Along with these Frequently Asked Questions and the RFSC Factsheet, you can also refer to:
 - the RFSC criteria and process on the INZ website (www.immigration.govt.nz/rfsc), and
 - the front pages of the *Refugee Family Support Category Tier Two Sponsor Registration Form* (INZ 1192), also available from the INZ website (www.immigration.govt.nz/forms).
2. Complete the registration form and include with it:
 - evidence of your immigration status, and
 - the \$90 fee payment (bank cheque/draft or credit card only).
3. Send your completed registration to the following address within the registration period (28–30 November 2017):

Immigration New Zealand
PO Box 276118
Manukau City
Auckland 2241

What counts as evidence of my immigration status?

Evidence that you are a New Zealand citizen can include an original or certified copy of your valid New Zealand passport, or your New Zealand Citizenship certificate. Evidence that you are a New Zealand residence class visa holder can include an original or certified copy of your current resident or permanent resident visa. For efficiency and security, we strongly recommend submitting certified copies rather than originals.

How can I ensure my registration gets there on time?

All tier two registrations must be date stamped by New Zealand Post, CourierPost or an alternative delivery company no earlier than **Tuesday, 28 November 2017** and no later than **Thursday, 30 November 2017**. Even if your registration arrives a day or two after the registration period closes, it will still be accepted as long as the date stamp is within the timeframe. Entry into the queue will be based on the date stamp.

If you attempt to use a delivery service other than New Zealand Post or CourierPost, it is your responsibility to ensure delivery to the PO Box is possible.

Does it matter if I use a previous version of the tier two registration form?

Please use the October 2017 version of the *Refugee Family Support Category Tier Two Sponsor Registration Form* (INZ 1192). While previous versions may be accepted, the October 2017 version has been updated and includes the correct PO Box address.

Can I deliver my registration to an INZ office?

No, registrations can only be sent to the above PO Box address and will not be accepted at any INZ office. Any registrations sent to the incorrect address will not be accepted and will be returned.

How many registrations can I make?

Only one RFSC sponsor registration may be lodged at any one time. If you have already lodged a registration that is sitting in the tier one or tier two queues, you cannot lodge another.

I am unsure about the date of birth for a child of the family member I am sponsoring—what can I do?

If you are unsure about a date of birth, you may use an approximate date instead. State on the form if you have used an approximate date of birth.

Will I be able to change any of the nominees after my registration has been submitted?

No, you cannot change any nominee after your registration has been submitted and accepted. As such, sponsors must take care when nominating family members for residence.

What else do I need to provide with my registration?

You do not need to provide anything other than the registration form, evidence of your immigration status and fee. Please include a contact email address so that we can continue to provide you information about your registration in future.

An immigration officer may request more information from you if it is necessary. If invited to apply for residence, your sponsored family member will need to provide more evidence with their application.

You must ensure that you declare all of your family members where requested in the registration form. If any information is missing or inaccurate your registration may be declined.
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After your registration is submitted

What will happen after I have submitted my registration?

Once your registration is received, INZ will do an initial assessment to check that you meet RFSC criteria. If your registration meets this criteria, it will be entered into the queue of tier two registrations. INZ will send a letter to every sponsor confirming that their registration has been received and whether or not it has been placed into the queue.

Will I get my money back if my registration does not meet the criteria?

No refunds will be offered for registrations that do not meet the criteria. The registration fee taken by INZ pays for the processing of registrations and the same work is undertaken for both accepted and declined registrations.

How long will it take for my registration to be drawn from the queue?

The time taken for registrations in the tier two queue depends on the number of registrations INZ receives and the number of places available under tier two each year. For many people it may be some years before their registration is selected from the queue. INZ will not be able to advise you of where your registration sits in the queue.

How will I know my registration has been drawn out of the queue?

After your registration is drawn from the queue, INZ will make another assessment to check RFSC criteria are met. INZ will then send a letter inviting your sponsored family to apply for residence, or to indicate that your registration has been declined.

As sponsors' addresses or phone numbers often change, INZ relies on making contact via email. Please ensure to include a contact email address in your registration form.

My registration has been selected and an invitation to apply has been sent, but the principal nominee now has a newborn child. Can the child be included in my family member’s residence application?

Yes, dependent children of the principal nominee born *after* the registration was submitted can be included in an RFSC residence application.

What if the family member or one of their dependants I am sponsoring dies or changes their mind about applying for residence in New Zealand—can they be replaced with another family member on their application?

No, only the family members included in your registration can be invited to apply for residence.

What are my responsibilities as a sponsor?

If you sponsor someone under the RFSC, you must ensure that your sponsored family members have adequate accommodation in New Zealand available on arrival and for the next 24 months.

Information about your ability to fulfil your undertakings as a sponsor will be required by INZ during assessment of your family members’ application for residence. Your inability to meet this undertaking may result in your family’s application being declined or a sponsored person being deported from New Zealand.

If you are a sponsor with a Housing New Zealand tenancy

If you intend to have your sponsored family stay with you in your Housing New Zealand property, either on a temporary or permanent basis, you need to speak to Housing New Zealand before agreeing to your obligations. If having extra people in your home means that the home will become overcrowded, permission will not be given and you will need to make alternative arrangements. Please contact your tenancy manager to discuss this.

If your family cannot be accommodated in your current Housing New Zealand property, there is also no guarantee that your family will be eligible for support from Housing New Zealand in a separate property. As such, you will need to look into alternative options for accommodating your family outside of Housing New Zealand support.