SEEKING THE RIGHT MIX OF SKILLS AND INVESTMENT

New Zealand’s economic success is built on our openness to new ideas, our welcoming of new people, and making sure our businesses have access to new and emerging markets.

National is working to ensure that immigration continues to contribute to New Zealand’s strong economic growth by providing the right mix of skills and investment.

National will set up job fairs for New Zealand employers in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to recruit skilled Kiwis to contribute to New Zealand’s economic growth.

Our stable and sensible immigration policy is helping to attract international capital and business know-how that provides opportunities and creates jobs for New Zealanders.

Immigration recruits workers for important industries such as horticulture and viticulture, where there are labour shortages, and to maintain the pace of the Canterbury rebuild. Immigration also underpins tourism and export education, our two biggest service export industries.

National has also overseen dramatic reductions in the number of people illegally over-staying in New Zealand, who take jobs away from law-abiding New Zealanders.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

→ Hold Australian Job Fairs to recruit expat Kiwis for jobs in New Zealand.

→ Net migration from New Zealand to Australia has reduced to nearly zero.

→ Continue to attract migrants with the right skills and capital to invest in New Zealand.

→ International student numbers are increasing, providing valuable investment in the export education industry.

→ The number of overstayers is reducing dramatically.

→ The Immigration Online service makes visa applications and processing quicker, easier and cheaper for New Zealand taxpayers.
NATIONAL IS...

TARGETING IMMIGRATION TO BENEFIT NEW ZEALAND

✓ Attracting migrants with the skills and talent we need to grow the economy.
✓ Attracting investment into New Zealand through the new Entrepreneur Work Visa and improved investor categories.
✓ Attracting international students to study in New Zealand.
✓ Immigration New Zealand is working with businesses and education providers to streamline visa processing for priority applicants.
✓ The Canterbury Skills Shortage List is helping provide the necessary skills to support the rebuild of Christchurch.

ADDRESSING PEOPLE SMUGGLING

✓ Providing authorities with the legal framework and other tools they need to manage a mass arrival of asylum seekers should one occur. People smuggling is a regional issue that requires a regional solution, and New Zealand is increasingly being seen as a possible target by people smugglers operating in Asia.

PROVIDING BETTER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

✓ Resettling the interpreters who supported our troops in Afghanistan before New Zealand’s withdrawal.
✓ Better outcomes for the 750 refugees we take each year, under the world-leading Refugee Resettlement Strategy.
OUR RESULTS SO FAR…

MORE KIWIS ARE COMING HOME
NET MIGRATION PER MONTH FROM NZ TO AUSTRALIA

A lot more Kiwis are voting with their feet and staying in New Zealand, rather than going to Australia. And more are coming home.

In late 2008, over 3,000 people a month in net terms were leaving for Australia. Now, net migration to Australia is only 80 a month.

ATTRACTING SKILLS AND INVESTMENT

More than 4,000 overseas workers have been recruited to help in the construction industry for the Canterbury rebuild, including more than 1,000 carpenters and joiners.

In the last year New Zealand played host to nearly 2.8 million visitors, and total visitor spend was up 11 per cent to over $7 billion.

International student numbers increased 8 per cent in the first academic semester this year, which translates to a $100 million increase in value to the export education industry.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OVER-STAYERS

We have brought down the number of over-stayers by nearly 23 per cent since 2008, while at the same time reducing the amount that is spent on enforcement.

IMPROVING IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND’S PERFORMANCE

National has dramatically improved the performance of Immigration New Zealand. A 2014 customer survey showed 86 per cent were satisfied or very satisfied with the service they received, up significantly from 67 per cent in 2009.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT...

1. HOLD JOB FAIRS IN AUSTRALIA

→ Set up job fairs for New Zealand employers in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, to recruit skilled Kiwis to contribute to New Zealand’s economic growth.

There is now a real need to boost the supply of skilled workers in many areas of the New Zealand economy, and Kiwis returning from Australia will form part of the answer. These areas include the construction trades, engineering, manufacturing and ICT.

Employers are telling us they are keen to participate in a concerted recruitment drive for skilled staff down the eastern seaboard of Australia, to complement our skills training efforts here in New Zealand.

More than 700,000 Kiwis currently live in Australia, while at the same time we have skilled labour shortages. The unemployment rate in New Zealand is lower than in Australia, and wages rose faster here over the last year than they did across the Tasman.

2. CONTINUE TO STREAMLINE THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

→ Roll out the Immigration Online service, which will see all visa applications moved online.

This $80 million investment will result in a much easier process for applicants and significant savings for the taxpayer.

3. SUPPORT TOURISM, EXPORT EDUCATION, BUSINESS LINKS AND INVESTMENT

→ Continue to look at ways to encourage high value tourism, international students, and business visitors to New Zealand through sensible immigration policies.

National is committed to forging closer economic and cultural ties with people around the world.

Together with Australia, we are helping facilitate international visitors between our two countries during next year’s Cricket World Cup by enabling fans to visit both countries with only one visa.
4. IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR REFUGEES

→ Support refugees through resettlement and into jobs.

We’re increasing funding for refugee support and will continue working to help more refugees into paid employment. We have committed to funding the rebuild of the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre, where all quota refugees spend their first six weeks in New Zealand.

5. KEEP REDUCING OVER-STAYER NUMBERS AND COMBAT PEOPLE SMUGGLING

→ Continue to reduce the number of over-stayers in New Zealand and work with regional partners to deter people-smuggling.

We are working smarter to reduce the number of would-be over-stayers arriving, while encouraging more people to leave voluntarily – saving money on costly deportations.

National will also continue to work with our regional partners through the Bali Process and other means to deter, detect and disrupt potential people-smuggling operations.

DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour and the Greens would...

✗ Cut migration for the sake of politics, even when that is against New Zealand’s best interests.

✗ Labour doesn’t know whether it’s pro-migration or anti-migration and this changes every week depending on the audience.