



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

16 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2024, requesting any advice the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), has provided to Immigration New Zealand (INZ) on Work and Income entitlements for Afghan nationals granted visitor visas via special direction or residence upon arrival.

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) led the advice and All of Government response on supporting the evacuees to resettle in New Zealand. Advice provided by the Ministry to INZ was for the purposes of informing Ministers and their decision making on how best to support the evacuees' resettlement.

This advice was captured in the Cabinet paper *Resettling Afghan evacuees: settlement support, COVID-19, and considering options to extend our response*, which has been proactively released. Any correspondence the Ministry had with INZ on the policy settings at the time is reflected in this Cabinet paper.

You can find the Cabinet paper on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website, here: www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/23610-resettling-afghan-evacuees-settlement-support-covid-19-and-considering-options-to-extend-our-response-proactiverelase-pdf.

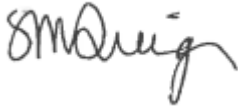
Please refer to paragraphs 85 to 91 for the Ministry's advice. Paragraphs 85 to 87 outline the support available at that time, and paragraphs 88 to 91 propose the advised changes to be made to make evacuees eligible for Special Needs Re-establishment Grants.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request regarding Afghan evacuees, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

pp.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services