



31 July 2023

The Collective Impact Board

Student support changes for family members of those directly affected by the Christchurch Mosques attack

I am pleased to let you know that the Government has agreed to exempt family members of those directly affected by the Christchurch Mosques attack from having to meet the three-year residence stand-down for student loans and student allowances. This policy will take effect for study starting on or after 1 January 2024.

The Government recognises that this waiver will enable the families of those directly affected by the attack to progress with their education and career goals without delay to better support those directly affected and their community.

You will appreciate that exceptions to the waiver are rare and only given in exceptional circumstances. The purpose of the stand-down is to give confidence to the Government that residence class visa holders will stay in New Zealand to contribute to our economy and society. To minimise the precedent risks of granting this waiver, eligibility for the waiver is time-limited and targeted.

Family members of those directly affected by the Christchurch Mosque attacks will be eligible if they are:

- granted a residence-class visa under the Immigration Act 2009 between 15 March 2019 and 31 December 2024, and
- a family member of a person who is directly affected by the Christchurch mosques attack.

Those directly affected by the attack include those who:

- hold or have held a Christchurch Response Visa;
- would have been eligible for a Christchurch Response Visa had they not been holders of a permanent resident visa or were a New Zealand citizen;
- held a resident visa at the time of the attack and were eligible for a Christchurch Response Visa.

I acknowledge that there may be members of the affected community (and their wider families) who are ineligible for this waiver. They would still be entitled to student financial support after the three-year residency stand-down period, subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria. For some family members, this period may be over as early as 2024 given the time that has elapsed since the attack.

I trust this information will be useful to you in communicating the waiver to the affected community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kieran Forde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kieran Forde
Acting Senior Manager
Tertiary Access and Participation Policy
Te Puna Kaupapahere | Policy

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