

# The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy: The role of research in guiding future direction

Refugee Research Symposium

3 December 2015 Andrew Lockhart



## Quota Refugees Ten Years On: Perspectives of Integration, Community and Identity

- Lower Employment Rates
  - In lower skilled employment
  - Lower earnings
- **English Language:** continued reliance on interpreters
- Education: Lower levels of qualifications
- **Health**: Feelings of isolation
- Social Bonds: Close connections including outside own community and involved with organisations

New Land, New Life: Long-Term Settlement of Refugees in New Zealand Summary Report







http://www.dol.govt.nz/research/migration/pdfs/new-land-new-life-longterm-settlement-refugees-summary-report.pdf





## Integration

### Self sufficiency All working-age

refugees are in paid work or are supported by a family member in \_ paid work.

#### Housing

Refugees live independently of government housing assistance in homes that are safe, secure, healthy and affordable.

#### Participation

Refugees actively participate in New Zealand life and have a strong sense of belonging to New Zealand.

#### \_ Health & Wellbeing

Refugees and their families enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives.

#### Education

Refugees' English
language skills
enable them to
participate in
education and
achieve
qualifications, and
support them to
participate in daily
life.







## **Resettlement Strategy Implementation**

- Phase One (2013/14): Service mix
- Phase Two (2014/15):
  - mapping English language needs and service provision
  - Employment DVD for reception programme
  - Driver training programme
  - Audit and Evaluation reception programme and initial settlement
- Phase Three (2015/16): Language barriers to accessing mainstream services interpreters





## **Core Research Elements**

- Evidence based research that is focused on outcomes
- Research questions that will lead to action and that will have a measurable impact
- Robust research in the refugee setting:
  - Refugee participation and voice of refugees
  - Getting the sample right (size and composition)
  - Good analysis that leads to findings we can rely on







## Challenges for Research in the Refugee Setting

- Refugee participation
  - Encouraging refugees to participate
  - Trust and understanding of the context
  - Cultural considerations



- Informed consent
- Protection of information and ensuring confidentiality
- Understanding the vulnerability and impact on individuals
- Taking a community-focused approach to sharing what is learnt
- Impact of levels of public interest, media representation











## **Areas for Future Research in Refugee Resettlement**

- **Employment:** Barriers and Pathways
- Education: 16 to 18 year olds
- **Health:** Mental health considerations in resettlement
- Participation: 'Sense of Belonging' particularly for youth













#### SUMMARY REPORT

Quota Refugees Ten Years On: Findings from the Focus Groups

"'We'd like to live the life of New Zealanders and fully participate."

#### NTRODUCTION

Over the last three years, the Department of

who arrived in New Zealand as refugees through the Refugee Quota Programme 10–17 years ago. In particular, the focus groups sought to give greater

## **Questions?**

Thank you



