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<p>The impact of global immigration upon national communities</p>

Immigration Policies and their Impact on New Zealand Society

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1.0 THE COLONIAL PAST

- 1.1 New Zealand was undoubtedly the last country in the world to be settled by humanity. The Maori people, the tangata whenua arrived from the central South Pacific, probably during the 13th and 14th centuries (see King (see below at 2.5): pages 46-47). European settlers arrived only during the 19th century.
- 1.2 In the 19th century, immigrants primarily came from Great Britain and Ireland but not exclusively so. There were small pockets of immigrants from France, Germany, Denmark and Scandinavia. Around 100,000 arrived between 1871 and 1880. To redress the sex imbalance in the early settler population single women were offered free passage. By 1881 the non-Maori population reached 470,000, whereas the Maori, ravaged by disease reached a low of 46,000. Chinese men first arrived in the 1880s during the gold rush years but for many years were unable to be joined by their wives.
- 1.3 In the early part of the 20th century immigration continued, primarily from Great Britain, but with pockets from Croatia (mainly Dalmatia) and other parts of Europe.
- 1.4 In the period following the Second World War there was increased migration from a number of European countries including in particular the Netherlands. There had always been also considerable movement to and from Australia. After the Second World War, there was substantial migration from Pacific peoples, particularly from Tonga, Samoa, and the Cook Islands.
- 1.5 Probably our first real “organised” group of refugees were a boat-load of 700 Polish children and around 100 adults who arrived in 1944. Many immigrants who made their own way here, both before, after and during the Second World War were in essence refugees,¹ including pockets of Jewish immigrants. As is well known, New

Zealand is one of a small number of countries that have a quota for refugees coming from refugee camps. The number is currently 750. Some 200 to 500 asylum seekers also obtain refugee status each year after arrival and are later joined by their families. The late 70s and early 80s drew refugees mainly from Indochina (Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians). In the 1990s the focus shifted to the horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka but more recently to Burma/Myanmar.²

- 1.6 Jumping forward to the present, for the year ended August 2004, permanent long time arrivals in New Zealand exceeded departures by 19,290 with net inflows from the United Kingdom, China and India but still a net outflow to Australia.³ During the years 1993 to 1998 the number of persons arriving in New Zealand on a permanent or long term basis exceeded the number of people departing. This pattern reversed in 1999 and for the years 1999-2001 departures exceeded arrivals. This pattern reversed again in 2002. In the year 2003 arrivals exceeded departures by 42,500, decreasing to 22,000 during the June 2004 year. The median age is currently at 35.2 compared with a median age of 26.2 in 1974 and hence an upward trend.⁴

2.0 THE PRESENT

- 2.1 It should be remembered when discussing New Zealand's demography that a significant number of citizens and residents currently live overseas. There are for example more than 74,000 New Zealand Maori living in Australia. The visitor to New Zealand is promptly told we now have a population of more than 4 million. What the visitor is not told is that about half a million live elsewhere. Out of the population which was normally resident in New Zealand in 2001, from a population of 3,586,731, a total population of 687,819 were born elsewhere other than in New Zealand, but of that population 264,000 had been in New Zealand for 20 years or more and a further 111,000 for between 10 to 19 years.⁵

- 2.2 As at 2001 there were approximately 330,000 New Zealanders who had been living in New Zealand for 10 years or less. There will of course be a percentage of resident New Zealanders who migrate soon after obtaining residence or citizenship to Australia. The cross-flow between Australia and New Zealand is of course extremely high because of the reciprocal arrangements, although that was altered unilaterally two years ago by Australia.⁶ Australian residents are residents in New Zealand upon arrival (they are exempt from holding a residence permit) as are Australian citizens. New Zealand residents however are no longer residents upon arrival in Australia. What was a reciprocal arrangement is no longer reciprocal and there are increasing impediments on New Zealand residents and citizens who wish to reside in Australia. Access to welfare and health care is now curtailed, though New Zealand citizens can work and live in Australia. As a result many now seek residence status after arrival, whereas in New Zealand, Australian citizens are not required to make any application and are treated as full New Zealand residents with access to welfare, education and public healthcare.
- 2.3 Before discussing specific immigration policies and the impact that these policies have had on our population it is important to acknowledge the size of the Pacific peoples populations and the processes involved in their coming to New Zealand. New Zealand has historically played a special role with the Cook Islands, the Tokelaus, the Kiribas Islands and the Tuvalu Islands and formerly also with Western Samoa. Western Samoans were treated as New Zealand citizens until 1962 and had entered New Zealand freely. Now only the Cook Islanders hold that privilege, but there are special immigrant quotas (see below). The special historical relationship between New Zealand and Samoa continues to be recognized by a special quota of 1,100 persons. Residence is achievable once a year simply by means of a job offer provided that there are no criminal convictions etc, or good character issues. There is a very relaxed English language requirement. Samoans (Western Samoans and not American Samoans) who have been working illegally in New Zealand for example can return to Samoa and participate in the quota, which normally occurs in July. If they are deported or removed they cannot. In the mid

90's the quota was not always filled. Cook Islanders are of course ethnically related to New Zealand Maoris. The languages are very similar. The Cook Islanders continue to be New Zealand's second largest Pacific group, with a total of 51,000 usually resident at the 2001 census. The largest group are Samoans at 115,000 (as at the 2001 census). Followed closely behind the Cook Islanders are the Tongans at 41,000, Niueans at 20,000, Fijians (not Indo-Fijians) at 7,000, Tokelauans at 6,000, Tuvalu Islanders at 2,000, Rarotongans 1,200, Society Islanders (includes Tahitians) 1,200.⁷ The total Pacific peoples population usually resident in New Zealand as at the 2001 census is 230,000.

2.4 From Asia in 2001 there were approximately 101,000 persons originating from China, 60,000 from India, 19,000 Koreans, 11,000 Filipinos, 10,000 from Japan, 6,000 from Sri Lanka, 5,200 from Cambodia, 4,500 Thai, and small groups of Taiwanese Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesians, Malays, Fiji Indians, Laotians, Bangladeshis and Pakistanis.

2.5 Michael King in his comprehensive and highly-acclaimed history *The Penguin History of New Zealand, 2003*⁸ refers to the 1970s as a period during which the country was making a gradually stronger commitment to biculturalism in Maori-Pakeha relations and to multiculturalism (see page 7). New Zealanders began to define themselves more uniquely and had long before ceased to call England "home". The population of New Zealand in the 70s included at least 400,000 Maori and 100,000 Pacific Islanders. Michael King reflects the changing mood towards a more bicultural society (at page 468):

“But the changes were brought about largely by Maori activists, who were determined that Maori ought to be able to behave as Maori in wider New Zealand life rather than submerge their identity in favour of Pakeha *mores* and values. By 1979 both major political parties had accepted this argument in principle, although the major institutions of the state – especially the law and the Public Service were slow to adapt and to understand its consequences.”

3.0 THE NEW ZEALAND EXPERIMENT : BICULTURALISM WITH A MULTICULTURAL VENEER

3.1 Certainly in the 1970s and the 1980s, it is arguable that New Zealand was moving towards a more tolerant and diverse society. Pacific migration had continued although in a largely ad hoc way. Immigration processes were generally quite generous and there were three amnesties between 1983 and 1991 which allowed large numbers of overstayers (amongst whom there were significant numbers of unskilled Pacific peoples) to regularize their status in New Zealand. It is probably fair to suggest that the Pacific Island peoples in particular benefitted from the amnesties but of course there were overstayers from a number of countries who also were able to benefit from New Zealand's liberal policies. There was also a limited amnesty in 2000 called "the Transitional Policy" which allowed residence to overstayers *and* work permit holders who had been in New Zealand for four years and six months over the previous five year period as at 31 March 2001. Former asylum seekers were excluded.

3.2 Some restricted humanitarian immigration still occurs through the appeal processes. There is an appeal to the Removal Review Authority but exceptional circumstances of a humanitarian nature making removal unduly harsh or unjust must be established. Few cases are approved. The Minister of Immigration or the Associate Minister of Immigration occasionally intervene where an injustice might otherwise occur. Again, such cases are now a rarity and the Minister's discretion is only exercised with understandable caution because of the mixed message that such exceptions create, as an invitation to overstay.

4.0 SKILLED MIGRANTS

4.1 Prior to a major rule change in November 1991 the major processes of immigration occurred through family reunification and job sponsorship. Parents came under the centre of gravity rules (a majority or equal number of children living in New

Zealand than live in the home country or elsewhere, or the secondary rule, where all children are currently living outside the home country). Within the humanitarian category, there were special policies relaxing entry requirements for persons from Sri Lanka and Lebanon who could establish that they were adversely affected by the civil wars that were occurring in those countries. For brothers and sisters, they were able to obtain residence if they could put together a five year combination of education and work experience and a job offer relevant to the qualification and work experience. This system meant that families could plan the migration of their brothers and sisters provided that there was a place for them here (through the job offer mechanism). In the writer's view this system worked quite well. There was also an Occupational Priority List ("OPL") which enabled residence for occupations in short supply and a special case could also be made for a person with a job offer not on the OPL. The growth of ethnic restaurants in our major cities is probably a result of a special ethnic chef policy. Other occupational groups were included, such as accountants. One of the shortcomings of the system was that the OPL itself was not regularly revised as other shortages occurred or as shortages disappeared. In addition, there were business categories including an investment category.

- 4.2 The pre-1991 systems provided a mechanism through the sibling category by which New Zealand residents could plan for and encourage the settlement of their relatives. A motor mechanic for example, could complete his apprenticeship and achieve the required work experience back home and aspire to join his relatives. A sponsoring brother or sister could work towards ensuring a job offer was available for them, perhaps even by setting up a family business with that in mind. This gave new residents and refugees a hope that they could sponsor their relatives either through one of the humanitarian categories or through the sibling sponsored category. It also did not disadvantage the "trades". A three year degree was not required.

5.0 1991 AND THE BEGINNING OF GLOBALISATION : THE FALSE MAGIC OF TERTIARY DEGREES

- 5.1 Without any debate in the public arena,⁹ someone had the bright idea of copying the Canadian “points” system and imposing a totally foreign and “unindigenous” immigration system on New Zealand. Undoubtedly the policies were motivated by some unproven hypothesis that immigrants with tertiary education degrees, who fit a certain demographic profile and who have money, are going to make better immigrants than those without. To be sure there were extra points available if there was a close relative.¹⁰ There were also points allocated for job offers. Essentially however the General Skills Category as it was called, or the “points system” as it was nicknamed, provided for skilled migration on the basis of variable criteria but essentially it centred itself around a tertiary qualification without which entry was not possible. There was no longer any mechanism for recognising tradespeople with training.
- 5.2 Immigration was no longer centred around occupational shortages or persons who had a relative in New Zealand but instead was by and large centred around the acquisition of a tertiary qualification with or without a job offer. What might of course have been a good idea for Canada was, in the writer’s view, a fatally flawed policy for New Zealand. The successive National and now Labour Governments had to spend a considerable amount of time and energy trying to fix the General Skills Category as problems surfaced. Under the General Category points system many immigrants were brought to New Zealand who simply did not fit in. The Skilled Migrant Category introduced at the end of 2003 is on the other hand a considerable improvement. It refuses to acknowledge work experience from a number of countries unless there is an accompanying job offer for occupations only in particular areas.
- 5.3 Given that the points are now only 100 however, some applicants will be able to gather together sufficient points to meet the passmark without a job offer. There is

improved weighting given to those who have worked for a year in New Zealand. It is anticipated that most immigration into New Zealand in the future will occur as a two-stage process, that is, through a period of work followed by the obtaining of residence. A lot of quality immigrants may not have sufficient points until they have worked in New Zealand for 12 months. That may be a healthy focus.

- 5.4 Under the General Skills Category, we had, for example, the arrival of nuclear physicists from the former Soviet Union. New Zealand has never had and may never have any nuclear industry. A larger group, of doctors with qualifications that would never allow them to be admitted into New Zealand medical practice, arrived from countries such as Egypt. Unable to find employment, or obtain registration as medical doctors, they started to complain that they had not been advised of their ineligibility to practise and had uprooted their families and come to New Zealand thinking that they could obtain registration. As a consequence, by the mid-1990s the rules had been altered to provide that persons in occupational groups that require registration must obtain their registration or alternatively a job offer (not requiring registration but relevant to their qualifications and/or work experience) prior to filing the application. Even so “undesirable” immigration still continued, for example by placing the unregistered spouse as the “supporting” spouse on an application.
- 5.5 The way in which the General Category weighted its points around qualifications was a fatally flawed process that would not deliver, in many cases, good outcomes for the immigrants. Overall the pre-1991 policies provided a more balanced outcome for New Zealand and, in the writer’s view, the 1991 to 2003 period represents a period governed by a policy which did not always focus on the right people for New Zealand.
- 5.6 Migration that essentially occurs through the relatives of existing New Zealanders, and/or existing occupational positions is, it is submitted, far more likely to produce

individuals who are able to settle well. Employability is integral and does not necessarily arise as a result of non-English based tertiary qualifications.

- 5.7 More importantly, and returning to the discussion concerning New Zealand's demographic mix, policies that are weighted more carefully towards encouraging family sponsored migration and humanitarian migration is more likely to produce a more harmonious mix of persons who obtain a sense of belonging and who are likely to contribute more easily to the long-term development of a bicultural society with a multicultural overlay. The Egyptian doctors are a case in point. Anecdotal evidence suggests a lot have left for Australia.
- 5.8 Perhaps an underlying assumption behind the General Skills policy was that once migrants get to New Zealand they will easily be able to settle and find a job if they have a tertiary qualification. This self-confident optimism is then gradually whittled away when the new arrival finds that employers do not necessarily want someone with a law degree from Zagreb University whose English is filled with grammar or lexical mistakes in every second sentence. This belief that a tertiary education from a non-English speaking country is going to be of value in New Zealand is probably, when you look at it in its stark reality, by and large a *wrong* and misguided belief when the focus is on employment. We would be better off with plumbers, electricians, upholsterers and horticultural workers than homeopathic graduates from China and literature specialists from Eastern Europe. The trouble, as can be seen by the statistics above, is that there are only very small numbers of some cultural ethnicities and accordingly the existing communities do not have a centre of gravity within which job offers can be offered to other members of the community. The communities are comparably small. What might work in Canada and Australia clearly does not work in New Zealand.
- 5.9 Another harsh reality of New Zealand life is that the immigrant communities that do exist, by and large exist only in the urban areas of Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington with small pockets in Hamilton and Dunedin.

5.10 It is acknowledged that a number of steps have been taken in order to enhance the poor employment outcomes for many skilled migrants. Provision of post-settlement services however is something entirely new in New Zealand and has lagged years behind Australia in this regard. The 1991 policies may have been an attempt to attract large volumes of skilled migrants. The overall way in which the rules worked however threw open the door to immigrants from around the world who would not necessarily find a place within New Zealand society. Overall it is the writer's view that, although it attracted highly skilled and highly motivated immigrants, many were *less likely to find their niche and place in society*, than would have been the case with the pre-1991 policies. This may have contributed to a more rapid transfer of such persons to Australia where there were larger groups of immigrants from a wider range of countries in the metropolitan centres of Sydney and Melbourne and Brisbane in particular. So much so, that Australia has altered its reciprocal rule as discussed above, in an attempt to stem the tide.

5.11 In response to the departing crowds, New Zealand is trying to claw back its retention rate by altering the residence requirement for citizenship. In the current bill before the House of Representatives at the time of writing, awaiting its second reading, the Citizenship Amendment Act 2004 will alter the residential requirement from three years to five years. A New Zealand resident will be required to live in New Zealand a minimum period of eight months in each year for five years prior to becoming eligible for citizenship. Undoubtedly the response is to halt the cross-Tasman skip.

6.0 PEOPLE FIRST

6.1 The unspoken approach to immigrants arriving in New Zealand has often been that people will simply have to fit in with the dominant (English) culture. What is good for New Zealand's future however is to find and attract immigrants in the writer's view who will feel at home and will fit into a bicultural New Zealand. Otherwise

we face the potential of ghettoizing our country, and a severe backlash from the radical right who note poor immigration outcomes as evidence that immigration is inherently bad for the country. Having good employment outcomes is crucial but equally crucial is a sense of belonging and community.

- 6.2 Although the recent changes to the General Skills Category and the development of a weighting that is centred more strongly around work experience in New Zealand and/or the provision of a suitable job offer is an improvement, immigration that is centred around families (perhaps also with a focus on a job offer) seems to be a process which New Zealand is sadly leaving behind.
- 6.3 If the task of immigration is to attract a future generation of workers to cater for New Zealand's aging population, immigration that favours existing families is likely to produce more successful immigration, with immigrants likely to stay and not move on to Australia, and more likely to contribute to New Zealand society through their existing families. More importantly such immigrants are more likely to experience a sense of well-being within the community of their families.
- 6.4 There is also of course a growing realisation in New Zealand that the country is short of low-skilled workers, particularly in the horticultural sectors but also in the apparel industry and in other sectors. Traditionally, low-skilled positions were filled by Pacific peoples. It is probably not an exaggeration to state that the whole of Auckland gets cleaned every night by the Samoan, Cook Island and Tongan workforce. The new generation of Samoan, Cook Island and Tongan New Zealanders are of course finding their niche through tertiary education and the professions. Nevertheless with the focus on the skilled migration categories, the Pacific peoples have been somewhat disadvantaged. Arguably, the special quotas redress the imbalance. In addition to the 1,100 places for Western Samoans there is now a special quota for Tonga (250), Tuvalu (75), Kiribas (75) and Fiji (250). These categories were introduced in 2002, soon after the Humanitarian Category, which had provided the basis for some Pacific migration, had been closed, on 1

October 2001. Obtaining a tertiary education is quite a hurdle for many Pacific peoples although there is a certain amount of immigration occurring, particularly through the University of the South Pacific amongst the Indo Fijian population and further, through student permits and the payment of fees as overseas students. For many Samoans, Tongans and other Pacific Island peoples however subsistence living does not provide the mechanism whereby children can be sent to university in New Zealand to acquire diplomas and degrees. They simply do not have the funds. There are of course a number who study under our foreign aid programmes on scholarships but there is normally a requirement to return home to work upon completion.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 Until November 1991 a relaxed approach to immigration focussed on the family members of existing New Zealanders and favoured, by and large, the absorption of new people into existing communities. The invention of the General Category or the “points system” was a clear step backwards. It was based on the notion that tertiary qualifications provide better immigration outcomes. They do not necessarily, except perhaps over the long term (by which time most who have been unable to find employment in New Zealand head for Australia¹²). Anecdotal evidence tends to suggest that New Zealanders are by and large deeply concerned about the difficulties that newly arrived immigrants face, and as a result there is probably a growing sense within New Zealand society that immigration had been overheating and some sectors within New Zealand would clearly like to see immigration halted altogether.

7.2 The current Skilled Migration Category is probably the best that we have had since 1991 given the overall way in which it favours individuals who have good employment prospects (either through a job offer or because they have been working in New Zealand for a year or more). The criticism that has been levelled at

the new system for raising the IELTS level for the principal applicant from 5.0 to 6.5 is totally misguided. IELTS 6.5 is normally the level which most tertiary institutions require before admission to a course. It is submitted that English at that level ought to be a clearer indication that the migrant will face satisfactory employment outcomes, than English at only 5.0. It may be however that the criticism that has been made locally about this particular aspect of the changes arises because the downstream effect of this change is that it probably disfavours countries that are not former members of the English-speaking Commonwealth.

- 7.3 In the “Third World” probably only India where many people do speak English quite well is going to be a major participant, but English is of course well spoken in a number of other countries that have been a major source for applicants in the General Category (South Africa, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, UK, Canada, US etc).
- 7.4 The most disadvantaged by the English-language changes undoubtedly are China and other East Asian countries. Those countries that have visa free entry and have individuals who have reached the appropriate English language standard, can either enter the country to search for a job or to interview for potential employment. As a result South Korean, Japanese and Taiwanese citizens will find it easier to participate in the new Skilled Migration Category because they are able to arrive visa free without much trouble and to then either attend English language courses, to raise their abilities up to 6.5 or to obtain employment. There is a relaxed English language requirement for those who have been working for 12 months (provided the employment is in the medium of English). It will undoubtedly be more difficult for China and South-East Asia where apart from Malaysia, citizens must first obtain a visa. Typically, visitor’s visas are difficult to obtain. By and large therefore the current system is much improved even though it may favour the English-speaking world.
- 7.5 We have however for more than a decade, in the writer’s view, had an immigration policy some of which arguably does not fit in with our existing cultural norms. One

of the worst examples of this was the way in which the refugee quota was sometimes administered until recently. There were periods of time where there was little regard had to future settlement outcomes in deciding which refugees to bring to New Zealand. There is, for example, a pocket of refugees that were brought from the Congo who live in Auckland and Hamilton. Amongst themselves they come from several different ethnicities (and speak several different languages though many speak the lingua franca, French). They total about 25 or 30 families according to anecdotal information. With no existing population to draw on, and no humanitarian category to assist with applications for close family members back in the Congo, most of these people (apart from their own small group) are socially isolated within New Zealand society. There have been difficulties noted in our media arising out of problems within the Somali community. According to the statistical information for the 2001 census there were a total of 1,971 Somali men and women in New Zealand. This has undoubtedly increased in the last three years. The reality is of course that the Somali ethnic group in New Zealand consists of a number of people from diverse clans within Somali society who do not always mix happily with one another (which of course is the underlying cause of the disintegration of Somali society and Somalia in general). Their numbers are very small. It is acknowledged that it is understood that the refugee quota is now more clearly focussed on existing communities and more emphasis is being placed on obtaining sustainable groups.

- 7.6 In New Zealand we have by and large recognised the role that the tangata whenua, the Maori people, have in society. Pacific peoples have also been embraced. The 1991 General Skills Category could be best described as an experiment in globalisation by throwing the doors wide open and favouring those with tertiary qualifications from around the world with scant regard to settlement outcomes. Thankfully, and undoubtedly as a result of a considerable amount of hard work from the former Minister of Immigration, Lianne Dalziel and the Department of Labour policy division, sufficient emphasis has now been placed on ensuring more positive employment outcomes. It is the writer's view however that this should be

combined with a return to a recognition that family migration is also healthy as it allows the continuing support and growth of diversity in a positive way but where possible, this should be accompanied with a focus on healthy employment outcomes as well. In the writer's view, sibling and close-family immigration should be encouraged and the restrictions reduced.

- 7.7 In summary therefore it can be stated that New Zealand's past and present migration policies are overall not better focussed on providing people who will more readily fit into our society. The Skilled Migration Category however, in the writer's view, only focusses on economic outcomes. A society is far more than this. As has been seen above, New Zealand has made some inroads into establishing a bicultural society in which cultural diversity is acknowledged and embraced. Maori culture and society is unique in its focus on the family, which is more widely defined than the traditional European nuclear family unit. The wider sense of family and whanau is also apparent in the Pacific Island communities as it is also a feature of many of our refugee ethnic groups.¹³
- 7.8 There are areas in which New Zealand's immigration policies fail to give precedence to the importance of family and whanau. For example, there is, and probably always will remain, an overstayer population which works in the horticultural area. Where a marriage occurs with an overstayer it is almost impossible to obtain residence without the individual going home. Both the Removal Review Authority and the Minister's office find it hard to accept that disruption of a family unit (which, for example, might have been in existence for several years and have produced children) is a harsh way of treating individuals.
- 7.9 We have removals occurring every day involving parents and spouses of individuals who have, sometimes for technical reasons, become overstayers. Sometimes people cannot face returning to their home country because of an existing civil war or a threat, or simply because they fear they will never be allowed to return. Even where refugee status has been honestly claimed but declined because the threat is

perceived not to be significantly serious, those asylum seekers who have in the meantime established families simply get removed.

- 7.10 One has to wonder exactly why we want to hurt our own people (the spouses and children). The notion given by the Immigration Service and the authorities is that a breach of our immigration law must result in removal because of the necessary deterrent effect. On the other hand the orchards in the Bay of Plenty, the Hawkes Bay and other areas of rural New Zealand are desperate for unskilled labour. By and large the New Zealand community thinks that if they get married or enter into a relationship with an immigrant they can sponsor their partner if it is genuine. They do not know that if their partner is an overstayer that they will not be able to regularise their position without enormous difficulty and most often not at all.
- 7.11 A hard-nosed approach has become more and more evident over the last two years. There needs to be a clearer recognition that healthy immigration arises out of family migration, particularly where it involves able-bodied young individuals who can then contribute to our society.
- 7.12 The sense of whanau or family is however extremely important as well. The contribution of parents to immigrant families should also not ever be underestimated. Very often the arrival of parents enables both spouses to enter the workforce, leaving the children in the care of more elderly parents who might be at a retirement age. The contribution of parents is of course not quantified by statistics in terms of employment outcomes but overall they form a very important part of the development of the extended immigrant family. The arrival of immigrant parents very often enables, for example, the home language to be retained in the household. Children growing up in such an environment are more likely to be able to embrace both the dominant culture and retain their own indigenous culture if they have grandparents, uncles, aunts and wider family members who are able to immerse their children in the home language. Bringing isolated nuclear physicists from

Russia and qualified but unemployable scientists and doctors to our shores is, not the answer for the future.

- 7.13 What might have worked well for Canada and Australia worked less well for New Zealand. It is quite wrong to suggest that New Zealand is in need of large numbers of highly educated immigrants. We need immigrants for sure if we are going to survive the coming years. Those immigrants can be “socially isolated” and “dumped” either through the refugee quota system or through the Skilled Migrant Category into the urban areas of our major cities. We can then fold our hands and hope that they survive. A better approach is to extend our existing “whanau” and to embrace through family re-unification and an extended sibling policy, immigrants who not only have a high chance of significant employment outcomes but who also have, through their existing family ties, a greater potential for social integration. Isolated families or individuals become a greater burden on our mental health system, on family law services (as marriages break up) and on our legal systems further down the track (as unemployed youths enter the “criminal” workforce). Although it is hard to quantify in statistical terms, it is self-evident that immigration that involves isolated individuals (no matter how well-educated they are) cannot be necessarily good for the country in the long term. In the writer’s view we should return to a more indigenous or Maori world-view and promote the extension of our families.

1. Our own Chief Justice the Right Honourable Dame Sian Elias has stated that she comes from a family of such refugees.
2. See “Refugee Voices : A journey towards resettlement”, Department of Labour, June 2004.
3. New Zealand Department of Statistics <http://www.stats.govt.nz> : “External migration : permanent and long-term”.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid n3 2001 Census : Ethnic Groups, by years since arrival in New Zealand.
6. Which are part of a pact with Australia referred to as CER or “Closer Economic Relations”.
7. Statistics New Zealand “Ethnic Group and by Urban and Rural Area”, usually Resident Population Count, 2001. Figures are rounded.
8. Page numbers refer to the hardcover Viking edition published 2004.
9. Because New Zealand’s immigration rules are policy rules the changes that occurred in 1991 occurred by way of Ministerial fiat, but undoubtedly with Cabinet (executive) approval.
10. This is no longer the case.
11. On the 18th of February 2004 the selection point was 195 points on 1 September the number dropped to 100 and has remained at 100 ever since.
12. See Statistics New Zealand “Degrees of Difference : The Employment of University-qualified Immigrants in New Zealand” – The study does not of course measure the numbers who have gone home in disgust or left for Australia : www.stats.govt.nz.
13. For an excellent paper available on the internet see “Family Structures”, July 2000, Susan Elliott and Alison Gray.