



# Aide-Memoire

## RECONNECTING NEW ZEALANDERS' READINESS FOR NEXT STEPS

<b>To</b>	Rt Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response	<b>Report No</b>	DPMC-2021/22-2181
<b>From</b>	Ruth Fairhall, DCE, COVID-19 Group, DPMC	<b>Date</b>	18/05/2022

### Purpose

1. This Aide-Memoire provides an update on the status of system readiness to go live with the next steps of Reconnecting New Zealanders.

### Background

2. This report provides an update on readiness for: (1) Step 4 – Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas from 04 July; and (2) Step 5 – Visitor / Education Visas from 31 July. Appendix A summarises the Reconnecting New Zealanders (RNZ) steps, settings, and pathways.
3. Appendix B includes a readiness report dated 18 May 2022.

### Traveller volumes and airline updates

*Passenger numbers since step 1 of Reconnecting and comparisons:*

4. Online Visitor visa applications for the Pacific Island Forum countries opened successfully on 16 May, as planned.
5. Numbers of travellers since RNZ Step 1 (28 February to 17 May):
  - i. Total – 285,167
  - ii. Australia – 178,117
  - iii. Rest of the World – 107,050
6. We have seen a small decrease in travellers in the past week, with the average daily total travellers at 5,261, down from the previous week's average of 5,489.

### Key operational updates including readiness

7. This report has an overall **Green rating**, with agencies continuing to manage the day-to-day activities to support travellers and confident of readiness for future steps and any further border changes.
8. The issue around what alternative accommodation support should be offered to travellers that do not have anywhere to isolate safely is being resolved by the Care in the Community DCEs group. This outstanding issue does not prevent any Reconnecting steps from occurring.





Appendix A: RNZ summary

**IN CONFIDENCE**

Te Kīwaniatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

## Reconnecting New Zealanders: Policy Summary

*Key settings summary*

Setting	Test on arrival requirements
PDT	48h PCR or 24h RAT/LAMP
Vaccinations	Nzers/ Perm Residents: N/A Other visitors: Vaccinated with approved vaccine
Declaration	Contact tracing info/ 14 day travel history self-declaration in NZTD
Testing	RAT on day 0/1 & 5/6 If positive, PCR at a CTC
Positive test	Self isolate

*Reconnecting New Zealanders step phasing and timing*

Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Completed steps									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Step 1.1 – 23.59h 27 February – New Zealanders to and from Australia (Plus Nauru, Tuvalu and American Samoa)</li> <li>Step 1.2 – 23.59h 02 March – Removal of the need to self-isolate for 7 days</li> <li>Step 2.1 – 23.59h 04 March – New Zealanders able to travel to and from everywhere</li> <li>Step 2.2 – 23.59h 13 March – More exceptions for Skilled Workers (1.5x median wage), Working holiday visas</li> <li>MIQ changes – 23.59h 18 March – Changes to MIQ eligibility/ fully vaccinated definitions</li> <li>NZTD Launch - 25 March, NZTD legally mandated for all travellers from 31 March</li> <li>Pacific pathway changes – Shift of the Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, and American Samoa to the Testing on Arrival pathway (23.59h on 8 April) – therefore QFT remains for direct flights from Nauru, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu</li> <li>Step 3.1 – 23.59h 12 April - More border exceptions for critical workforces, students, and sports/events and Australians</li> <li>Step 3.2 – 23.59h 01 May – Visa-waiver travellers and existing visitor visa holders</li> <li>Setting changes – 23.59h 05 May – Unvaccinated Residents permitted to enter New Zealand</li> <li>Step 4.1 – 16 May – Visitor visas from Pacific Island Forum countries (excluding Australia)</li> </ul>									
Outstanding steps									
Step 4.2 – 4 July – Accredited Employer Work Visas and Work Visas									
Step 5 – 31 July – Visitor Visas and Student Visas									

Appendix B: RNZ Readiness summary

Reconnecting New Zealanders Readiness Report – Status as at 18 May 2022				Overall status GREEN
Ref	Lead agency	Group of activities	Step 4 – Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas from 04 July	Step 5 – Visitor / Education visas from 31 July
1	MoH	Regulatory		
2	MoH	Border Health Updates		
3	Customs	Border Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review Staffing</li> <li>○ Update SOPs and processes</li> <li>○ Update staff training</li> <li>○ Update Immigration Regulations</li> <li>○ Update Safe Travel Advisory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Review Staffing</li> <li>≠ Update SOPs and processes</li> <li>≠ Update staff training</li> <li>≠ Update Immigration Regulations</li> <li>≠ Update Safe Travel Advisory</li> </ul>
4	Customs	Aviation sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update FAQ for aviation</li> <li>○ Update sector advice/ websites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Update FAQ for aviation</li> <li>≠ Update sector advice/ websites</li> </ul>
5	MBIE	ALOs / Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update Training for Offshore airports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Update Training for Offshore airports</li> </ul>
6	DPMC	Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update UAC and websites across government</li> <li>○ Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update UAC and websites across government</li> <li>○ Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing</li> </ul>

Legend: ≠ Not started  
○ Work in-progress  
✓ Complete

Proactively Released