Detailed Guide to New Zealand's Parent Visa Options

FRENZ Recruitment & Immigration

We break down the **temporary visas**, including the new **Parent Boost Visitor Visa**, and the pathways to **residency**, such as the ballot-based **Parent Resident Visa** and the **Parent Retirement Resident Visa** for investors.



Whether your parents are planning a short visit or considering a permanent move, this will give you the essential information you need.

TEMPORARY VISA OPTIONS

1 General Visitor Visas

Parents (or other family) can stay in New Zealand for up to 9 months if they can show:

- A genuine **reason** for visiting
- Sufficient **funds** for their stay
- Clear **intent** to return home afterwards

Parents from certain countries may instead qualify for an NZeTA visa waiver, allowing visits of **3–6 months** depending on nationality. Click **HERE** for a list of eligible countries.

Applicants must be of good health & character, have no deportations, and no links to criminal or terrorist groups.

2 Parent/Grandparent Visitor Visas

Parents or grandparents of NZ citizens/residents can stay up to 6 months each year for a total of 3 years.

Requirements:

- NZ citizen/resident child must **financially sponsor** the visitor **for the duration** of their stay
- Full Immigration **NZ medical checks**
- Visitor or child must **cover healthcare costs** (full medical insurance recommended)
- **Police certificates** *may* be required
- Must **prove 'temporary' intent** and strong **ties to home** country

Want to avoid risk and stress? Use our expert Immigration Advisers!

FRENZ Recruitment & Immigration | 021711071 | immigration@frenz.co.nz | www.frenz.co.nz

...Temporary Visa Options

3 Parent Boost Visitor Visas

Stay 5 years from first arrival with an option to apply for a second 5-year visa.



Key Conditions

- Must be **outside NZ** when **applying** and when visa is **granted**
- Must be **supported** by NZ citizen/resident child(ren)
- Joint sponsorship options:
  - Adult child + their partner (stable relationship ≥12 months)
  - Two adult siblings
  - An adult child + an adult child of the parent's partner
- **Applicant must:**
  - pass a **health assessment** and maintain acceptable **health or travel insurance** for the entire stay
  - fund their stay by **meeting 1 of 3 requirements**:

Parent Income	Parent Assets	Sponsor income
$33,664 for Solo Applicant	$170,000 for Solo Applicant	Median Income to sponsor 1 Parent
$51,183 for Couple	$260,000 for Couple	1.5x median Income if partner is included Based on 1 parent

- **Financial Proof:**
  - At the time of application, the **sponsor's income must meet the current IRD median income threshold** (taxable income only)

Sponsor	Number of Parents					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Single	$72,800	$109,200	$145,600	$182,000	$218,400	$245,800
Joint	$109,200	$145,600	$182,000	$218,400	$245,800	$291,200

Figures are rounded to nearest decimal; valid as at 30/4/2026

RESIDENT VISA OPTIONS

1 Parent Resident Visa

Allows NZ citizen/resident children to sponsor parents for residency through a ballot system (2,500 places annually;4x ballots per year).

Eligibility:

- Sponsor must meet the minimum income threshold
- Sibling or partner can jointly sponsor
- Must meet health, character and English-language requirements



2 Parent Retirement Resident Visa

For high-net-worth parents wishing to invest and live in NZ with their adult citizen/resident children.

Requirements:

- Invest at least NZ$1 million in NZ for 4 years
- Have at least NZ$500,000 to help settle
- Show an annual income of at least NZ$60,000
- Meet health, and character requirements

Next Steps

Secure Residence

(see FRENZ Newsletter on latest INZ rules)
General visitor Visa doesn't require residence

Evaluate Current Situation

Assess your financial situation and that of your parents against your desired outcome

Engage our Licensed Immigration Adviser

They can make sure you're currently, or on a path, to obtain the best option for you and your family.

Want to avoid risks & stress? Talk to our expert Immigration Advisers!

Call us at 021 771071 Or Click to Email

Parent Visa Options At a Glimpse

	General Visitor	Parent/ Grandparent	Parent Boost	Residence	Parent Retirement
Duration	3-6 months, generally	6 months per year, for up to 3 years	5 years; +5 years option	Permanent	Permanent
Sponsorship Required	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Eligibility	Anyone who shows a genuine reason to visit NZ, enough money to support their stay, and a bonafide reason to leave NZ	Parents/ Grandparents of NZ Citizens/ Residents	Parents of NZ Citizens/Residents		
	Meets character and health requirements				
Financial Obligations	NZ$400/month with accommodation; $1000/month without	Sponsors meet minimum income threshold; Visitors meet supporting fund requirements	1 of 3 income options + Combinations for sponsors to meet income thresholds	Sponsors must meet minimum income threshold	NZ$1million for a 4 year period; NZ$500k for settlement; NZ$60k+ in annual income

Want to avoid risks & stress? Talk to our expert Licensed Immigration Advisers!

Call us at 021 771071 **Or Click to Email**