

**Government Response to
Referral of petition from Mehnaaz Ali: Let Rayyan Ali stay in
New Zealand**

**Presented to the House of Representatives
In accordance with Standing Order 380**

Introduction

- 1 The Government welcomes the Petition Committee's referral of this petition, and we thank the petitioner for bringing this matter to the Government's attention.
- 2 The Government has carefully considered the Petition Committee's referral of the petition by Mehnaaz Ali entitled "Let Rayyan Ali stay in New Zealand".
- 3 The Government is responding to the report in accordance with Standing Order 380.

Request from petitioner

- 4 Request: That the House of Representatives urge the Associate Minister of Immigration to exclude Rayyan Azeem Ali from immigration instruction A4.10.1 (medical conditions deemed to imposed significant costs and/or demands on New Zealand's health and/or education services) and allow him to remain in New Zealand.
- 5 The petition of Mehnaaz Ali was presented to Parliament on 4 June 2025 and 1,124 people signed an online petition to this effect.

Government response

Ministerial consideration

- 6 Ministers are generally not involved in consideration of individual cases or the assessment of individual visa applications, as these are operational matters for Immigration New Zealand. Historically, the Minister of Immigration has delegated consideration of individual cases to the Associate Minister of Immigration, however it is not standard practice to consider any individual case at the ministerial level, unless all avenues through standard pathways or appeals processes have already been exhausted.
- 7 Where individual immigration requests are accepted for consideration by my office, the majority of requests are for the exercise of absolute discretion under the Immigration Act 2009. As set out in section 11, when a decision is a matter of absolute discretion for the decision maker:
 - people have no right to apply for the matter or decision (they can only make a request)
 - there is no obligation on the decision maker to consider the request or make any inquiries as a result of the request
 - if a request is considered, the decision maker is not obliged to give reasons for their decision
 - the Official Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 2020 do not apply in relation to reasons for any decision making on the request.

Conclusion

- 8 On 17 September 2025, I, Chris Penk, as the Associate Minister of Immigration, gave full consideration to the representations made in Rayyan Ali's case which had been submitted to my office. After a comprehensive review, I decided that I was not prepared to intervene in Rayyan Ali's case.
- 9 I do not intend to revisit this decision, unless materially changed circumstances arise that warrant further consideration. If the petitioner considers that such a change in circumstances has occurred, the petitioner should write back to my office.