

MEDIA RELEASE

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Peter Cotton to leave Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand

The Chair of the Interim Board of Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand (Refugee Services), Brian Lynch, announced today that long-serving senior manager Peter Cotton would leave the organisation on 23 March 2009.

Refugee Services is the non-government organization responsible for settlement of the 750 refugees who enter New Zealand each year under New Zealand's quota commitment with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

"The position of National Manager External Relations that Peter has held over the past eighteen months will be disestablished as a result of restructuring," Mr Lynch said. "The Interim Board and Mr Cotton have reached an amicable agreement that his employment will come to an end by way of redundancy." The terms of the settlement will remain confidential between the parties.

Mr Lynch said the Interim Board would host a farewell public function for Mr Cotton in the near future. "Peter has made a notable contribution to the cause of refugees and the development of national and international refugee resettlement policy and practice over nearly eighteen years. Throughout that long period he has shown strong personal commitment, impressive networking skills, and is held in high regard for his work in New Zealand and overseas. It is very fitting that we find a suitable opportunity to acknowledge his substantial contribution.", Mr Lynch said.

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