This paper reports on a study of 30 young Korean-English bilinguals who migrated to New Zealand in their adolescence. At the time of immigration, all 30 participants were in their final year of primary school, 12-13 years of age, and had relatively high proficiency in their mother tongue. The New Zealand Korean community is recent and fast-growing, with many attributes favourable to L1 maintenance. Although English is supported outside the home environment, the New Zealand government has no official policy for mother tongue maintenance, and immigrant children are often left to rely, almost entirely, on their parents for L1 support. The paper considers the English and Korean skills of the participants, and the impact that parents and siblings have on their linguistic skills. The participants’ L1 and L2 proficiency was measured through a vocabulary test and story-retelling task and language use patterns elicited via a questionnaire and follow-up interview. The paper highlights the particular context where the New Zealand Korean immigrant community is situated and discusses how this immigrant context may influence L1 maintenance among adolescent children in recent immigrant families. It focuses on the role of the father, an issue which is relatively under-researched in the field of language maintenance. The findings suggest that, while family members play differential roles in L1 maintenance of a bilingual child, the father has an important role in the overall language use and language maintenance in these Korean immigrant families.