

Terra Nova *e-news*

Recent changes in INZ immigration instructions

New regulations concerning dependants included in a residence application:

Immigration instructions have been amended to align with new regulations that came into force on 8 May 2017 requiring all dependants to be included in a residence application where they hold or have applied for a temporary entry class visa based on their relationship to the principal applicant. Dependants, once included in a residence application, cannot be removed unless circumstances change so that a child is no longer a dependent child, or in the case of a partner ceasing to be the applicant's partner.

New regulations for non-mandatory passports:

Immigration instructions have been amended to align with new regulations that came into force on 8 May 2017 allowing visa applicants to supply a certified copy of a passport or certificate of identity in place of an original.

Specific Purpose or Event work visa instructions amended for clarity:

Specific Purpose or Event work visa instructions have been re-structured and reformatted to make them easier to follow. Evidence required for each work visa purpose has been specified in a table format, along with the respective maximum visa duration that may be granted. Other changes to content include clear instructions allowing for the decline of a further Specific Purpose or Event visa when it is not appropriate.

Discontinue 'partnership deferral' policy for Partnership Category residence applications:

Immigration instructions are amended in line with a Cabinet decision to discontinue the 'partnership deferral' policy. Instead, minimum partnership requirements must be met at the time that the assessment is made. No provision is given to delay a decision to allow applicants to meet the 12-month time requirement for living together in a genuine and stable relationship.

Terra Nova *e-news*

Terra Nova Consultancy Ltd is a commercial business and immigration consultancy company providing assistance and immigration advice to people who wish to immigrate to and or settle in New Zealand.



The Terra Nova *e-news* may freely be distributed to anyone.

For correspondence, or, if you wish to contribute with an interesting article, please email in word format to:

info@terranovaconsultancy.co.nz

Our website is at;

www.terranovaconsultancy.co.nz

J Peter Hendrikx-



New instructions for Chinese visitors

Instructions at V2.15 have been amended to allow for the grant of five year multiple journey visitor visas to nationals of the People's Republic of China.

Remove the seven-year limit when considering prior domestic violence or sexual offences committed by New Zealand residents or citizens supporting partnership based visa applications:

Immigration instructions are amended in line with a Cabinet decision to remove the seven year limit for considering prior domestic violence or sexual offences committed by New Zealand residents or citizens supporting partnership-based visa applications. The amended criteria means that a New Zealand resident or citizen supporting a partnership based visa application must not have had any conviction in any country for domestic violence or sexual offences since turning the age of 17. New Zealand-based convictions are subject to the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004. Partners supporting applications under the Partnership Category will be required to provide police certificates from each country they have lived in for 12 months or more in the 10 years prior to the application being lodged. Immigration officers will also have the ability to request additional police certificates if they have reason to believe a partner does not meet character requirements.

Update definition of “fit and proper” person as it relates to applicants under business instructions:

Immigration instructions are amended so that people convicted of offences arising in the course of, or resulting from, business dealings are not considered ‘fit and proper’ for the

purposes of business instructions. A deferral process will apply to applicants who have been charged with such offences or are under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office or New Zealand Police. These changes also affect foreign crew of fishing vessels work visa instructions.

Providing clarity on the maximum duration of partnership-based temporary entry class visas:

Immigration instructions are amended to clarify the maximum duration of temporary entry visas granted on the basis of partnership. These changes do not materially alter the current visa criteria.

Visitor visas for international tour escorts:

A new special category of visitor visa for overseas tour escorts is being introduced to better facilitate tour groups visiting New Zealand by allowing tour escorts to enter New Zealand with their tour groups on a visitor visa or visa waiver.

Non-compliant employers list:

Immigration instructions have been amended to reflect the creation of a list of employers, maintained by the Labour Inspectorate, who meet the criteria for being a non-compliant employer. Employers on this list are unable to support visa applications or be granted 3 employer status such as approval in principle, accreditation, or recognised seasonal employer.

South Island Contribution work and residence policies:

Immigration instructions have been amended to implement the South Island Contribution visa policy. This policy has work-to-residence and residence-from-work components. Applications for a work-to-residence visa must be made between 22 May 2017 and 22 May 2018. Applicants must be 55 years of age or younger, have been employed in the South Island as the holder of an Essential Skills work visa for the last five years and have current employment, or offer of employment, to work in the South Island. Residence health and character requirements apply to both the work and resident visa categories. Partners and dependent children of people who hold South Island Contribution visas will be eligible for associated visas. Please refer to instructions under WR7 and RW8 for further details.

Adjustments to minimum income level requirements:

Minimum income thresholds across a number of categories have been increased to reflect annual changes to New Zealand benefit rates. These changes affect tier one Parent Category, Samoan Quota Scheme, Pacific Access Category, Partners and dependent children of student or work visa holders and Dependent children of work visa holders.