

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Monday 16th September 2013 | Edition 183

Hiya folks,

Hope you have had a great few weeks and welcome to our latest edition. It's a mini edition this time given that not much can happen in what is termed "caretaker mode". That is during a Federal election campaign major changes are generally not made.

Anyhow as you know now the newsletter brings together all we have picked up over the last months about changes and general information related to Australia's visa requirements.

It is free and published on the third Monday of each month for the last 16 years.

Also it is a strong and long suffering supporter of the Fremantle Dockers. This week we play at home with a win seeing us progress to our first ever grand final. I don't want to jinx us or the flight tickets I have already booked to fly to Melbourne for the grand final... so enough said... just good luck Fre000 !

On to the newsletter ...



Contents

- 1) New Minister for DIAC
- 2) Migration from India grows
- 3) Education for 457 kids in WA
- 4) eMedical Procedures
- 5) Results of the latest Skills Select Invitations
- 6) Changes to the Victorian State Migration Plan ..
- 7) DIAC Processing Times

1) New Minister for DIAC

With the Coalition winning the recent Federal Election, DIAC have another new minister, Mr Scott Morrison.

Everyone in the industry I am sure is hoping for some long needed stability in the portfolio and a Minister who cuts through the increasing red tape for companies and visa applicants.

High on the agenda should be

- Abolition of the pointless Labour Market Testing proposed for the 457 visa
- The resuming of processing for Labour Agreements which have have been hijacked and come to a complete halt through union influences
- A streamlining of what has become a myriad of complication and inefficiency for trade skills assessments
- The ludicrous situation where DIAC are going beyond their own government advice and asking for Certificate 4 holders in trades to ALSO have two years of work experience, when employers are completely satisfied with the person's skills.
- The grab for cash which has been the DIAC visa charges in the last 4 months so the (ex) government can reduce their imbalances in the budget.
- DIAC officers with no small business experience deciding on whether a company really needs or intends to offer employment to RSMS candidates. The best placed person to make this decision is the entrepreneurial business owner. If it doesn't work out then let DIAC monitoring sort it out. But don't have a government department telling the biggest driver of employment (small business) whether their decision is the right one to expand employment and take risks. That is what drives our economy and is in the DNA of every small business person !

(Source: Iscah comment)

2) Migration from India grows

A recent article in an Australian newspaper ...

IMMIGRATION from India is continuing to surge as 360 permanent settlers from the country arrive in Australia each week.

Almost 19,000 Indian-born people arrived in the year to August, up a third compared with the same period last year, according to new ABS data.

Only New Zealanders, who have unlimited access, arrived in greater numbers over the 12-month period.

While Australia has a record high migrant intake, the number of UK-born settlers fell from 15,790 in 2011-12 to 11,450 over the past year. The number of China-born migrants increased slightly to 18,240, an analysis of the Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia report reveals. There were 26,170 NZ-born settlers, down 4000 on the previous year.

Other significant settler groups included Filipinos (7270), Malaysians (3810), Vietnamese (3630) and Sri Lankans (3580). The figures do not include people on temporary visas, such as students and skilled workers on the 457 program.

A separate Immigration Department report said net overseas migration for Australia for 2012-13 was 237,000 up from 208,000 last year.

(Source: Sydney Morning Herald)

3) Education for 457 kids in WA

The families of 457 visa holders in Western Australia will have to pay fees to send their children to a Government school from 2015.

Premier Colin Barnett today confirmed that the measures requiring 457 visa holders, to contribute to the cost of the children's education at a State school - as outlined in the 2013-14 State Budget - would be applied from 2015 rather than 2014.

"This means that anyone who is already living here on a 457 visa or who has already lodged a visa application to come here soon will not have to pay unexpected fees for schooling next year," Mr Barnett said.

"But we are giving plenty of notice that the fees will apply from the year after next, giving people time to make the necessary arrangements to pay the fees."

The Premier said for 2015 a tuition fee of \$4,000 per annum (\$1,000 per term) would apply to a family's first child enrolled in the State education system and \$2,000 each for second and subsequent children from the same family.

Mr Barnett said there would also be provisions for hardship to take into account exceptional circumstances and to pay by instalments.

Department of Education figures show that there were 973 new enrolments of students on 457 visas last year and 521 new enrolments to date this year.

"On average it costs more than \$15,000 to educate a child in a Western Australian State Government school and following discussions with Education Minister Peter Collier and Treasurer Troy Buswell, we have concluded the Government has to introduce this measure to try to recoup some of the cost of educating these children from overseas," the Premier said.

"This decision reflects the pressure on the State's budget and the reality that WA taxpayers contribute to the cost of services such as education over a lifetime of paying taxes, rather than a period of just four years, as with 457 visa holders."

Mr Barnett said it was estimated that there were up to 4,000 457 students but from next year schools would be required to verify data on the visa status of students as part of the normal enrolment process to assess exactly how many children of 457 visa holders were in the system.

This would give a more precise picture of the likely income from this measure. It is estimated that the changed arrangements mean that less than half the projected income outlined in the Budget over the next four years would be gained.

The Premier said 457 visa holders in NSW and ACT paid higher fees than those proposed in WA but had access to some exemptions.

Temporary residents already have to pay for disability services and public hospital treatment because they do not qualify for Medicare benefits under Federal legislation.

“I am aware of the concerns expressed in some parts of the community on the impact that this measure may have on some families who are here on temporary work visas, particularly those on low incomes and in regional areas who have become a valued part of the community,” Mr Barnett said.

“We hope that by giving people notice of the measures and adopting a ‘family discount’, current 457 visa holders will have time to assess their options and future visa applicants will know what to expect when they come to WA.”

If 457 visa holders obtain permanent residency they will no longer be subject to the fees and become entitled to free public education.

Legislation will be drafted to change the School Education Act and Regulations to allow schools to charge fees.

Administration of the fee will be handled by Education and Training International, the State agency already responsible for international fee paying students attending WA Government schools and training colleges.

(Source: WA Government)

What a load of rubbish this is by the WA state government. Workers in WA on 457 visas pay taxes like everyone else and that is used for hospitals, police, education, infrastructure etc. They make a commitment to move away from their home country for in most cases just 1-4 years and then have to return to their home country and pick up their lives. They are also taxed at a higher rate than the average Australian given the tax bracket they are likely to be in. The average Australian in the same job on the same wage does NOT have to pay this extra educational fee for their children. So why does a 457 person who is helping us with our skills shortages ? Very shortsighted by the WA government, they have just gone after an easy non voting target. Hang your head in shame Barnett.

(Source: Iscah comments)

4) eMedical Procedures

DIAC's Chief Medical Officer has provided the following update on the roll-out.

Please note that there is some concern that some migration agents are not providing the correct advice to their clients about what is required for health checks.

The rollout of our eMedical system to Medibank Health Solutions (MHS) commenced mid July 2013 under a staged rollout arrangement. The reason for this was to ensure that MHS staff received the appropriate training and support as the rollout progressed, and that DIAC was in a position to support them. The rollout is now well underway with all clinics in NSW, ACT, Tasmania and Dandenong already online. As you noted, the clinics in Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Bibra Lake were eMedical enabled on Monday 2 September 2013. All remaining MHS clinics (these are Darwin, Brisbane, Southport and Townsville) are expected to be processing 100% of cases electronically by the end of September 2013. Clients can also see which MHS clinics are online via the MHS website.

In order for clients who wish to undertake their examinations onshore at an eMedical enabled MHS clinic must:

- provide a HAP ID (TRN or HRI) to enable their health case to be located within the eMedical system – they can obtain the HAP ID from their visa case officer when they are referred for their medicals; or, if they have not yet lodged their visa application, they are required to complete the My Health Declarations (MHD) form

and

- complete their medical history questions online by using the eMedical Client service. This also enables them to consent to using eMedical and download their eMedical referral letter (which contains their HAP ID). Online visa applicants and MHD clients will be automatically directed to this service; however if a paper visa application has been lodged, clients can independently access this service using their HAP ID at

It is important to note that if clients attend an eMedical enabled clinic without completing the two steps above, their appointment may be delayed or postponed until they are able to complete these steps as MHS will ONLY process in eMedical. MHS have provided computer service kiosks to enable the completion of these steps if clients have attended without completing these steps; however, some clients may not have all the required information with them in order to complete the steps at the time of the appointment. It is therefore important that clients are encouraged to complete these steps prior to attending the appointment with MHS. For this reason, MHS have commenced communications with clients which advise them that if they do not have their HAP (or alternative) ID at a minimum, they are not able to make an appointment.

I would like to request your assistance in ensuring this information is communicated across the industry, as our staff assisting MHS have reported that clients are often directed by agents to attend with paper forms, without any health identifier such as a HAP ID, whereas clients who are proceeding through the process without the assistance of an agent are often better informed.

Further information is available on DIAC's website at Arranging a Health Examination.

(Source: DIAC/MIA)

5) Results of the latest Skills Select Invitations

DIAC use the Skill Select process to invite those who have attained enough points in their EOI submission. These invitation rounds are twice monthly. The latest published figures (Sep 2nd 2013) show that invitations are being given to those who have attained at least 60 points in the 189 and 489 Independent categories.

Meanwhile another 6 Occupational Groups have nearly reached their quote for the program year. Even though the program year does not finish until 30/6/2014. As a results DIAC are rationing invitations for these particular groups over the next 9 months. As a result more than 60 points are needed as follows ...

Occupation ID	Description	Point score	Visa date of effect
2231	Chemical and Materials Engineers	75	75
2334	Electronics Engineers	65	65
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	75	75
2611	ICT Business and Systems Analysts	75	75
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	65	65
2633	Telecommunications Engineering Professionals	75	75

The last column indicates that only EOIs lodged BEFORE this date have so far received an invite.

(Source: DIAC)

6) Changes to the Victorian State Migration Plan

The Victorian State Government recently released details of their new 2013/2104 Migration Plan and Occupations in Demand. The following are the significant changes

1. The removal of occupations:

- Accountant (General)
- Carpenter
- Carpenter and Joiner
- External Auditor
- Joiner
- Plumber (General)
- Surveyor.

Applications in these occupations will continue to be accepted until 24 September 2013

2. The addition of occupations:

- Child Care Centre Manager
- Health Information Manager
- Metal Machinist (First Class)
- Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- Physicist (Medical Physicist Only)
- Primary School Teacher (with specialisation in languages).

3. There are also changes to the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) requirements and specialisations for other occupations.

(Source: Victorian State Government)

7) DIAC Processing Times

DIAC will no longer be publishing allocation dates by processing centre as we are using a number of strategies to manage the caseload more efficiently. Generally they are managing allocations via the following:

Priority 1: Decision Ready, complete applications in ANSCO 1 & 2 occupations (by date of lodgement)

Priority 2: All other Decision Ready applications (by date of lodgement)

Priority 3: ANSCO occupations 1 & 2 requiring further documentation (by date of lodgement)

Priority 4: All other applications by date of lodgement

GSM visas are available here

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/estimated-allocation-times.htm>

For other visa categories are available here

<http://www.immi.gov.au/about/charters/client-services-charter/standards/2.1.htm>

(Source: DIAC)

Okay that's it folks.
Hopefully by the time we talk again
in October , FreO are the talk of the town!

 Kind regards, Steven O'Neill

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