

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Monday 15th July 2013 | Edition 181

Hiya everyone...

Welcome to another jam packed edition of our monthly updates on all of Australia's visa changes.

The newsletter is published on the third Monday of each month and is free for anyone wanting to keep updated. If you want to be on the mailing list, have suggestions or wish to unsubscribe please drop a line to newsletter@iscah.com

Has been a big month for changing prime ministers, footy and immigration policy changes, in whatever order you want ...

We'll get cracking in a moment, but first of all...

check out our new super duper website finally up here: www.iscah.com

We will run newsfeeds on that page, as well as to our Facebook and Twitter links. Plus check out our useful Resources section, and if you are a company using our services make sure you contact us for your password to access our Corporate area which is full of useful tools for your visa processes.



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1) DIAC Pricing Estimator

DIAC have introduced significant additional charges for visa processing on 1st July 2103.

Details of the new prices are here

http://www.immi.gov.au/fees-charges/_pdf/visa-pricing-table.pdf

And as it is quite complicated to make sure you have included all of the possible 5 charges that make up your final fee (note this does not include the English language charge fee for some applicants and their family members) there is also a “Visa Pricing Estimator” here...
<http://www.immi.gov.au/find-price/>

As an example of the additional charges, a student with a wife and one child in Australia, who was granted a student extension in Australia, and now wishes to apply for a company sponsored 457 visa in Australia would be required to pay a DIAC fee of ...

\$900	457 Initial Fee
\$900	Additional applicant (spouse)
\$225	Additional applicant (child)
\$2100	Subsequent application charge

\$4125	Total Fee

Before the changes it used to be just \$350. Note this does not include fees for the company nomination and sponsorship.

(Source: DIAC)

2) Review of the WA Skilled Migration List

This is used by the WA state government for choosing whether to sponsor visa applicants for the 489 and 190 visas. They have released the following statement :

The Department of Training and Workforce Development is conducting a review of the Western Australian skilled migration occupation list. The following occupations are under review and will be 'not available' for State sponsorship from 1 July 2013.

ANZSCO 312112 Building associate
ANZSCO 139911 Arts administrator or... manager
ANZSCO 511111 Contract administrator
ANZSCO 323316 Watch and clock maker and repairer
ANZSCO 323412 Toolmaker
ANZSCO 234412 Geophysicist
ANZSCO 331112 Stonemason
ANZSCO 312911 Maintenance planner
ANZSCO 323299 Metal fitters and machinists not elsewhere classified
ANZSCO 234313 Environmental research scientist
ANZSCO 233411 Electronics engineer
ANZSCO 233112 Materials engineer
ANZSCO 399111 Boat builder and repairer
ANZSCO 399211 Chemical plant operator
ANZSCO 223311 Training and development professional
ANZSCO 139913 Laboratory manager
ANZSCO 232112 Landscape architect
ANZSCO 231215 Ship's surveyor
ANZSCO 234914 Physicist
ANZSCO 311411 Chemistry technician
ANZSCO 142114 Hair or beauty salon manager
ANZSCO 312512 Mechanical engineering technician
ANZSCO 234399 Environmental scientists not elsewhere classified
ANZSCO 321213 Motorcycle mechanic
ANZSCO 321214 Small engine mechanic
ANZSCO 323313 Locksmith
ANZSCO 323411 Engineering patternmaker
ANZSCO 324212 Vehicle trimmer
ANZSCO 333311 Roof tiler
ANZSCO 342212 Technical cable jointer
ANZSCO 392111 Print finisher
ANZSCO 392312 Small offset printer
ANZSCO 393212 Clothing patternmaker
ANZSCO 399112 Shipwright
ANZSCO 399512 Camera operator (film, television or video)
ANZSCO 399916 Plastics technician
ANZSCO 452413 Jockey
ANZSCO 323112 Aircraft maintenance engineer (mechanical)

Applications lodged before 1 July 2013 will not be affected.

It is anticipated the review will be completed on 1 October 2013 and the outcome will be published on the website.

(Source: WA State Government)

3) DIAC Passmark for the 489/190

DIAC invite visa applicants through their EOI system twice every month to lodge applications for the temporary 489 (family sponsored) and permanent 189 visas. For around the last 8 months the passmark required for an invitation has been the bare minimum of 60 points. However the latest round of invitations on the 1st July 2013 has seen applicants having to obtain at least 65 points for an invite.

We have looked at the numbers of occupations that were made unavailable leading up to the 30th June 2013 as their annual quota had been met, and the lodgement dates of those applications who have received invitations in this latest round. It is our strong view the only reason that invites were offered to applicants at 65 points and above, and not to those at 60 points, was the backlog of EOIs lodged in those occupations that had temporarily closed for several months. And these are now open again from 1st July 2013.

The logic being that many EOIs would have been lodged at 65, 70 and 75 points a few months ago and not being able to receive an invite because their occupations had closed. DIAC must invite these applicants FIRST and clear that backlog as those EOIs were lodged at an earlier date than a person lodging now at just 60 points. We expect that invites in the 15th July 2013 round will revert to 60 points again being good enough for the 190 visa. Whilst for the 489 visa it is likely to be either the 15th July round , or the August rounds where 60 points is again enough to receive a DIAC invite.

Please note the comment above is for independent and family points test migration. A state government sponsored 489 or 190 visa will as usual only ever require 60 points for an invite as that does not change under the current legislation.

(Source: Iscah comment)

4) States Sponsoring Migrants

Here is an interesting graph on which states were light/heavy users of DIACs state sponsored visa categories in the 2012/2013 program year.

Visa Subclass	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Skilled - Nominated (subclass 190) visa	664	2327	85	112	1406	28	1045	3400	9067
Skilled – Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) visa	0	306	111	13	336	36	6	437	1245
Business Innovation and Investment (subclass 188) visa	0	202	1	97	23	4	669	69	1061
Business Talent (Permanent) (subclass 132) visa	1	0	0	2	14	7	42	53	119
Total	665	2835	197	224	1779	75	1762	3959	11 492

5) DIAC Planning Levels for 2013/2014

Family Stream	
Partner	47 525
Child	3850
Other Family	585
Parent	8925
Total Family	60 885
Family as per cent of total program	32.0%
Skill Stream	
Employer Sponsored	47 250
RSMS (included above)	
Skilled Independent	44 990
States / Territory and Regional Nominated	28 850
Distinguished Talent	200
Business Innovation and Investment Program	7260
1 November Onshore	0
Total Skill	128 550
Skill as per cent of total program	67.7%
Total Special Eligibility	565
Total Program	190 000

(Source: DIAC)

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(Source: DIAC)

6) Changes to the Subclass 457 program

The purpose of the Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa program is to allow employers to fill short to medium term skill shortages by recruiting qualified workers from outside of Australia when they cannot find the same skilled workers locally.

Mid-way through 2012, the department identified that the subclass 457 program was growing at a record rate and that a significant component of this growth has been in industries and geographical regions that do not appear to be experiencing skills shortages. While most employers are using the subclass 457 appropriately, there is a concern that certain employers in some industries are sourcing their skilled labour needs outside of Australia without first checking the availability of labour locally. While not unlawful, these actions are not in line with the principles of the subclass 457 program.

A number of improvements to the subclass 457 program were introduced on 1 July 2013. These improvements help to ensure that the intent of the subclass 457 program respected by users of the program.

The reforms to the subclass 457 visa program improve the integrity of the program without adversely impacting on businesses who are using the program to fill genuine skill shortages. A summary of the changes to the Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa program is outlined below.

- require sponsors to meet certain training requirements for training Australian workers;
- introduce a 'genuineness test' to be conducted by departmental officers to ensure that the position associated with the nominated occupation is genuinely required to address skills shortages in Australia;
- require sponsors to justify the number of nominations required;
- require sponsors to provide overseas workers with at least the terms and conditions of employment given to an Australian worker performing the same work in the same geographic region;
- strengthen the English language requirements for Subclass 457 visas by requiring the Subclass 457 visa applicant to have vocational English, competent English, proficient English, concessional competent English or superior English, as applicable. These English language levels are defined in the Principal Regulations and set out certain standards that must be met to achieve the relevant English language level;
- clarify the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's ('the Department's') intention to require a sponsored person to work directly for the sponsor;
- clarify the Department's intention that, as a criteria for the grant of a Subclass 457 visa, the Subclass visa applicant must continue to be the subject of an approved nomination;
- strengthen the skills requirements for Subclass 457 visas by requiring the Subclass 457 visa applicant to have the skills, qualifications and employment background that the Minister considers necessary to perform the tasks of the nominated occupation;

- allow Subclass 457 visa application charges to be refunded if the application is withdrawn because there is no approved nomination;
 - clarify the Department's intention about the meaning of the term 'entity';
 - require Subclass 457 visa holders to meet the mandatory registration and licencing requirements for their occupation in the relevant State or Territory;
 - remove certain redundant provisions; and
 - strengthening the nomination requirements under the Permanent Employer Sponsored visa program;
 - all applications for standard business sponsorship, approval of nominations and Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled)) visas to be lodged electronically, regardless of the location of the business or visa applicant;
- s to be lodged electronically, regardless of the location of the business or visa applicant;

Full details are here :

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/changes-457-program.htm>

In addition there is the normal raising of certain threshold for 457 visa applicants. TSMIT rises to \$53,900. Market Salary rates not applying for annual earnings of greater than \$250,000 and the level of salary for English language exemption is now raised to \$96,400.

(Source: DIAC)

7) Clarifying the 457 English Language Change

This change was really to capture 457 Professional people who were able to avoid the English language requirements that all trades people have had to meet for the last few years. In essence now all applicants for a 457 visa irrespective of the occupation are affected as follows ..

If you lodged a 457 visa application before the 1st July 2013 and it was NOT approved before the 1st July 2013 then you will now need to meet one of the following

- Have completed 5 years consecutive schooling in english,
- IELTS marks of 5,5,5,5 at least (or OET equivalent)
- hold a country's national passport of Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom or the United States of America
- Have an annual base salary of \$96,400

In other words having applied BEFORE 1st July 2013 for your 457 visa does not assist you if the visa was also not APPROVED before 1st July 2013.

(Source: ISCAH comment)

8) 457 Paper applications if last day on visa

DIAC have introduced legislation to not allow a 457 hard copy application after 1st July 2013 unless ...

This will only be available where an applicant would become unlawful the day after attempting, but failing, to lodge an application.

The “different way” will be by sending an email with a provided form with written authorisation and the name and position number of the authorising officer to e457.Manual.Lodgement@immi.gov.au with a copy of the authorising email, before midnight (AEST or AEDST when applicable) on the day following the date on which the authorising email was sent by (the authorised officer of) the Department.

(Source: MIA and DIAC)

9) 457 Labour Market Testing

There have been some ordinary political games going on with the 457 visa in the last few months and one of the (eventual) results is the passing of legislation allowing DIAC to require labour market testing for 457 visa applications. In short this means that DIAC for most occupations can require a company to advertise to prove that no Australia was at first available to fill that position. I won't go into a discussion on this occasion about the lack of common sense of this when we have recognised skills shortages and the obvious extra cost of employing overseas labour. However it is interesting to point out that at present DIAC don't expect this legislation to be in effect for existing applications until around October 2013 at the earliest. DIAC can introduce the legislation into practice at any point in the next 6 months, if they don't it comes into effect anyhow 1 day after the six months period finishes. (unless of course a future government changes that legislation).

Fuller details of how this Labour Market Testing will be implemented is available at this link below. Especially pages 6-9;
<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2013A00122/f5a7af89-71f47c2-9613-89dbb4a3dc1d>

(Source: DIAC/Iscah comment)

10) Age limitations for Prospective Marriage visas

DIAC recently introduced the following changes for the subclass 300 Prospective Marriage Visa (also known as the Fiancé visa)

- increase the minimum age for applicants and sponsors of a Prospective Marriage visa to 18 years of age at the time of application. Previously, the Principal Regulations did not impose an explicit minimum age restriction on an applicant for a Prospective Marriage visa;
- remove the ability for a parent or guardian to sponsor an applicant for a Prospective Marriage visa on behalf of the prospective spouse who is under the age of 18;
- clarify that an applicant for a Prospective Marriage visa and a prospective spouse must have met since turning 18 and are known to each other personally in order for the applicant to be eligible for the grant of a Prospective Marriage visa; and
- remove the provision allowing a Prospective Marriage visa to be granted where either the applicant or prospective spouse is under 18, on the basis that an Australian court order has been granted authorising the marriage, or that the Minister is satisfied that the underage individual will turn 18 prior to the intended marriage;

(Source: DIAC)

11) Clarification of FIFO work for the 887 visa

We recently approached DIAC about the criteria for the permanent 887 visa. This is a visa that holders of provisional visas 475, 487, 489 among others are required to aim for in order to obtain a permanent visa. In particular we wanted to know if any time spent living in a non regional area (say Perth for example if initially state sponsored) can be counted for the two years residential requirement if it is the week(s) off as part of FIFO rotation.

In other words if someone is state sponsored on a 487 visa, works 4 weeks in Karratha and returns for 1 week in Perth continuously on a rotation basis, can that one week in Perth be deemed to be living in a regional area given it is just a short time out of the required remote regional areas.

DIAC have said , NO.

However they have also interesting said that although that one week in Perth cannot be counted for the 2 years living in a gazette regional area, they will NOT consider it a breach of their current 8539 visa conditions to only live in a regional area. Their rationale being ..

“.. Strictly speaking, these clients are in breach of visa condition 8539. However given the special nature of the FIFO employment arrangements and the fact that they have substantially complied with the visa condition it would be unreasonable to consider this a breach...”

(Source: DIAC)

12) Changes to the CSOL from 1st July 2013

You must nominate an occupation from the CSOL if you are nominated by a State or Territory Government, a direct entry stream Employer Nomination Scheme visa, a Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) or a Training and Research Visa (Subclass 402)

The following changes have been applied to the CSOL:

New occupations based upon the ANZSCO Review

ANZSCO Code	Occupation
133612	Procurement Manager
251112	Nutritionist
271214	Intellectual Property Lawyer
272414	Archaeologist
311415	Hydrographer
361115	Kennel Hand
254425	Registered Nurse (Paediatric)

Occupation removed from the CSOL following the ANZSCO Review

234512	Anatomist or Physiologist
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Occupations removed from the SOL but continue to be listed in the CSOL

ANZSCO Code	Occupation
251511	Hospital Pharmacist
251513	Retail Pharmacist
323111	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Avionics)
323112	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Mechanical)
323113	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Structures)

Source: (DIAC)

13) Application of the Fraud Public Interest Criterion 4020 across all Family Stream visas

From 1 July 2013 all applicants for a Family Stream visa must satisfy the Fraud Public Interest Criterion (PIC) 4020. The Fraud PIC 4020 applies to all new applications and applications lodged before 1 July 2013 which have not yet been finalised. This includes decisions currently under review.

For visa applicants

Your application may be refused if it includes bogus documents or information that is false or misleading. This includes information given by you, a member of your family or a third party acting on your behalf. You and your family may also be subject to a three year bar which might prevent the grant of certain other visas.

Transitional Arrangements

If you have lodged an application for a visa listed below, your application will be subject to an assessment under the Fraud PIC 4020.

The Fraud PIC 4020 applies to applications lodged prior to 1 July 2013 which have not yet been finalised. This includes applications currently under review.

Affected visa subclasses

The affected visa subclasses are as follows:

Subclass	Type of visa	Visa title
100	Family	Partner (Migrant)
101	Family	Child (Migrant)
102	Family	Adoption (Migrant)
103	Family	Parent (Migrant)
110 **	Family	Interdependency (Migrant)
114	Family	Aged Dependent Relative (Migrant)
115	Family	Remaining Relative (Migrant)
116	Family	Carer (Migrant)
117	Family	Orphan Relative (Migrant)
143	Family	Contributory Parent (Migrant)
173	Family	Contributory Parent (Temporary)

Subclass	Type of visa	Visa title
300	Family	Prospective Marriage (Temporary)
309	Family	Partner (Provisional)
445	Family	Dependent Child (Temporary)
461	Family	New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary)
801	Family	Partner (Residence)
802	Family	Child (Residence)
804	Family	Aged Parent (Residence)
814 **	Family	Interdependency (Residence)
820	Family	Partner (Temporary)
835	Family	Remaining Relative (Residence)
836	Family	Carer (Residence)
837	Family	Orphan Relative (Residence)
838	Family	Aged Dependent Relative (Residence)
864	Family	Contributory Aged Parent (Residence)
884	Family	Contributory Aged Parent (Temporary)

Note: ** Closed to new applications from 01/07/2009.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Fraud PIC 4020?

The Fraud PIC 4020 has been applied to all Family Stream visas to minimise the level of fraud present in visa applications by providing a strong disincentive to those considering submitting false or misleading information in relation to an application (including review). The Fraud PIC 4020 strengthens the department's ability to refuse to grant a visa where applicants have provided any false or misleading information.

How does the department assess an application against the Fraud PIC 4020?

The Fraud PIC 4020 is comprised of three primary questions:

- a. Have you provided bogus documents or information that is false or misleading during the course of the current application?
- b. Have you previously provided bogus documents or information that is false or misleading in relation to a visa that you held in the 12 months before current application was made?
- c. Have you had a visa refused for failing to meet the Fraud PIC 4020 in the three year period immediately before both time of application and decision?

For visa subclasses that are subject to the Fraud PIC 4020, these criteria allow the department to lawfully assess whether your application contains bogus documents or information that is false or misleading.

If the department suspects an application contains fraudulent information, will I be provided with the opportunity to comment on my application?

Yes. Where we suspect an application contains fraudulent information, we are required by law to seek your comments regarding issues concerning the genuineness of this information. This invitation also provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate compelling and/or compassionate reasons as to why the visa should be granted. You will be provided with 28 days to reply. Failure to do so will likely result in your application being refused.

What are considered to be compelling and/or compassionate circumstances?

Compelling and/or compassionate circumstances are limited to either of the following:

- compelling circumstances that affect the interests of Australia
- compelling or compassionate circumstances that affect the interests of an Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident or an eligible New Zealand citizen.

Where you fail to demonstrate that you meet one of the above criteria, your application may be subject to refusal.

What action can the department take if bogus documents or information that is false or misleading is found in a visa application subject to assessment against the Fraud PIC 4020?

Where you are found to have supplied bogus documents or provided information that is false or misleading to the department, your application may be refused. You may also be subject to a three year bar which may prevent the grant of a further visa.

Note: The three year bar applies only to visas that are subject to assessment against the Fraud PIC 4020.

Where an application is refused against the Fraud PIC 4020, are migrating family members included in the application also subject to a three year bar?

Yes. The Fraud PIC 4020 is a 'one fails, all fail' criterion. This means that where an application is refused against the Fraud PIC 4020, all persons included in that application will be refused. This also includes dependent (secondary) applicants who were under 18 years of age at time of application.

Note: If the dependent applicant is now 18 years of age or older, they can lodge a new application. However, they will need to provide evidence to the department demonstrating compelling and/or compassionate reasons detailing why we should waive the bar and consider the grant of a visa application.

What about non-migrating family members that were listed in the refused application, will any future application they make be affected by the refusal of this visa?

No. As the non-migrating family member did not make a combined application with you, any future visa application they want to lodge where the Fraud PIC 4020 is an assessable criterion, is permissible.

Case Scenario – Operation of the 3 year bar

Applicant A has lodged an application with Applicant B. Applicant A and/or Applicant B has provided fraudulent information, and the application is refused on 06/07/2012.

One year later, Applicant B lodges a new application as the primary applicant, with Applicant C as the secondary applicant. As Applicant B is still subject to a three year bar due to their previous refusal (on the grounds of the provision of fraudulent information), all included applicants are refused (the PIC 4020 is 'one fails, all fail').

Applicant B continues to be subject to the bar until 06/07/2015.

Applicant C is not subject to a bar.

This is because the bar is only imposed when an application is refused due to the provision of fraudulent information, not based on previous refusals due to applications during a bar period (this also prevents the bar period from being reset every time they lodge an application prior to the expiry of the bar period).

Will review rights be afforded where an application has been refused against the Fraud PIC 4020?

Yes. For applications lodged in Australia, you can apply for review where review rights currently exist. Applications lodged outside Australia, will not have access to review rights, unless the sponsor applies for review on the applicant's behalf. Where an application is refused, a decision record will be provided to you with information regarding your review rights.

(Source: DIAC)

14) New Process for WA State Nominations

The State sponsorship process has changed and Skilled Migration Western Australia at the Department of Training and Workforce Development will no longer accept direct applications for State sponsorship from 1 July 2013.

Eligible applicants will be invited to apply through the Department of Immigration and Citizenship SkillSelect system. This will be referred to as State nomination.

The new process is as follows:

- 1 Submit an expression of interest to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship through the SkillSelect database.
- 2 The Department of Training and Workforce Development selects applicants from SkillSelect and offers an invitation to apply for State nomination.
- 3 If invited to apply, you will be given a unique identifier to submit an application to the Department of Training and Workforce Development.

To be considered for State nomination you must meet the current 2012-13 criteria for State sponsorship which is available on the How to apply for State nomination page.

It is anticipated that a new criteria will be implemented on 1 October 2013 for State nominations along with a new Western Australian skilled migration occupation list.

(Source: WA State Government)

15) New health insurance requirements for the Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485)

On 23 March 2013, the Skilled - Graduate (Subclass 485) visa was renamed the Temporary Graduate visa (Subclass 485) and amended to include new post-study work arrangements. Amendments to the visa included new health insurance requirements for Temporary Graduate visa (Subclass 485) applicants.

Applicants must now provide evidence that they have adequate health insurance arrangements in Australia at the time the application is lodged. The health insurance arrangements must commence before the applicant has lodged their application and must remain in effect for the duration of their stay in Australia on the Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485).

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is acceptable for the purposes of applying for a Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) if the applicant is still on a Student visa at the time the application is lodged.

(Source: DIAC)

16) Security Clearances

DIAC for nationals of a number of countries initiate what are known as security checks. Generally to make a sure a person has not engaged in, or likely to engage in behavior detrimental to Australia's well being. Although general DIAC protocol is for them to be referred to as "internal checks". These checks can often take 12, 15, 24 months which is incredibly frustrating for a visa applicant waiting patiently for their visa status to be sorted in Australia.

We have recently become aware of a government department, the "Inspector General of Intelligence and Security" who can be contacted to complain when the **period of time for such checks take too long**. We have been advised that such an enquiry should only be made if the processing of a visa application has already taken **MORE THAN 12 months**. Note this is only for the security check part of your application, it cannot be used to speed up any other part of DIAC's visa assessment process. The website is www.igis.gov.au
We are currently enquiring on behalf of around 10 of our clients who are so affected.

17) DIAC update on the eMedical process

The following letter has been provided by DIAC..

I wanted to provide you with some additional information regarding the immigration health system changes that are proceeding this weekend, and some related changes in process that will take place over the next couple of months as some of you would already be aware.

eMedical rollout update

- The main phase of the eMedical offshore rollout has now finished with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) reaching its target of **100 countries online**.
- With eMedical now available in all previous eHealth locations, no new health cases will be processed in eHealth from 30 June onwards – only existing cases (e.g. deferred cases) will be finalised in the eHealth system.

Reminder about key health system changes for 1 July 2013

- The rollout of eMedical in Australia progressively to all Medibank Health Solutions (MHS) clinics from 15 July to September/October as per timetable below:
 - o 15 July – Canberra
 - 22 July – Parramatta
 - 5 August – Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle
 - 26 August – Melbourne, Dandenong, Hobart
 - 2 September – Perth, Adelaide, Bibra Lake
 - 9 September – Southport, Gateway, Townsville, Darwin
 - 16 September – Brisbane
- The introduction of eMedical processing for "front end loaded" cases via our new My Health Declarations service for clients and agents;
- Clients who lodged a paper visa application can log on to the new eMedical Client service before attending their medical appointment;
- Clients will be asked to declare any health examinations completed in the past 12 months to avoid online applicants being asked to complete health unnecessarily.
- The "HAP ID" to be the sole identifier to be used to access health cases in eMedical (i.e. instead of TRN/HAP ID/HRI, with TRN and HRI to be used for transitional cases only from 1 July 2013).

What are the important things that I need to remember?

- Clients who need to undertake immigration health examinations in Australia or in a country where 100% electronic health processing arrangements (see list below) already apply from 1 July 2013 onwards will not be able to "front end load" without completing My Health Declarations .Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Macau, Macedonia, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam
- Clients who have lodged a paper visa application must use the new eMedical client service before they attend a MHS clinic and complete their medical history online/consent to using the eMedical system.

Where can I get more information about these changes?

The DIAC website will have information available for clients and agents from 1 July 2013.
See:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/health-requirements/arranging-health-exam.htm>
(existing page to be updated on 1 July 2013)

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/health-requirements/my-health-declarations.htm> (new page to go live on 1 July 2013)

(Source: DIAC/MARA)

18) Family Visa Queue

The Other Family category of visas includes Carer, Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visas.

The Australian Government has reduced the number of places available under the Other Family category from 1285 in the 2012-13 financial year to 585 in the 2013-14 financial year.

Most of the 585 Other Family visa places will be allocated to the Carer visa category with fewer places allocated to the Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visa categories. This reflects the priority that is given to the Carer visa by the Australian Government.

The department cannot predict processing times for Other Family category visas in future program years. Waiting times for applicants with queued applications or applications that have not yet been assessed may vary due to a number of factors including:

- changes in planning levels
- number of visa lodgements, withdrawals and refusals
- Migration Review Tribunal remits
- Ministerial Intervention cases.

(Source: DIAC)

19) 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)

Phew, I need a beer after all that !!
Stay well and next newsletter is on Monday
19th August 2013, and don't forget to check
out our new webpage at www.iscah.com

 **Kind regards, Steven O'Neill**

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