

Submitter information

Please provide your name and phone number, and preferred email address for contact if it is different from the one used to send this form:

s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(a)

In what capacity are you providing feedback?

e.g. on behalf of: your company, the company you work for, an industry organisation, a union, a licensed immigration adviser etc.

On behalf of Migrant Workers Association of Aotearoa.

A voluntary organisation working alongside trade unions to support migrant workers.

If you are representing a company or group, what is the name of that group?

Migrant Workers Association of Aotearoa

What industry or industries does that group work in?

Across all industries that migrant workers are employed in.

In your company or industry, what are the most common occupations for migrant workers?

Migrant Workers Association of Aotearoa has supported migrant workers from many industries but an overwhelming majority of cases has been associated with part time migrant workers on student visas. There has also been a significant number of migrant workers on post-study open work visa. In most cases the occupations have been fast food crew members, kitchen hands, waiting staff, cleaners, construction workers, farm labourers, truck drivers, hospitality workers, door to door salespersons, retail assistants and retail managers.

What visa categories are commonly used by those workers?

I.e. resident visa, Essential Skills work visa, Work-to-Residence work visa (under the Talent or Long Term Skill Shortage List categories), Post-Study work visa (open or employer assisted), open work visa.

Student visa, post-study work visa (both), essential skills work visa

To MBIE

For the purpose of submissions for the consultation process for proposed changes to the Essential Skills visa policy.

Migrant Workers Association of Aotearoa fully supports appropriate migration into New Zealand. By appropriate we mean:-

- 1) the skill set of a migrant worker in New Zealand must be suitable for employer needs in New Zealand
- 2) Our cities and towns must have the infrastructure to manage the growth in population comfortably and humanely

- 3) All migrant workers in New Zealand must have access to same employment rights and responsibilities as permanent residents and citizens of New Zealand

There is a very large and significant population of migrants already here on temporary visas. They are a valuable part of our economy and the country will be in a crisis without them. They contribute through international student fees, income tax, GST etc. and yet cannot access the benefits available to the rest of New Zealand population through publically funded systems such as health, education, social welfare etc.

Under the new proposals majority of these migrant workers will be forced to leave New Zealand. Their investment into our country cannot be overlooked.

We request you to make changes to the Essential Skills visa policy as directed by the employers and workers requirements.

We also refer you to 4000 dairy workers in South Island who have been granted an exception whereby if they stay in the same industry and region for a time period, they will be eligible for permanent residence. This exception must be extended to all temporary visa holding migrant workers already in New Zealand. The dedication, commitment, hard work and belonging in the community of migrant workers all over New Zealand is like the 4000 in South Island.

Thank you

9(2)(a)

Migrant Workers Association of Aotearoa

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