

President:



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

20th May 2017

Hon Mr. Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Mr. Woodhouse

Submission on propose changes to Immigration Policy

Background Information

The Association has been in existence since 1926. It has 17 affiliated branch associations throughout New Zealand. Our main object is to look after the interests of the Indian community in the country. One of the areas of concern to the Association has been and continues to be the Immigration policy.

We have been active in making submissions from time to time to the Government on areas of concern to our community, for which an Immigration committee is elected annually. The committee endeavors to keep the affiliated branches informed on developments on immigration matters.

The current committee members are:

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

We look forward to your favorable consideration on the issues that we have identified

Yours sincerely

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

President- NZICA

Encl: Submission

Proposal 1

What impacts or implications do you foresee from defining lower – mid and higher skilled Essential Skills Migrants in this way and why?

Where possible provide information about the impact on specific occupations or sectors.

Remuneration will not always reflect skill level, although it clearly should. Likewise, skill level is not always reflected in remuneration, that is why we have highly skilled people doing lower paying jobs that put them in the lower skilled category. e.g. Drs, and well qualified migrants driving taxis in Metropolitan Auckland.

There should be a measure of skills by skills testing. Skills testing should be set by the industry moderator.

Unemployed New Zealander's are unable to fill these low paying jobs as many do not have basics skills like driver's license, commitment to work. Recently a truck driving firm noted that their high turnover of staff was due to employing younger employees who did not have a commitment to work.

Many Indian who are here on skilled Migrant category Indians are employed in the hospitality industry these jobs are often long hours and low paid. These are not attractive to unemployed New Zealander's.

To set down the median income of \$48,859 for jobs currently considered skilled I would rather suggest the threshold to be taken further to **\$58,600** but gives a proper sense if it is from **a family rather than an applicant**. These are the following reasons:

Attracting more families rather than just individuals mitigates the issue that employers often experience with training migrants who then quickly move onto other jobs/countries. The employer ends up wasting time and resourcing and must recruit new staff. Whereas individuals who come with families are less likely to 'job hop' because of their need to provide a stable income for their households.

Proposal 2

What impacts or implications do you foresee from the proposed maximum duration of three years for lower skilled Essential visa holders? And why?

This will put stress on Restaurant owners, the short turnaround for employment means that the employers are always training new staff and not retaining trained staff.

Perhaps the initial time frame period of three years be extended to five years if the applicant has been in paid employment throughout the entire 3-year period. This additional 2 years may be offered as a 'right of renewal', to allow the visa up to a maximum of 5 years. The timeframe should not exceed the maximum of 5 years to which the concerned applicant/s should leave the country before the visa expires.