



Weekly Report to the Minister of Immigration and Associate Minister of Immigration

For the period from 21 June to 27 June 2023

Date:	28 June 2023	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	IN CONFIDENCE	Tracking number:	2223-2409

Ministers	Action sought
Hon Andrew Little Minister of Immigration	Discuss at the next immigration portfolio meeting
Hon Rachel Brooking Associate Minister of Immigration	For information

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)		
Name	Position	Telephone
Stephen Vaughan	Chief Operating Officer Immigration	Privacy of natural persons
Alison McDonald	Deputy Secretary Immigration	Privacy of natural persons
Jivan Grewal	General Manager Employment, Skills and Immigration Policy	Privacy of natural persons

Privacy of natural persons



Stephen Vaughan
Chief Operating Officer Immigration
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

This page contain information unrelated to the review of AEWV and therefore have been marked out of scope.

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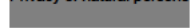


3. OPERATIONAL UPDATES


3.1 INZ operational priorities

Stephen Vaughan
Chief Operating Officer

Privacy of natural persons



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Accredited Employer Work Visa

INZ aims to decide straightforward Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) applications in 20 weekdays. In May 2023, 69 per cent of applications were decided in 20 weekdays (a seven per cent increase compared to the month of April), the average processing time was 13 weekdays, and 90 per cent were completed in 57 weekdays. Processing timeliness has steadily improved since border reopened.

As at 10 pm on 27 June 2023, there were 7,268 AEWV applications in progress. The average age of these applications is 17 weekdays. Approximately 54 per cent of in progress applications have been submitted since 1 June 2023.

At the time of the opening of the AEWV, INZ saw the convergence of a new technology platform, new policy and processes, new staff and an adjustment to a new 'employer led' work visa approach, which requires different behaviours from employers. INZ sought to take a facilitative 'education over enforcement' approach to smooth the transition into the new policy. As a result, INZ put in place pragmatic solutions in the form of general instructions to ensure the job check and work visa gateways of the AEWV were as streamlined as possible while the policy was bedded in. This was judged necessary to ensure that INZ could meet its processing times. The general instructions are currently being reviewed, with a decision to be made on their extension by 30 June 2023.

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4. MEDIA UPDATE AND UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

4.1 INZ Communications and Engagement

Marc Piercey

Manager

Communications and Engagement INZ

Privacy of natural persons

Last week, INZ sent the Minister communications plans on implementation of the upcoming changes to the New Zealand and United Kingdom Working Holiday Scheme, as well as the latest local council additions to the Welcoming Communities resettlement programme.

Media:

There were several follow-up questions on the changes to the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC).

A continuing focus on the extent of fraud with the AEWV remains high. The General Manager of INZ's Verification and Compliance branch gave interviews to *Newshub* and *Stuff*. INZ also received a query about a scam involving individuals from Latin and South America who have paid for visas and non-existent job offers.

There was a question about an individual from Tonga who has overstayed on their expired visa and who is the caregiver for her blind husband. INZ also received a query about the policy on granting exceptions to people with severe medical conditions who want to come to New Zealand.

There was a question about the decline rates for Indian student visa applications.

4.2 Events and Meetings for the Minister of Immigration

To be discussed with the Ministers office.

This page and the following 10 pages contain information unrelated to the review of AEWV and therefore have been marked out of scope.