



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

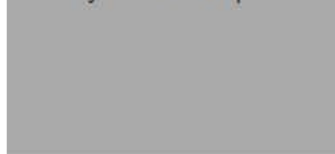
For the period from 28 June to 4 July 2023

Date:	5 July 2023	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	IN CONFIDENCE	Tracking number:	2223-4464

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

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3. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

3.1 INZ operational priorities

Stephen Vaughan
Chief Operating Officer, Immigration

Privacy of natural persons

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Accredited Employer Work Visa

In the past month, 71 per cent of AEWV applications were decided within 20 weeks days, the average processing time was 13 weekdays, and 90 per cent were decided in 48 weekdays. Processing timeliness for AEWV has been steadily improving since the category opened. This continues with a two percent increase of applications decided within 20 weekdays and a nine

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day decrease in the time take to process 90 per cent of applications compared to the month of May.

As at 10 pm on 3 July 2023, there were 7,075 AEWV applications in progress. The average age of these applications is 16 weekdays. Approximately 58 per cent of in progress applications have been submitted since 1 June 2023

The general instruction in place for job check and work visa has been extended until 30 November 2023 with several additional checks of information provided by applicants introduced. The general instruction will be reviewed again before any further extension is made.

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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

During the past week, INZ sent the Minister communication plans on the 2021 Resident Visa medical refunds, Welcoming Communities next rollout, and MBIE's communications plan for the release of the independent report into out of hours compliance visits.

INZ also provided a Press Release on the 2021 Resident Visa 95 per cent milestone and the net addition of 6,000 health roles to New Zealand via various visa pathways.

INZ continues to see a steady flow of media queries come through, with a particular focus this past week on INZ's ongoing AEWV and Recovery Visa fraud investigations, in particular from Radio New Zealand (RNZ).

INZ has also seen an increase in individual media queries, including some on a couple in Woodend who are facing deportation after their visa applications were declined.

INZ also received a query from Newshub regarding Australian political commentator Avi Yemini after he was subsequently granted a visa after being denied boarding to New Zealand in August 2022, and a query from RNZ regarding implementing recommendations from the Victoria Casey KC report, specifically on asylum seeker detention.

In addition, INZ received a number of queries regarding the SMC, Straight to Residence pathway, and general visa processing timeframes.

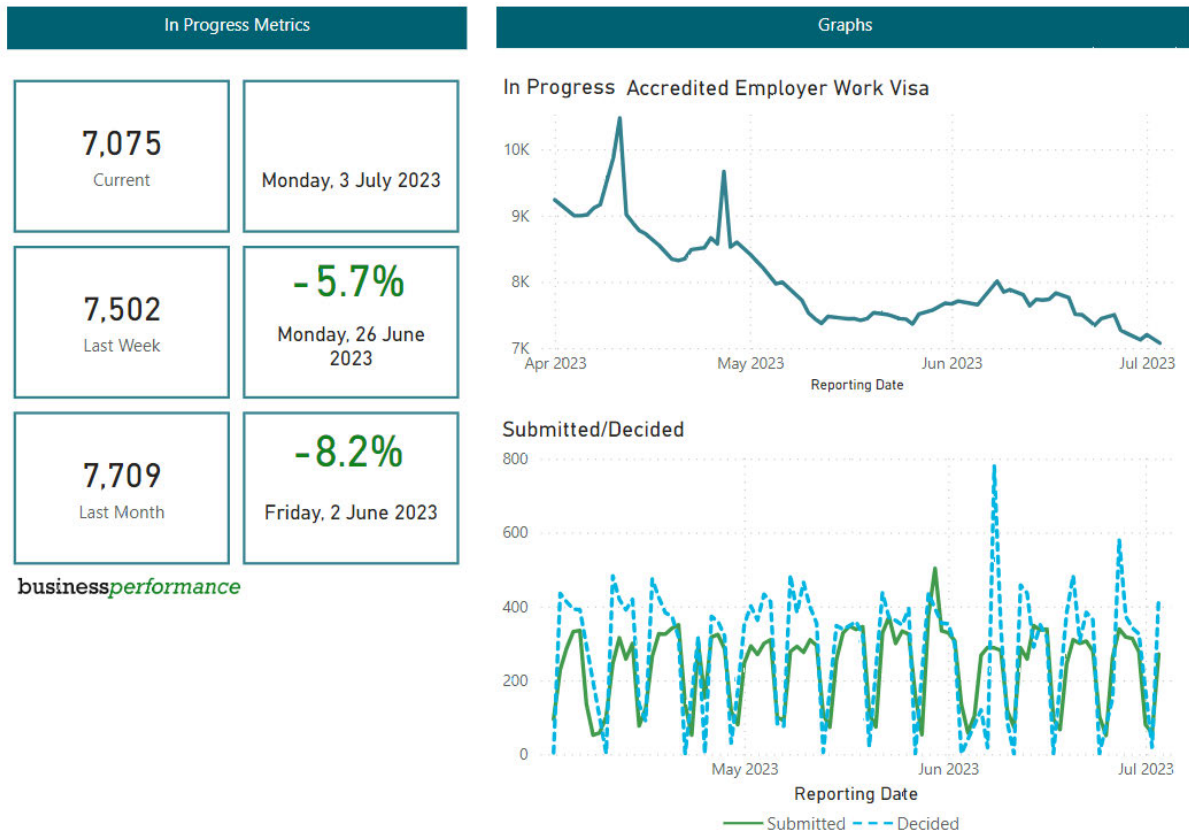
4.2 Events and Meetings for the Minister of Immigration

No events and meetings.

This page and the following 5 pages contain information unrelated to the review of AEWV and therefore have been marked out of scope.

Accredited Employer Work Visa

As at 3 July 2023:



Volumes of applications in progress reduced compared with last week.

In the past month, 71 per cent of AEWV applications were decided within 20 weeks days.

In the past month, the average processing time for AEWV applications was 13 weekdays.

The general instruction in place for job check and work visa has been extended until 30 November 2023 with several additional checks of information provided by applicants introduced.

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