



## Sanctions against Fiji

Since the coup in December 2006, New Zealand has imposed a number of sanctions against Fiji. This leaflet explains what these sanctions are.

### ***Travel ban***

New Zealand has enforced a travel ban on certain people, which means that they will not be issued visas to travel to, or transit through, New Zealand or granted permits to be in New Zealand. If a person who is subject to the ban already has a multiple entry visa for New Zealand, they will not be granted a permit on the basis of their visa.

The ban covers the following people:

- i all Republic of Fiji Military Force (RFMF) personnel, including members of the territorial force,
- ii people associated with supporting the coup who are named on the list approved by the Minister of Immigration, and held by Immigration New Zealand ('the banned list'),
- iii close associates of the people described in (ii) above who are named on the banned list,
- iv people who are permanent secretaries of Fijian government departments,
- v people who have been appointed by the interim Fiji government to boards of statutory authorities and public enterprises who are named on the banned list, and
- vi immediate family members of those described in **(i)**, **(ii)**, **(iv)** and **(v)** above. Immediate family members are partners, children and children's partners.

The bans on RFMF personnel, permanent secretaries of Fijian government departments and their immediate family members are class bans. This means that people are covered by the ban simply by virtue of being a member of the RFMF, or a permanent secretary, or an immediate family member of the groups described in (i), (ii), (iv) and (v) above. These people are not necessarily named on a list.

If you are a member of the interim Fiji government or have accepted an appointment to an office or a board by the interim government, you may be on the list. If you are unsure whether you are on it or not, you should contact Immigration New Zealand in Suva and ask.

### ***Freeze on Fijian participation in Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) policy***

Earlier this year Immigration New Zealand began a new Recognised Seasonal Employer policy. Fiji was to be part of the scheme, however because of the December 2006 coup Fiji has been excluded from the list of eligible Pacific countries, and employers are unable to source seasonal labour from there.

## ***Suspension of Fiji's eligibility under the Pacific Access Category (PAC)***

Fijian citizens cannot currently register for PAC. If you have already been selected in a previous PAC ballot, you may continue with your residence application.

## ***Decline of visa and permit applications from Fijians for work of a temporary seasonal nature***

No new visa or permit applications can be approved for Fijians seeking to enter New Zealand to take up work of a temporary seasonal nature. This includes work in the horticulture and viticulture industries, in the hospitality industry and on ski fields.

## ***Ban on sporting contacts***

There is also currently a ban on the issuing of visas (including transit visas) and permits to Fijians seeking to come to New Zealand for the purpose of sporting contacts, or to transit New Zealand on their way to or from a third country where they are travelling for the purpose of sporting contacts.

The ban applies to sportspeople (including players who are competing or training, sports administrators, coaches and other associated personnel) representing Fiji or Fijian national and/or Fijian club teams at all levels. However, such people are not subject to the ban if they will be participating in a regional or international tournament which requires travel to New Zealand and the New Zealand host sporting body does not have control over the selection of the participants. The ban does not apply to professional sportspeople playing as individuals.

## ***Supplementary form***

All visa or permit applicants who are citizens of Fiji are required to complete a supplementary information form as part of their application. The form asks applicants a number of questions to help Immigration New Zealand decide whether the person is subject to any of the bans. If a person answers 'yes' to any of the questions, they need to give more details in the box provided.

It is important to understand that if a person makes a false or misleading statement their application may be declined. If a visa or permit has already been approved, then it may be revoked. In addition, where a person makes a false or misleading statement they may be committing an offence, and they may be liable for prosecution. Finally, providing false or misleading information may have consequences for any further applications and may lead to a person not being able to enter New Zealand in the future.

## ***Important note***

Because of the extra information which must be submitted and checked with any applications from Fijian citizens, it is important that you lodge your application as early as you can.