

Immigration New Zealand Queenstown Branch Update #7

15 February 2011

Greetings,

This edition includes the following information:

1. The Queenstown Team
2. Processing Timeframes
3. Immigration Act 2009
4. VisaView
5. Interim Visas
6. Current Work and Income Advice
7. Information Sessions

We trust that this update will provide you with useful information to support you in the context of the work we do. Previous editions of this update can be found on our branch webpage:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/branch/QueenstownBranchHome>

If there is any particular information you would like included in the next edition, please email:

louise.stewart@dol.govt.nz

Regards,

The Queenstown Team

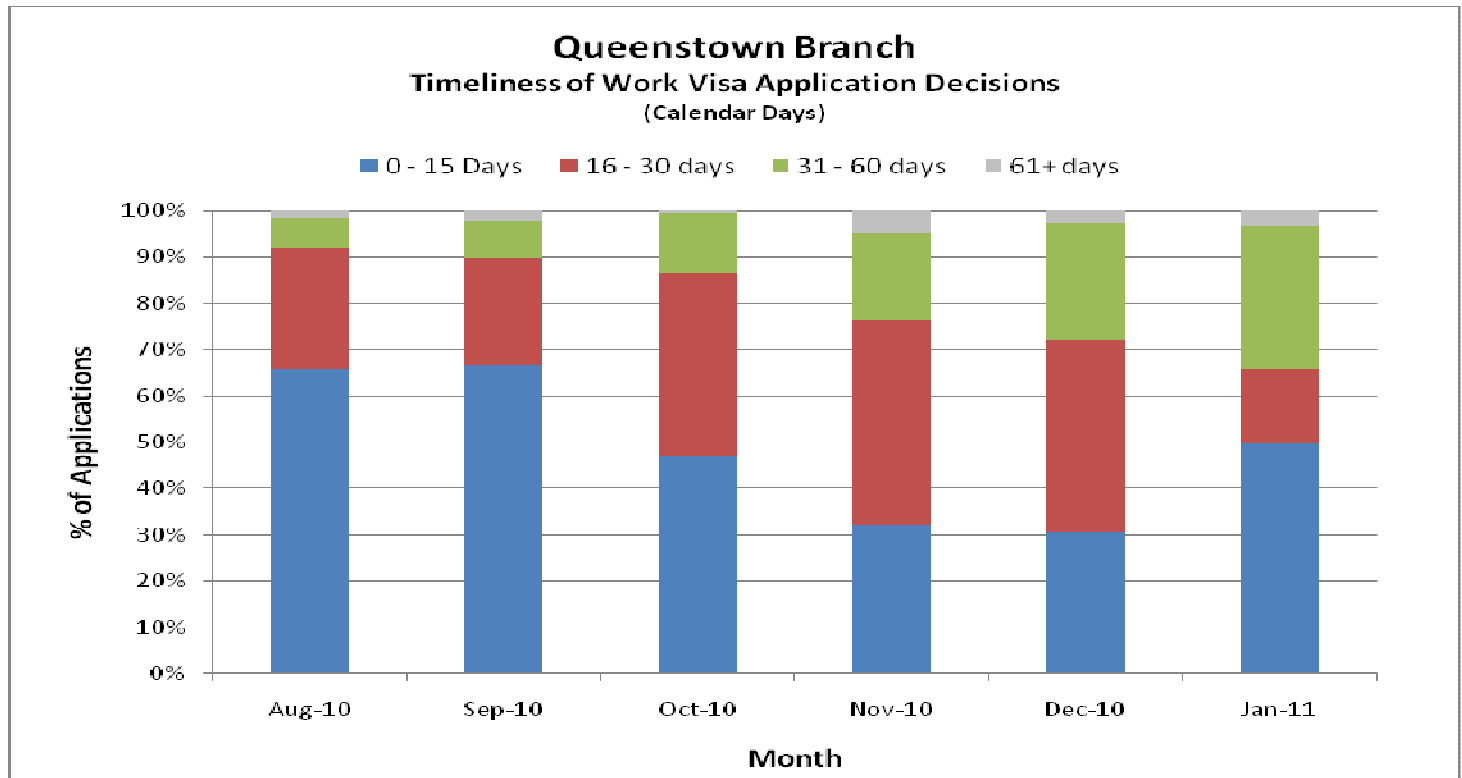
1. The Queenstown Team

We are pleased to have welcomed two new staff members to our team. **Kay Isarangkool** joined us in December in the newly created role of Technical Advisor. Kay has relocated from our Wellington branch and has also worked in our Auckland, Taipei and New Delhi offices. **Martin Guich** joined us in January, as our dedicated reception officer, covering Anna's period of maternity leave.

Louise Stewart	Branch Manager	louise.stewart@dol.govt.nz
Kay Isarangkool	Technical Advisor	kay.isarangkool@dol.govt.nz
Dave Herring	Immigration Officer	david.herring@dol.govt.nz
Steve Hutt	Immigration Officer	steven.hutt@dol.govt.nz
Martin Guich	Immigration Officer	martin.guich@dol.govt.nz
Anna Stewart	Immigration Officer	(Maternity Leave)

2. Processing Timeframes

The following graph depicts our timeliness achievements for the past six months:



We thank our customers for their patience where delays have been experienced, particularly leading into the implementation of the Immigration Act 2009 and the Christmas and New Year break.

We are currently deciding/assessing applications within two weeks of being received; however continue to encourage the submission of applications at least 30 days before visa expiry.

To maximise the timely processing of applications, the submission of full and accurate documentation is required.

Customers and employers are reminded to ensure they provide the required documentation to support visa applications. Common omissions leading to delays include:

- For All Applications

- Complete medical certificates (including test result print outs from GP)
- Police certificates (required every 24 months)

- For Essential Skills Applications

- Fully completed Employer Supplementary Form
- Documentation to support declarations made in Employer Supplementary Form
- Qualifications relevant to position offered
- Experience (references) relevant to the position offered

- For Family (Partnership or Partner of a Worker) Applications

- Significant dated, documented evidence to establish living together in a genuine and stable relationship

If your application includes full and accurate documentation and there are no processing impediments arising (e.g. health referrals or labour market testing), we aim to achieve the following timeliness standards:

- Work visas – 15 days
- Visitor visas – 15 days
- Student visas – 15 days
- Resident visas (VOC) and permanent resident visas (formerly RRV) – 10 days

3. Immigration Act 2009

The Immigration Act 2009, effective from 29 November 2010, modernises New Zealand's immigration laws. Some key changes are:

- Terminology changes

The new Act uses the single term 'visa' for authority to travel to and stay in New Zealand. The terms 'permit' and 'exemption' are no longer used.

Immigration 'policy' is now known as immigration 'instructions'. This more clearly distinguishes the difference between high-level government policy and the criteria for determining immigration applications ('instructions').

- Employer obligations

The 2009 Act narrows the 'reasonable excuse' defence for employing a foreign national not entitled to work in New Zealand. Employers therefore need to check an individual's work entitlement more carefully than previously.

- Interim visas

The 2009 Act introduces a new 'interim visa'. These may be granted if a foreign national who holds a current temporary visa has applied for a further temporary visa. This maintains the individual's lawful status in New Zealand while his or her application is being considered.

A full summary of changes may be found at:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/AA311B8C-5283-4E61-B0FE-1BEB0615BBF3/0/Summary.pdf>

4. VisaView

This service allows New Zealand employers to check whether a person who is not a New Zealand citizen can work in New Zealand for that employer.

It also enables registered employers to confirm New Zealand passport information provided by the jobseeker, and therefore confirm New Zealand citizenship and entitlement to work in any job.

Please refer to our website for further information:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/community/stream/visaview/>

5. Interim Visas

The 'interim visa' system came into effect on 7 February 2011 to help overseas students, workers and visitors who wish to extend their stay in New Zealand.

Interim visas may be granted to maintain a person's lawful status in New Zealand, where he or she holds a valid temporary visa and has applied for a further temporary visa. No one is entitled to an interim visa as a matter of right, and an interim visa cannot be used for travel.

In most cases an interim visa will be granted automatically by electronic means, and there is no fee and no visa label. People who are granted interim visas will be notified by email or by letter.

Whether the holder of an interim visa can work or study is shown by the conditions of the interim visa. These conditions depend on the visa he or she held previously, and the type and conditions of the visa applied for.

You will find our interim visa factsheet at the following link:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/5CF63405-AC8D-4687-9CDD-A36EA63D393E/0/Interimvisasfactsheet.pdf>

6. Current Work and Income Advice

Work and Income's advice on occupations for which they are unable to refer suitably qualified New Zealand Citizen or Resident workers as at 5 October 2010, continues to remain valid.

This list and Work and Income's ability to provide suitable New Zealanders is reviewed on an ongoing basis, and will be updated as labour market changes require.

The validity of this advice therefore remains in place until further notice.

Please note that this advice applies to job vacancies in the Queenstown area only.

Occupation(s)	ANZSCO Reference(s)
Hospitality Workers	431xxx
Tour Guides	4514xx or 4522xx
Food Preparation Assistants	851xxx
Cleaners and Laundry Workers	811xxx
Sales Assistants (inc Supermarket)	621xxx or 631xxx
Receptionists	5421xx

All occupations, which are pre-fixed with the ANZSCO references listed above, are included as positions for which Work and Income are unable to refer suitably qualified New Zealand Citizen or Resident workers. For a full list of all ANZSCO Occupation codes included in the above groupings, please refer to our branch webpage:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/branch/QueenstownBranchHome/News/>

7. Information Sessions

Queenstown Branch continues to offer tailored information sessions for employers.

- Essential Skills Information Sessions

To assist employers with their work visa instructions knowledge

- Residence Information Sessions (employer hosted for staff)

Provide attendees with an overview of the Skilled Migrant Category requirements to enable them to undertake a self assessment of their eligibility.

- On Site Visits with Employers

Acquire business knowledge for a better understanding of our customers' needs and how we can work together towards positive outcomes for Queenstown and New Zealand.

To register your interest in hosting or attending information sessions, please email:

louise.stewart@dol.govt.nz