

VISA PAK ISSUE 396 — 05 APRIL 2019

VARIATION OF CONDITIONS – DECLARED LABOUR SHORTAGE IN THE BAY OF PLENTY AND HAWKE’S BAY REGIONS

The Bay of Plenty Regional Commissioner for the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has recently declared a labour shortage in the Bay of Plenty region from 15 April 2019 to 27 May 2019. Additionally, the East Coast Regional Commissioner for MSD has extended the declared labour shortage in the Hawke’s Bay region, which will now cover the period from 8 April 2019 to 20 May 2019.

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) may approve a Variation of Conditions (VOC) for holders of visitor visas for a maximum duration of six weeks to undertake seasonal work in any region where MSD has declared a seasonal labour shortage.

Seasonal work includes planting, maintaining, harvesting and picking crops in the horticulture or viticulture industries.

Applications for work in the Bay of Plenty and/or Hawke’s Bay will be treated as a priority, and lodged at NaDO, and processed at Porirua Office.

The VOC applications must meet the following lodgement requirements:

- Variation of Conditions Application Form
- Fee
- Must be on a valid visitor visa (any category)

Passports/certified copies of passports are not a lodgement requirement for VOCs, but NaDO may request them if there are identity or other concerns. Applications will be lodged under the special category in AMS – **Visa, Visitor, Vary Conditions Hort/Vit**. When transferring applications to Porirua, NaDO will add applications to the queue named **‘queue, RSE’**.

The following conditions will be entered on the eVisa letter: “The holder may undertake seasonal work for any horticulture/viticulture employer in any region with a declared labour shortage from [8 or 15] April 2019 to [20 or 27] May 2019”.

Visas will only be issued for up to six weeks, and can only be valid for the period of the declared labour shortage (8 April 2019 to 20 May 2019 or 15 April 2019 to 27 May 2019).