

VISA PAK ISSUE 445— 07 AUGUST 2020

SUSPENSION OF OVERSEAS VISA APPLICATIONS AND INTRODUCTION OF EOI FEES

From 10 August 2020 Immigration New Zealand will be charging fees for border exception Expressions of Interest (EOIs), and suspending the ability for people offshore to apply for most temporary entry visas for 3 months. Both the fees and the suspension have been set in immigration instructions.

Fees

There are two types of fee. The first is the fee for an employer or agent to make a request for approval in principle to bring in 'other critical workers'. That is a flat fee of \$380, regardless of how many workers the employer or agent wants to bring in. Those workers don't pay individual EOI fees.

The other fee is for the Expression of Interest for an individual seeking a border exception under all other categories, for either a visa of a Variation of Conditions. That fee is \$45.

The fees have been publicly communicated on the [Immigration New Zealand website](#)

Suspension

From 10 August, people outside of New Zealand will not be able to apply for temporary visas for 3 months. The suspension applies except for any person who:

- i. may, by virtue of COVID-19 immigration instructions, apply for the visa if invited to do so and holds a current invitation to apply for the visa; or
- ii. is applying for one of the following types of temporary entry class visa:
 - Visas for partners and dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residents, where the visa is based on that relationship;
 - Visas for diplomatic, consular and official staff and accompanying dependants, including:
 - Diplomats accredited to New Zealand and currently resident in New Zealand;
 - New diplomatic and consular personnel filling established positions at a foreign mission or consular post in New Zealand; and
 - Other diplomatic and consular personnel authorised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or his delegate where there is compelling national interest;
 - Antarctic Traveller Visitor Visas and Antarctic Work Visas; and
 - Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Limited Visas.

Information about the suspension is available on the [Immigration New Zealand website](#).