

VISA PAK ISSUE 453 — 13 NOVEMBER 2020

OFFSHORE PARTNERS AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN INCLUDED IN RESIDENCE APPLICATIONS WHERE THE PRINCIPAL APPLICANT IS IN NEW ZEALAND AND HAS BEEN APPROVED AND GRANTED RESIDENCE

Visa Pak 449 confirmed that Immigration New Zealand has resumed the processing of visas from offshore partners and dependent children of New Zealand citizens and residents. The applicants, if granted a visa, are exempt from New Zealand border restrictions and can enter New Zealand without requesting an exception prior to travel.

There has since been some confusion as to whether the exemption also applies to offshore partners and dependent children that are included in residence applications, and the principal applicant (the PA) is onshore and has been approved residence.

The purpose of this item is to clarify that this cohort of applicants, if approved, are considered to hold a visa based on family relationship with a New Zealand resident. Residence applications, where the PA is onshore, which include offshore family members can therefore be finalised and the offshore partners and dependents, if granted a visa, can enter New Zealand without having to request an exemption.

Please note that any applicant who is exempt from border restrictions must still meet any managed isolation and quarantine requirements.