

VISA PAK ISSUE 389 — 15 FEBRUARY 2019

VARIATION OF CONDITIONS – DECLARED LABOUR SHORTAGE IN THE HAWKE’S BAY REGION

The East Coast Regional Commissioner for the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has recently declared a labour shortage in the Hawke’s Bay region from 25 February 2019 to 5 April 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 Hawke’s Bay will be lodged at NaDO, and processed as a priority 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) that does not expire until after the 6 week period

Due to the tight timeframes associated with these applications, NaDO will not require VOC applicants to submit their passport/certified copy for lodgement purposes, unless there are identity or other concerns. Instead, this lodgement requirement will be waived by special direction in most cases. Applications will be lodged under the special category in AMS – **Visa, Visitor, Vary Conditions Hort/Vit**.

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 25 February 2019 to 5 April 2019”

Visas will only be issued for a maximum of six weeks and can only be valid for the period of the declared labour shortage (25 February 2019 to 5 April 2019).