

VISA PAK ISSUE 417 — 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION INSTRUCTIONS EFFECTIVE 7 OCTOBER 2019

A number of changes to immigration instructions will take effect on 7 October 2019. The amended instructions will be included in an Amendment Circular at the end of September. The key policy instructions are set out below.

Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa salary threshold

The salary threshold that applicants must meet will increase from \$55,000 to \$79,560 per annum (150% of the current median wage). Any applicant applying for a Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa on or after 7 October will need to meet the new threshold, regardless of when the employer was accredited.

Assessing Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa applications

The salary threshold that applies at the residence stage is the threshold that was in place when the associated Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa was submitted.

Assessing subsequent Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa applications

If a person has applied for a Residence from Work visa and requires a further Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa so they can continue working while their application for a resident visa is determined, that work visa may be granted on the basis of the salary threshold in place when the original work visa application was made.

Duration of accreditation

The duration of accreditation that can be granted to employers is being limited to 24 months. This applies for any initial application or renewal that is submitted on or after 7 October.

'Fast-track' to permanent residency

The 'fast-track' to a Permanent Resident Visa (PRV) provided by instructions at [RW2.1](#) will be removed from Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa holders applying for a Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa. Currently a Permanent Resident Visa (PRV) may be granted in place of a Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa if the applicant meets all the requirements to be granted a residence class visa and, at the time of their application for residence, has employment with a minimum base salary of \$90,000.

People who hold or apply for Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa before 7 October 2019 who meet the requirements at RW2.1 will still be eligible for a Permanent Resident Visa.

Silver Fern Job Search visa

The Silver Fern Job Search (SFJS) visa will be permanently closed. The Silver Fern Practical Experience visa remains open so that all current SFJS visa holders can apply.