

VISA PAK ISSUE 458 — 23 DECEMBER 2020

WORKING HOLIDAY VISA EXTENSIONS - SCENARIOS

The Minister of Immigration has announced that all Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) and Working Holiday Extension (WHE) Visas that expire between **21 December 2020 and 30 June 2021 (inclusive)** will be extended for 6 months for those **onshore**. Conditions will be varied to allow the holders to undertake any non-permanent employment in any sector until their visa expires. For those within scope of the special direction, any time limit on total work for one employer will no longer apply from 21 December 2020.

Immigration Officers should continue to assess all on-hand applications under the applicable Immigration Instructions but should carefully check AMS to determine whether the applicant is within scope of the special direction.

Scenario	Approach
Applicants whose visas expired before 21 December 2020 and meet Immigration Instructions	Approve the application as per normal process
Applicants who have had their current visa extended under the Special Direction and have an on-hand application	Hold the application until further guidance is given.
Applications that do not meet Immigration Instructions and the applicant's current visa expires before 21 December 2021	Decline the application as per normal process.
Applications that do not meet Immigration Instructions and the applicant's current visa expires after 21 December 2021	Hold the application until further guidance is given.
Requests for withdrawal	<p>Advise the client of the effects of the Special Direction and that, should their existing application be approved, they would be eligible for a visa of a longer duration than what the extension will grant them.</p> <p><i>Note that any refund request will be assessed in line with the relevant IAC current at the time of processing. The current IAC can be found here.</i></p>