

VISA PAK ISSUE 440 — 26 JUNE 2020

## **EPIDEMIC MANAGEMENT NOTICE MODIFICATION AND VISA EXTENSIONS**

### **No effect from modifications for visa holder extensions**

When the Epidemic Management Notice took effect, holders of a work, student, visitor, limited or interim visa which stated it had an expiry date between 2 April to 9 July 2020 (inclusive), and who were in New Zealand on 2 April 2020, had their visa extended to 25 September 2020. These dates were determined in line with section 78 of the Immigration Act 2009.

On 24 June 2020 the Epidemic Management Notice was modified, and section 78 is no longer being used. The modification has not affected the existing extension of those visa holders and their expiry date remains 25 September 2020.

As a result of the modification, however, it is unlikely there will be any further extensions to visa expiry dates using section 78 of the Epidemic Management Notice.

Other provisions in the Immigration Act were activated in the Epidemic Management Notice that were related to court matters and detention. Most of these are also no longer in effect.

### **Advice to clients or their representatives**

For those who had their visa extended, this extension will still appear in AMS on the Visa tab under the column 'Expiry Date Stay'. A note is also given in the Clients notes that reads "Expiry date has been extended under section 78 of the Immigration Act 2009".

However, if offices identify a visa holder who appears to be eligible for the extension but AMS does not show their visa was extended, please refer these cases to the contact for this article (see below).

Visa holders can use the Visa Verification Service available on the INZ website to confirm their visa's extended expiry date. Employers and education providers can use Visa View (also on the website) to verify an employee's or student's visa expiry date.

### **Interim visas**

There are some complexities when a decision is made to decline or withdraw a temporary visa application where the client holds an interim visa that has been extended. Please refer to Visa Pak 437 for more information and advice