

VISA PAK ISSUE 442 — 28 JULY 2020

SPECIAL DIRECTION – VISA EXTENSION FOR EMPLOYER ASSISTED WORK VISAS

On 9 July 2020, the Minister of Immigration gave a Special Direction to extend certain employer-specific work visas with an expiry date between 10 July and 31 December 2020 (inclusive). These visas have been automatically extended by six months from the date of expiry. For more information on this extension, refer to Visa Pak 441.

Unanticipated issues during implementation meant a cohort of approximately 4,440 employer-assisted work visa holders **were extended under the Special Direction and are lawful, but their expiry date has not yet been updated in AMS to reflect the extension.**

Those affected include, but are not limited to, individuals who have Variations of Conditions (VOCs), s61 visas, replace visas or label-less replace visas, as their most recent employer-assisted visa.

Once the extension is finalised INZ will email the affected visa holders to confirm their visa has been extended, using the address most recently provided to INZ. In some cases the email address supplied might not have been current or valid, or might have been of a third party. As a result efforts to identify a valid email address for most visa holders, some visa holders might not receive the letter.

Once it is implemented visa extension will appear in AMS on the Visa tab under the column 'Expiry Date Stay'. The Expiry Date Stay will be updated and will be displayed on both the Visa Summary section and Visa Detail Section (both are under Visa Tab in AMS).

Holders of employer-assisted work visas who have been granted a VOC, s61, or a replace visa or label-less replace visa and believe they are eligible for an extension should be asked to re-check their visa extension in Visa Verification Service from 5 August 2020.

If you receive an enquiry from an eligible visa holder whose visa has not been extended please pass on that person's details to [internal email address]. Please include the person's name, date of birth and client or application number so that their visa can be extended correctly.

Note that a number of employer-assisted work visas were not covered in the initial extension. If staff become aware of a person whose visa should have been extended but the extension does not show in AMS please email that person's name, date of birth and client or application number to [internal email address].