

VISA PAK ISSUE 460— 29 JANUARY 2021

## CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has provided the following information about when they can issue a Certificate of Identity (CoI).

The DIA CoI is a different document to the Immigration New Zealand Certificate of Identity form.

The DIA CoI is an emergency travel document that can only be issued in **very limited circumstances**. CoI are issued to non-New Zealand citizens, who are in New Zealand, for the sole purpose of providing the holder with a travel document in lieu of a valid national passport. They are issued to allow the holder to travel to their home country or their home country's representation overseas so they can be issued with a passport from their country of citizenship.

Applicants facing a long wait to obtain a passport from their country of citizenship is not sufficient reason for DIA to issue a CoI. To date, DIA has not received notification from any embassy that a passport cannot be renewed, only that the applicant either needs to present in person, or that there are currently delays.

Anyone applying for a DIA CoI must be in New Zealand at the time of the application and while the application is being processed. If a DIA CoI is lost, stolen or expires whilst overseas the DIA cannot issue a new CoI. The holder must approach the local authorities to obtain a new travel document.

Generally, applications for a DIA CoI will be declined if the applicant is not physically in New Zealand and not immediately travelling to obtain a passport from their home country.

People who are in New Zealand with a passport that is about to expire and need a new passport so they can apply for a new visa **do not** qualify for a DIA CoI as this situation does not meet the criteria for issuing a DIA CoI.