

## VISA PAK ISSUE 509 — 03 JUNE 2022

### MEDICAL AND POLICE CERTIFICATE VALIDITY FOR APPLICATIONS THAT CANNOT BE PROCESSED

In March 2020 New Zealand's border was closed to most travellers in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and on 10 August 2020, the New Zealand Government suspended the ability for people offshore to apply for most temporary entry visas.

As outlined in VisaPak 438, visa applications for most individuals offshore were not being processed while border restrictions were in place.

On 28 July 2021 Immigration New Zealand (INZ) provided advice on the INZ website that temporary visa applications submitted from outside New Zealand that cannot be processed were to be lapsed or returned and refunded. The applications fall into two groups:

- Applications received before 10 August 2020 whose applications have been (or will be) lapsed; and
- Applications received on or after 10 August 2020 from people offshore, i.e., people who were affected by the suspension on offshore temporary applications, whose applications have been (or are still to be) returned.

#### Medical and Police Certificates

There have recently been a number of queries to INZ around the validity of medical and police certificates that have been provided for applications that cannot be processed and have been (or are to be) lapsed or returned. The below advice provides guidance for applications received both pre- and post-10 August 2020.

- Applications received before 10 August 2020:
  - As these applications were accepted by INZ, medical and police certificates submitted with an application will continue to be valid for future applications in line with immigration instructions A4.25 and A5.10.
    - Note: Only medical certificates assessed as having an Acceptable Standard of Health (ASH) will be valid for future applications.
- Applications received on or after 10 August 2020 (i.e., subject to the offshore suspension):
  - As INZ was unable to accept these applications, any supporting documentation could also not be accepted. Therefore, any medical certificates and police certificates will not be valid for future applications unless they meet the usual validity requirements in line with immigration instructions A4.25 and A5.10.