

## **AMBER MIGRATION NEWSLETTER** *August 2014*

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Welcome to **Amber Migration** August 2014 Newsletter !

In this Newsletter, we are pleased to announce the addition of a team member, as well as updating you on the following Immigration news:

- Latest on 457 Visa;
  - Occupations added to SOL and CSOL;
  - New rule on skills assessment results;
  - New health check service provider for visa purposes;
  - Removal of a few Family stream visa subclasses; and
  - Employer Sanctions reminder.
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### **IMMIGRATION UPDATES**

#### **457 Announcements**

Since July 2013, the 457 Visa program has undergone major amendments including the introduction of the genuine criteria, English requirements, and the introduction and subsequent removal of the nomination ceiling for a business sponsorship.

In August 2014, the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Senator Michaelia Cash, made the following announcements:

- ❖ The current 457 TSMIT of \$53,900 will not be indexed this financial year;
- ❖ The 457 Visa review panel has made recommendations for streamlining the 457 program by cutting red tapes for businesses. According to the Senator, these recommendations will be released shortly and implemented almost immediately; and
- ❖ There are currently 190 approved labour agreements with a further 40 agreements in process.

#### **Occupations adjusted in SOL and CSOL**

On 1 July 2014, the following occupations were added to the SOL (the Skilled Occupations List for independent migration and company sponsored visas):

- ❖ Chef (ANZSCO 351311);
- ❖ Bricklayer (ANZSCO 331111); and
- ❖ Wall and Floor Tiler (ANZSCO 333411).

And the following occupations were added to the CSOL (the Skilled Occupations List for company sponsored visas):

- ❖ Hydro-geologist (ANZSCO 234413); and
- ❖ Exercise Physiologist (ANZSCO 234915).

### **Changes to Validity of Skills Assessment Results**

As of 1 July 2014, visa applications and SkillSelect EOI's lodged must accompany skills assessments issued no more than 3 years ago. Assessments older than 3 years will not be considered to be valid.

### **New Health Check Service Provider BUPA**

As of 28 July 2014, BUPA has become the medical provider for all immigration related health checks. No major impact was observed during this transition for our clients. Medibank Health Solutions no longer conduct health checks for visa purposes.

### **Removal of Visa Subclasses**

On 2 June 2014, the following visa subclasses were repealed and closed to new applications:

- ❖ Parent visa – subclass 103
- ❖ Aged Parent visa – subclass 804
- ❖ Aged Dependent Relative - subclass 114 / subclass 838
- ❖ Remaining relative – subclass 115 / subclass 835
- ❖ Carer visa – subclass 116 / subclass 836

DIBP may reconsider their decision to remove the Parent visa categories. We will update you when this happens.

### **Important Reminder – Employer Sanctions**

With the visa labels becoming a thing of the past, it is even more imperative that employers conduct visa on-line check prior to hiring any employee from overseas.

Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) is a free online service that gives visa holders and employers access to visa entitlements and status information.

Current laws passed by the Parliament have introduced civil penalties and infringement notices for employers or labour suppliers of illegal workers.

## AMBER MIGRATION UPDATES



We are pleased to announce **Kate Vircoe** has joined the family of Amber Migration.

Kate is a solicitor and Registered Migration Agent, and has worked as a consultant at a leading Immigration law firm, gaining considerable experience in a range of visa programs. She has facilitated migration resourcing needs and provided compliance advice to both domestic and global corporations who operate in a wide range of industries.

MARN: 1172894

Kate is highly experienced in providing advice on individual migration assessment and appropriate visa pathways. Kate has represented and consolidated asylum seekers cases at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

MARN 0209525

**Important:** Clients should not act on the basis of the material contained in this Immigration Update. Items herein are general comments only and do not constitute or convey advice per se. As changes in legislation may occur quickly, we recommend you to seek our formal advice before acting in any of the areas. This Immigration Newsletter is issued as a helpful guide to clients and for their private information. Therefore it should be regarded as confidential and not be made available to any person without our prior approval.

***Should you have any questions, please contact:***

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