

AMBER MIGRATION NEWSLETTER

July 2015

Welcome to **Amber Migration's** July 2015 Newsletter!

In this Immigration Update, we summarise the following changes that started from 1 July:

- New DIBP website;
- Visa application charges increased;
- Occupations adjusted in SOL and CSOL;
- Eligible medical practitioners in regional Australia - Age Exemptions ;
- Ministers of Religion - Only through labour agreements; and
- New complying investment framework for SIV and launch of PIV.

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New DIBP website

Customs and the Immigration Department have now been merged into one portfolio, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. The new website is www.border.gov.au .

Visa application charges increased

Visa application charges have increased as at 1 July 2015. Some common visa categories increases include:

- Skilled related visas by CPI (2.3%): 457 , permanent skilled, visitor, student, etc;
- Economic related visas by 5%: 400 business, working holiday, contributory parent, etc;
- Family related visas by 10%: Non contributory parent, carer, etc;
- Significant investor visa by 50%.

Occupations adjusted in SOL and CSOL – as at 1 July 2015

Changes have been made to the following occupations on the SOL (the Skilled Occupations List for independent migration and company sponsored visas) and CSOL (the Consolidated Skilled Occupations List for company-sponsored visas): Urban and Regional Planner (removed from SOL); Dental Specialist (moved from SOL to CSOL); Dentist (moved from SOL to CSOL); Panelbeater (added to SOL and CSOL); and Cabinetmaker (added to SOL and CSOL).

Eligible medical practitioners in regional Australia - Age Exemptions

The rules for Medical Practitioners in regional Australia have been further relaxed. From 1 July 2015, the age exemption available to medical practitioners in regional Australia will no longer require

employment with the same employer while holding a Temporary Work (Skilled) Subclass 457 Visa or a Medical Practitioner (Temporary) Subclass 422 Visa.

Medical Practitioners applying for a Subclass 186 or 187 Visa are now only required to show at least 4 years employment in the nominated occupation, of which 2 years employment was located in regional Australia and the nominated position must also be located in regional Australia.

Ministers of Religion - Only through Labour Agreement Stream

From 1 July 2015, Minister of Religion can no longer apply for a Subclass 186 or 187 visa under the Direct Entry Stream and the Temporary Residence Transition stream, or Subclass 457 Visa.

Religious organisations must join the applicable Minister of Religion Industry Labour Agreement before lodging an employer nomination for Subclass 186 Visa under the Agreement Stream. For the Subclass 457 Visa, religious organisations must sign onto the Minister of Religion Labour Agreement before a nomination for a temporary worker can be lodged.

New complying investment framework for SIV and launch of PIV

A new investment framework for the Significant Investor Visa (SIV) commenced on 1 July 2015. The new framework mandates investment into small and emerging companies and venture capital funds, thus encouraging investment into innovative Australian R&D and emerging local companies.

The Premium Investor Visa (PIV) will be an exclusive program available at the invitation of AUSTRADE.

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We are pleased to announce **Christine Moh-Bridgland** has re-joined the Amber Migration family.

Having been registered since 2004, Christine has a wealth of experience in migration advisory and client services. Her experience ranges from providing immigration advice and assistance to corporate clients in a diverse range of industries to assisting individuals who wish to migrate to Australia under the Family and General Skilled Migration streams.

If you have any questions concerning the information provided in this newsletter, please contact:

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***Important:** Clients should not act solely on the basis of the material contained in this Newsletter. Items herein are general comments only and do not constitute or convey advice per se. Also changes in legislation may occur quickly. We therefore recommend that our formal advice be sought before acting in any of the areas. This 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.*

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