

AMBER MIGRATION NEWSLETTER March 2014

Welcome to **Amber Migration**'s March 2014 Newsletter !

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

- New Health process from 24 March 2014, which allows visa applicants to re-use health check results that were completed in the past 12 months;
 - Transfer of merchant fees to applicants paying DIBP fees by credit cards from 22 March 2014;
 - Relocation of the sc402 Occupational Trainee Processing Centre from Adelaide to Hobart; and
 - Latest number of visas granted to primary Significant Investor Visa applicants.
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IMMIGRATION UPDATES

New Health Process – March 2014

From 24 March 2014 there will be improvement to the *eMedical Client* and *My Health Declarations* online application process. The change will automate the re-use of any health examination completed by the visa applicant within the last 12 months provided the examinations are valid and not subject to any health undertaking.

Other changes include the following:

- The HAP ID now displaying on the screen and not just in the referral letter so that mobile phone users are able to identify their HAP ID.
- Pregnant visa applicants from lower or medium risk countries who wish to undertake x-ray rather than signing a pregnancy undertaking will now be able to do so.

The eMedical system which is being rolled out to approximately 30 countries by 30 June will result in quicker turn-around of health results for the case officer.

Surcharge for payment by credit card

From 22 March 2014 the use of credit cards for the payment of Visa Application Charge (VAC) will be subject to a surcharge. The Reserve Bank of Australia surcharging standards allows any credit/debit card costs incurred by the merchant in a transaction to be passed on to the customer. It is expected that the Department will have three different rates relating to (i) Visa / MasterCard; (ii) American Express/JCB; and (iii) Diners. Further details on the surcharge are expected to be available shortly.

Occupational Trainee Processing Centre relocates

The centre which processes Occupational Trainee Sponsorship, Nomination and Visa applications is relocating from Adelaide to Hobart. DIBP says the move will not affect the processing of OT applications. Until further notice the email address and the lodgement address will remain unchanged.

Significant Investor Visa (or the so called “5 Million Dollar Visa”)

The Significant Investor Visa program has continued to gain momentum with figures to the end of February as follows:

Significant Investor Visa: State/territory distribution (24/11/2012 – 28/02/2014)				
	EOIs	Invitations	Primary Applications	Primary grants
ACT	3	0	0	0
NSW	411	321	267	56
NT	1	0	0	0
QLD	69	55	45	12
SA	34	30	17	2
TAS	3	1	1	
VIC	528	434	345	68
WA	40	34	27	6
TOTAL	1118	875	702	144

AMBER MIGRATION UPDATES

We are pleased to announce **Karen Mathie** has joined the family of Amber Migration.



Having been registered since 2002, Karen has a wealth of experience in migration advisory and client services. Her experience ranges from providing immigration advice and assistance to large corporate clients in a diverse range of industry sectors to assisting individuals who wish to migrate to Australia under the Family and General Skilled Migration streams.

Karen's extensive experience in advising corporate clients extends beyond transactional work to advising clients on immigration compliance including mergers and acquisitions, policies for foreign employees in relation to their immigration status and briefing businesses on immigration law and policy. Karen has experience also in representing corporate and individual clients at the Migration Review Tribunal.

Karen has a tertiary qualification in Computer Science from South Africa and a Diploma in Law from the University of Sydney. She will soon be admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

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Important: Clients should not act solely 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. Also changes in legislation may occur quickly. We therefore recommend that our formal advice be sought before acting in any of the areas. This Immigration Update 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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