

IMMIGRATION UPDATES September 2012

LONGER TOURIST VISAS FOR PARENTS OF AUSTRALIANS

SUMMARY: Towards the end of 2012, parents of Australian citizens and permanent residents will be able to apply for Tourist visas to visit Australia for longer.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, announced on Tuesday, 4th September 2012, that parents of Australian citizens and permanent residents will be able to apply for Tourist Visas to visit their family in Australia for longer periods of stay than is currently allowed.

The Department of Immigration will consider granting extended stay tourist visas on a case-by-case basis.

- **Parents who are outside of Australia and are in the Parent (Subclass 103) visa queue may be granted a Tourist visa of up to five (5) years validity, with 12 months stay on each entry.**
- **Tourist visas of up to three years validity with 12 months stay on each entry for parents who are outside Australia and not in the Parent visa queue.**

These changes will allow parents who meet the criteria for a Tourist visa to have regular extended visits with their family in Australia without needing to apply for a new visa on each visit.

Parents who are granted these extended Tourist visas will also:

- Be expected to hold health insurance to cover any healthcare costs during their stays;
- Have visa conditions limiting applications for further visas while they are in Australia; and
- Be expected to maintain extended periods of absence between visits to Australia.

Like all tourists, parents granted Tourist visas are expected to maintain extended periods of absence between visits to Australia.

It is anticipated that these changes will come into effect by the end of 2012.

Please note we have prepared the above updates based on DIAC's latest media release. We will write again once relevant legislative instrument is available. In the meantime, should you have any questions concerning these changes, please contact: Monique Ly – Tel: 02 9146 5288 - mly@ambermigration.com.au Or Lily Li – Tel: 02 9146 5284 – lli@ambermigration.com.au.

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 mend that our formal advice be sought before acting in any of the areas.

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