



New South Wales migration agents newsletter

No. 10/ November 2006

Welcome to the tenth NSW newsletter for migration agents. In this edition we look at:

- New application forms for business migration
- September quarter results for business and STNI visa programs
- Debrief on Sydney, UK and Ireland 'Australia Needs Skills' expos.
- Regional News
- Reminder when moving between States
- More issues with business plans
- Latest on processing times
- Christmas/New Year office closure.

New Application Forms for Business Migration

(www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration)

NSW has amended applications Forms A and C for NSW sponsorship for business migration. The new forms are now on our web site. Please start using the new forms immediately.

Form A has been modified slightly with a new Declaration and Commitment that must be signed by either the applicant or migration agent.

There is now a different Form C for each visa class. Please use the Form C related to the visa class for which you are applying eg. if you are applying for a 163 visa, please complete Form C.163. If you are applying for an 892 visa please complete Form C.892.

Form C is now a self assessment for the applicant to complete to demonstrate that they meet the Commonwealth (DIMA) selection criteria for the visa. Applicants should complete and sign the form and the signature should be witnessed.

These amendments have been made to try and improve processing times for NSW sponsorship for business migration.

If you have any questions or cannot access the new forms from our web site please contact Lita Aganon on 9338 6692 or e mail bizmigration@business.nsw.gov.au.

September Quarter Results

Business Migration

In the three months from 1 July to 30 September 2006 NSW: received 115 applications for sponsorship; sponsored 102 applications; DIMA approved 41 applications sponsored by NSW and declined 6 applications. The applications approved by DIMA are expected to bring \$26 million in investment, create 122 new jobs and generate \$42 million in exports.

STNI

NSW received 48 applications for NSW sponsorship during the quarter. NSW sponsored 32 applications and declined 18 applications. The applicants sponsored by NSW include: 12 research associates for the pharmaceuticals sector; nine experienced ICT professionals; six auditors and three actuaries.

Australia Needs Skills Expos

Sydney

The 'Australia Needs Skills' expo at the Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 23 September 2006 attracted over 5,000 attendees. There were almost 60 exhibitors. NSW had detailed consultations with over 110 visitors to its booth which could lead to several STNI applications and a number of regional visa applications.

Many NSW Regional Certifying Bodies attended the expo and reported significant interest. For example, two Regional Certifying Bodies registered almost 200 skilled workers interested in regional NSW.

New South Wales migration agents newsletter

No. 10/ November 2006

UK & Ireland

The expos in London, Manchester and Dublin were attended by approx 4,000 visitors over six days. There were 45 exhibitors including a number of health sector employers, engineering/mining/construction firms and State/Territory governments.

Almost 500 people visited the NSW stand for a consultation on their employment prospects in NSW, visa options and lifestyle. These included numerous doctors, nurses, tradespeople, teachers, finance and IT professionals and some scientific researchers.

The Murray Regional Development Board sent one representative following their success in attracting over 50 skilled migrants to the Murray at similar expos in Hong Kong and Manila earlier this year.

NSW Regional News

Northern Inland

The Northern Inland Regional Development Board is advertising in local media for a Skilled Migration Project Officer to assist in attracting and supporting skilled migrants to Tamworth, Armidale and other parts of the Northern Inland. To find details on this position go to: www.nio.com.au.

Riverina

DIMA and NSW are conducting a survey of skilled migrants and their employers in the Riverina to assess the success of the regional migration program. Focus groups are being conducted with groups of migrants and employers. A final report will be available in a few months.

Moving Between States

Business migrants sponsored by one State/Territory at provisional visa stage are reminded that if they wish to relocate to another State/Territory they should seek a release from the first sponsoring State/Territory (see page 3 of DIMA Form 949). NSW will not sponsor applicants at permanent residence

stage if they have been sponsored by another State and have not obtained a release. NSW will consider any reasonable request for release from NSW to move to another State.

Business Plans

NSW has become concerned about the actions of some business plan writers packaging business broking with services writing business plans. Business plans developed with minimal involvement from the applicant and recycled over multiple applications will not be accepted by NSW.

Processing Times

Business migration processing times have improved slightly in recent months. However business migration applications usually surge in December/January before Chinese New Year. You should still allow 10 weeks for processing over the next few months. We hope that the new application forms and other new internal arrangements will reduce average times in 2007.

STNI processing time is currently 2-3 weeks. You should allow 4 weeks for processing.

Christmas/New Year Office Closure

NSW Business Migration office will be closed from Saturday 23 December 2006 till Monday 8 January 2007. We look forward to working with you again in 2007.



(L to R) Tom McAlary, Lily Cheung, Lita Aganon, John Angeles and Henry Cheung