

New South Wales migration agents newsletter

No. 14/ January 2008

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

- NSW migration statistics for the second half of 2007
- NSW seminars for business migrants
- profile of business migrants sponsored by NSW for permanent residence
- revised advice on access to English language concession for NSW Skilled Regional Sponsored applicants
- validity period for International English Language Test (IELTS) results
- processing times.

NSW Migration Statistics

www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration

Business Migration

NSW received 287 applications for NSW sponsorship in the six months to 31 December 2007. NSW approved 217 applicants and declined 20.

During the same period DIAC approved 127 business migrants sponsored by NSW and declined 25.

Skilled Migration

NSW received 151 applications for NSW sponsorship for the Skilled Sponsored 176/886 visa (formerly known as the State/Territory Nominated Independent STNI visa) during the second half of 2007. NSW approved 100 applications and declined 40. Most applications were declined because the applicant was not in an occupation sponsored by NSW or because the applicant did not meet NSW required IELTS test result.

During the same period DIAC approved 18 skilled migrants sponsored by NSW under this program and declined 3.

Regional Migration

Statistics are being compiled and will be reported in the next newsletter.

NSW Seminars for Business Migrants

www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration

13 December 2007 Seminar Report

The Federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and the NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) held an information seminar for Chinese business migrants on obtaining permanent residence in Australia through the business skills program on 13 December 2007.

The seminar was attended by 140 provisional visa holders, migration agents and successful Chinese business migrants.

Presentations in English with simultaneous Mandarin translation were given by DIAC's Rhett Henkel, DSRD's Henry Cheung and Daniel Boland from Clearly Business, a not for profit business support service.

The seminar was well received by attendees and was followed by an opportunity for networking and socialising.

Next Seminar 21 February 2008

DIAC and DSRD will hold this seminar again (in English only with no translation) on Thursday evening 21 February 2008 in the Parkes and Hamilton Rooms, Level 47, MLC Centre 19 Martin Place. This will replace the seminar previously scheduled for 31 January. To RSVP for you and your clients please email tony.letford@immi.gov.au by 16 February 2008.

Profile of NSW Business Migrants Applying for Permanent Residence

There is a change occurring in the profile of business migrants applying for NSW sponsorship for permanent residence.

457 IE to 892 Visa Applications

NSW has sponsored 169 457IE to 892 visa applications in the last 4 years. These applicants on average have had net business

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assets of \$256,000, employed 2 people and planned to invest a further \$240,000 in their businesses and employ 1.3 additional staff members. 25% of these applicants have come from the UK; 16% from China and 8% from South Africa. Approximately 25% of these applicants are in retail trade; 25% in the accommodation/café/restaurant sector and 15% in wholesale trade.

163/164/165 to 892 Visa Applications

NSW has received 25 163/164/165 to 892 visa applications to date and while this is a small sample size some initial trends are evident.

These applicants on average have similarly \$248,000 in net business assets but employ currently only 1.25 persons rather than two. They plan to invest only a further \$74,000 in their businesses and employ two additional staff members. This seems to indicate that these businesses are growing more slowly than in the 457IE to 892 visa cohort.

70% of these applicants are from China, 70% are women and 48% were secondary applicants at the provisional visa stage. 70% have established a business consistent with their original business plan. Applicants are involved in a mix of industry sectors similar to the 457IE to 892 visa applicants.

NSW will be monitoring the profile of this new cohort of migrants in 2008.

Adult Migrant English Service

Newsletter No 13 reported on a new concession available for applicants sponsored by NSW under the Skilled (Provisional) Regional Sponsored visa sub classes 475/487.

We incorrectly stated that the concession is only available to managers and professionals (ASCO 1-3). However this concession is also available to tradespersons (ASCO 4) who have an average IELTS of 5.5 but who have one or more scores below DIAC's required 5.0.

Validity Period for IELTS Test Results

Please note that when applying for NSW sponsorship for a Skilled Sponsored 176/886

visa that NSW will now accept IELTS test results that are up to two years old. This is in line with DIAC requirements.

Documents with Applications

Please ensure that you do not send original copies of documents with applications for NSW sponsorship. All documents submitted must be kept by the Department and will not be copied or returned to you. Please ensure that you submit properly certified copies.

Past Newsletters

www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration/resources

Copies of recent NSW migration agents' newsletters are now available on our web site. Go to the Resources page of the web site.

Processing Times

Business migration processing times are currently 10 weeks and are not expected to fall until after Chinese New Year. Skilled Sponsored 176/886 processing time is currently 6 weeks but should improve in coming months.

Staff Update

The NSW Business Migration team thanks Kirstan Fulton who has taken up a position in our Regional Development Division. Welcome to Sue Hargreaves who has recently joined the Department from Canberra.



Tom McAlary, Henry Cheung, John Angeles, Sue Hargreaves, Kirstan Fulton, Lily Cheung, Lita Aganon, (L to R) enjoy Xmas lunch.