



# New South Wales migration agents newsletter

No. 19/ April 2009

Welcome to the nineteenth NSW newsletter for migration agents and recruiters. This edition includes:

- NSW revises IELTS requirements for 176/886 visa
- NSW joins Investor Retiree 405 visa program
- Reminder for prospective applicants for NSW sponsorship for Investor (Residence) visa sub class 893

## **NSW Revises International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Requirement for Sponsorship for 176/886 Visa**

NSW requires applicants for sponsorship under the Skilled Sponsored 176/886 visa program to meet the required minimum score (7.0 or 8.0) for each of the four components of the International English Language Test (IELTS). In the past NSW has considered applications where one of the four IELTS scores is below the required score. In the future, NSW will not exercise this discretion. Applicants must meet the required minimum score on all four components of the IELTS.

## **Skilled Sponsored 176/886 Skills in Demand List**

NSW no longer sponsors General Medical Practitioners under the Skilled Sponsored 176/886 visa program. NSW still sponsors General Medical

Practitioners for the Skilled Regional Sponsored 475/487 visa in all regions of NSW.

## **Information for Skilled Migrants in Finance & ICT**

NSW has sponsored skilled workers in finance and ICT over the last few years to migrate to Sydney. There has been a softening in the employment market in these sectors in Sydney in recent months. Skilled migrants in these sectors may wish to delay their permanent relocation to Sydney until the employment market improves. Visa holders must make their initial entry to NSW within six months of visa grant. However permanent relocation may be delayed until a later date.

## **NSW Joins Investor Retiree Visa Program**

NSW will consider applications for NSW sponsorship under the Investor Retirement visa sub class 405 program. The NSW selection criteria are similar to those applying under the Investor (Provisional) visa subclass 165 program. Further details are available under the Business Migration pages of the NSW Migration website. Go to: <http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration/nswsponsoredvisa.asp>

## **Information for NSW Sponsorship for Investor 893 Visa**

NSW reminds Investor (Provisional) 165 visa holders that they must enter

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into business or investment activity in NSW during their first four years in the State. Applicants for NSW sponsorship for the Investor (Residence) 893 visa must show business or investment activity against the proposal submitted to NSW for their 165 visa sponsorship application.

Portfolio investment alone, such as in listed stocks and bonds, does not constitute investment in NSW and is not sufficient to qualify for NSW sponsorship for the 165 or 893 visa.

## NSW at National Careers and Employment Expos

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development will exhibit at the National Careers and Employment expos in:

- Adelaide 1-2 May
- Brisbane 8-9 May
- Sydney 29-30 May

For more information on these events go to <http://www.eocexpo.com.au/>

## UK Migration Expos

NSW will participate in the Australia Needs Skills migration expo in London on 27-28 June 2009. For more information go to:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skillexpos/overseas.htm>

NSW may also participate in a planned second migration expo organised by Australia's State and Territory Governments in Manchester on 20 or 21 June 2009. Further details will be

published in the near future if this goes ahead.

## Processing Times

Applications for NSW sponsorship under the Skilled Sponsored 176/886 visa program have trebled since the Commonwealth Government announced revised processing priorities in December 2008. Email and phone enquiries to NSW Sydney office have doubled. There has also been a significant increase in applications and enquiries to NSW regional offices under the Skilled Regional Sponsored 475/487 visa program.

As a result processing of applications is taking longer. Average processing time for Skilled Sponsored applications is 4 weeks and for business migration applications is 9 weeks.

## NSW Trade Missions

NSW invites companies in this State to apply to participate in two upcoming trade missions:

- a building, construction & infrastructure trade mission to Vietnam from 1- 5 June, 2009
- a business services mission to Hong Kong and South Korea on 9-12 June 2009.

These missions may be of interest to some NSW business migrants. They are not for migration agents. For more information go to:

[www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au](http://www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au)

or contact

[crista.bracamonte@business.nsw.gov.au](mailto:crista.bracamonte@business.nsw.gov.au)