

Migration News

Working Through the Maze

Changes to the Migration System

The Government has recently released a broad range of changes to the Migration Act and Regulations which took effect on 1 November 2005.

Most important, are a draft of visa changes which have been designed to benefit employers, overseas students and skilled migrants:

- Trades Skills Training Visa has been introduced, which will give regional employers the opportunity to recruit young people from overseas to undertake an apprenticeship in Australia that combines both on-the-job training and classroom-based learning.

This Visa has been specifically designed to benefit regional Australia, giving businesses the chance to train and employ migrants who, it is hoped, will be of great benefit into the future.

- Student Visa Assessment Levels for a number of countries have been reduced, thereby relaxing the visa criteria for many students from those countries. These affect people from countries including Britain, Chile, Czech Republic, Hungary, Mauritius, Peru, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Trinidad & Tobago, the USA as well as some Gulf countries.

- An updated list of Migration Occupations in Demand has also now been released. Skilled Migration Applicants in these occupations enjoy relaxed criteria. Some of the current inclusions on the Migration Occupations in Demand list include accountants, anaesthetists, surgeons, registered nurses, bricklayers, furniture upholsterers, cooks, panel beaters and hairdressers.

The Migration Occupations in Demand program is a vital element of Australia's skilled migration program, designed to focus on addressing specific skills shortages in Australia.

For further information on how these changes could benefit you, please contact our Registered Migration Agents Gerald Santucci (MARN 9256528) and Nicholas Tebbey (MARN 0533386).

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Did You Know?

Recently the ACT Government launched a new campaign to encourage those with business and management experience and professional skills to migrate to the Territory.

The ACT Skilled and Business Migration Strategy is aimed to attract suitably qualified overseas business people who wish to settle in the ACT and establish businesses which will employ local residents, add value to the ACT economy and introduce significant investment funds.

This strategy has been implemented by Business ACT, an office within the ACT Department of Economic Development and while it does not issue Visas, it offers a range of sponsorships for both skilled and business migrants which can be most beneficial in a Visa Application.

This is a new initiative of the ACT Government, and stems from its growing awareness of the importance of quality skilled and business people for the future of the Canberra economy.

Enquiries
(02) 6201 8900

New US Working Visa



For those interested in working in the USA, the new E3 Visa is now available for Australian citizens and permanent residents. To qualify for an E3 Visa, an applicant must have a legitimate offer of employment in the US, must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident, must only be

intending temporary stay and must have the necessary academic or other qualifying credentials for a specialty occupation.

The E3 Visa is a special initiative from the US Government arising from the USA – Australia Free Trade Agreement. There are to be 10,500 E3 Visas available each year.

In other US news, with effect from 26th June 2005, travellers to the US on the Visa Waiver Program, must have machine-readable passports to enter the US. Passengers arriving without machine-readable passports will be refused entry unless they have a valid Visa.

Australian passports have been machine-readable since 1984, so Australian passport holders will be unaffected. A passport is machine readable if it has two lines of letters, numbers and chevrons (>>>), printed at the bottom of the personal information page (the page with the photograph and personal details).

*For more information contact
Snedden Hall & Gallop.*

Good News for Retirees



We are pleased to announce an important development for those in Australia on Retirement Visas. From 1 December 2005, the renewal period for Retirement Visas has been increased to four rather than two years. As a result, all current holders of Retirement Visas will be entitled to indefinite four year renewals of their visas, subject to the usual streamlined requirements.

This expansion of the renewal period follows what has been an unfortunate year for retirees, with the abolishment of the Retirement Visa for new applicants earlier in the year, and its replacement with the much stricter Investor Visa. The Investor Visa, while still open to retirees, involves a far more onerous commitment to Australia, in the form of substantial investment in one of the Australian States or Territories.

We have detected that this has become an area of growing concern for many of our clients, and are pleased that the extension of the renewal period should improve the situation for those already in the country on the Retirement Visa.

Congratulations !

Snedden Hall & Gallop is proud to announce that **Nicholas Tebbey**, has been registered as a migration agent effective 7 November 2005. Nick has been employed by Snedden Hall & Gallop for over 3 years, and has already developed experience in this field, working with Gerald and assisting his migration practice. As a result of increasing workflow in this area, and the growing importance of this field of law, we appreciate the need to increase our migration practice in order to maintain our position as one of the top providers of migration services in Canberra.

Nick's Migration Agents Registration Number is **0533386** and he is happy to take any enquiries and assist in any way possible.

This newsletter is produced for clients of Snedden Hall & Gallop.

For clarification of the legal issues raised call
(02) 6201 8900
or email
reception@sneddenhall.com.au.