

## SPOTLIGHT ON: How INZ responds to false, misleading or withheld information

Our immigration system relies on applicants providing honest and complete information to show that they meet the requirements to be granted a visa, or to be allowed to enter New Zealand. False, misleading or withheld information in a visa application may result in INZ declining the application. Our immigration officers will not decline applications automatically if there is an instance of false, misleading or withheld information. They use standard operating procedures and are trained on what they need to consider to ensure a proper and fair process. The [INZ website](#) has detailed information about how it handles instances of false, misleading or withheld information, including the character waiver process and how [false information can affect future visa applications](#).

## KEY UPDATES

Here is a summary of recent key operational and policy updates about the immigration system. Please note this is not an exhaustive list of updates. For more information about any of the updates below, please visit the relevant page on INZ's website.

The primary role of the New Zealand immigration system is to facilitate the travel of visitors and workers to New Zealand and protect New Zealand from immigration risk. Read more about [how the Immigration system works](#) on the INZ website.

You can also check out our announcements, media releases, stories, and common topics on our [News Centre](#).

Check out our [Common Topics articles](#) on our website, for information about a number of topics including fees and levies, the Parent Resident Visa, and Investigations and Compliance.

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### 15 AUGUST 2025

› From 18 August 2025, recognised seasonal employers are now able to increase weekly accommodation costs for workers by up to 2.5%, including both rent and utilities, to reflect rising costs. The 2.5% increase will apply to new Agreement to Recruits (ATRs) as of 18 August 2025. Recognised seasonal employers cannot change the accommodation deduction rate for ATRs that were already approved prior to 18 August 2025. More information is available on [the INZ website](#).

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### 10 AUGUST 2025

› To help address labour shortages during peak seasons, the Government is introducing two [new visa options](#) under the AEWV framework: the Global Workforce Seasonal Visa and the Peak Seasonal Visa. These visas will be available from 8 December 2025. They are designed to help accredited employers bring in workers for short-term roles driven by seasonal environmental peaks, while maintaining fair and consistent immigration settings.

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### 8 JULY 2025

› Effective 7 July 2025, the AEWV application form has been updated to ensure the application process is straightforward and the form remains fit for purpose. Visit [the INZ website](#) for updates to the form and wage thresholds.

## KEY STATISTICS

Statistics about visa application processing and decisions for some of INZ's key visa categories are listed below, and are correct as at **24 August 2025** unless otherwise stated.

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### AEWV

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025–24 August 2025):

## IMMIGRATION ROUNDUP FOR EMPLOYERS

- › INZ has received 13,876 Employer Accreditation applications, including 8,878 applications for reaccreditation, and has decided 14,179 Employer Accreditation applications.
- › INZ has received 19,064 Job Check applications. 19,174 Job Check applications have been decided in 2025 to date. 46,962 Job Tokens have been approved, and 19,398 Job Tokens have been used for roles.
- › INZ has received 26,597 AEWV applications. 26,555 AEWV applications have been decided in 2025 to date.
- › [Our website](#) contains current processing estimates for all three AEWV gateways, **which includes wait times by ANZSCO level and sector, and for Green List roles.**
- › You can read more about AEWV on the INZ website. We publish regular statistics and information updates to this page: [Accredited Employer Work Visa \(AEWV\) | Immigration New Zealand](#)

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### VISITOR AND STUDENT VISA

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025–24 August 2025):

- › INZ has received 294,107 visitor visa applications, with 197,223 of these being for General Visitor Visas, 50,040 being for Business Visitor Visas, and the remainder being for other types. 301,211 visitor visa applications have been decided in 2025 to date. To see the processing timeframe for a specific type of visitor visa, [search for a visa](#).
- › We have received 45,612 international student visa applications. 46,557 applications have been decided in 2025 to date. Processing times by education provider [can be found on our website](#).

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### SKILLED RESIDENCE

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025 – 24 August 2025):

- › INZ has received 1,963 applications under the new Skilled Migrant Category (SMC). 1,842 new SMC applications have been decided.
- › INZ has received 3,071 Green List Straight to Residence (StR) applications and 661 Green List Work to Residence (WtR) applications. 3,092 StR and 616 WtR applications have been decided in 2025 respectively.
- › Processing times for skilled residence categories [can be found on our website](#).

## USEFUL LINKS

New links are added to the end of this section as they become available – see the end of this section for the latest links. **The latest links have a star\* next to the bullet list.**

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### AEWV Scheme:

- › Our [Accredited Employer Work Visa resources web page](#) contains helpful information packages, communication tools, and other resources, including our [Job Advertisement Guide](#).
- › You can now use our new tool to [check on the INZ website if an employer is accredited](#).
- › Our [webpage about the settlement information accredited employers must give workers on an AEWV](#) now has an optional template we have created that employers can use to provide this information.
- › [Our web page about AEWV post-accreditation checks](#) has some useful tips on the kind of things we might ask employers to show us, and definitions of some of our common terms (like ‘key people’ or ‘triangular employers’).
- › Guidance has been published for [how to use ANZSCO](#), what to do [before you apply for a Job Check](#), and how to [advertise a role and engage with Work and Income](#).
- › A new Job Check checklist is now available for employers and advisers on [the INZ website](#). You can use this checklist to ensure you include everything required for an employer’s Job Check application.
- › A new [accreditation checklist](#) is now available to help you include everything required for when applying for or renewing a client’s employer accreditation. We have also improved the [Accredited Employer Work Visa](#) page to make it easier for customers to understand what they need to apply.

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### Visitor Visa:

- › We have updated our [webpage](#) to provide guidance for people with transliterated names on their passports, along with guidance on English translations of supporting documents. The [guide to apply for a New Zealand visitor visa](#) online has also been updated to include guidance on mandatory translations.
- › The guide to applying for a visitor visa online in eight languages, as well as English, has been updated to include guidance on mandatory translations. [Hindi](#), [Tongan](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Fijian Hindi](#), [Tuvaluan](#), [Samoan](#), [Kiribati](#), [Fijian](#), and [English](#).

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### Skilled Residence:

- › Our [Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa application guide](#) is a useful guide to help applicants plan and submit their SMC application on time.

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### Other/general:

- › The latest version of our Enhancements to Immigration Online User Guide, which is updated regularly, can be found on our [Enhancements to Immigration Online web page](#).
- › Learn about your visa status by visiting our [check your visa application status web page](#).
- › A new calendar of country-wide seasonal working opportunities for those with a Working Holiday Visa has been launched and can be viewed here: [Travelling with a working holiday visa](#).
- › Our [Can I get a refund of my application fee?](#) web page includes our Customer Refund Request Form.
- › Use [this form](#) to sign up to receive INZ's email updates.
- › The [INZ News Centre](#) is a place where we publish immigration announcements and/or changes, media releases, stories about some of the people who work at INZ, and common topics. Common topics have information to help answer questions on visas and immigration processes.
- › Our [immigration scams page](#) now includes information in other languages.
- › We have a [centralised process](#) to request priority allocation for urgent applications. This includes a web tool to [check if you can make an escalation request](#).
- › Please refer to [INZ's acceptable forms list](#) for a list of forms that are currently accepted by Immigration New Zealand offices. This list contains the date of the current version of each form.
- › Follow our [INZ Facebook page](#) to keep up to date with news, information and announcements.
- › Our [webpage](#) containing the list of employers who have not complied with immigration law and who are stood down from supporting visas for migrants has been updated.
- › Our ["Changing the conditions of a work visa or applying for a Job Change"](#) page has a new section titled "You have been made redundant or affected by a restructure, liquidation or bankruptcy." This section mentions these situations and advises people to call our Customer Service Centre if they are affected. Similar information has also been added to [the page aimed at employers](#). It advises employers to get in contact with us if they are affected by a change in business circumstance, and that they should direct migrant employees to call us.
- › Our website has now been updated with [information that allows people to verify](#) the authenticity of a visa given to them without calling the Customer Service Centre. This is in light of the proliferation of fake visas being offered by offshore agents and advisers.
- › We have an [updated guide](#) for foreign fishing crews working in New Zealand fisheries translated into 11 languages.