

**Note:** The information in this Roundup covers from March – April 2025.

### 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, students, workers, families and refugees 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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#### 22 APRIL 2025

- › From 28 April, [Timor-Leste has been added](#) to the list of eligible countries able to participate in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. More information on requirements can be found here:
  - › [RSE scheme overview for employers](#)

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#### 11 APRIL 2025

- › From 6 July 2025, people from Pacific Islands forum countries granted a Visitor Visa will be [able to visit New Zealand](#) multiple times within a 24-month period. Pacific Islands Forum country passport holders travelling to New Zealand from Australia (unless they are travelling on a transit visa) will also be able to travel visa-free as a trial for 12 months, beginning in November 2025.

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#### 31 MARCH 2025

- › If an application has, or is believed to have been, submitted or prepared by an unlicensed, non-exempt person (either online or a paper form), INZ will decline the application. More information about these changes is available on [the INZ website](#).
- › On April 2025, changes came into effect to grant work rights for people on interim visas while they await the outcome of an AEWV application. Applicants will be granted interim work rights if they apply for an AEWV while holding any type of work visa or from a student visa that permits work during term time. More information is available on [the INZ website](#), including how these changes impact the maximum continuous stay calculation and how time spent on an interim visa with work rights counts towards residence work experience.

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#### 5 MARCH 2025

- › You were invited to a webinar hosted by INZ on 5 March 2025. The webinar provided an overview of changes to the AEWV scheme which came into effect on 10 March. A recording of the webinar is available on [YouTube](#).

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### 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 **27 April 2025** unless otherwise stated.

#### AEWV

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025 – 27 April 2025):

- › INZ has received 7,420 Employer Accreditation applications, including 4,903 applications for reaccreditation, and has decided 7,528 Employer Accreditation applications

- › INZ has received 8,224 Job Check applications. 8,135 Job Check applications have been decided in 2025 to date. 19,024 Job Tokens having been approved and 5,576 Job Tokens having been used for roles.
- › INZ has received 10,498 AEWV applications. 10,930 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](#)

## SKILLED RESIDENCE

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025 – 27 April 2025):

- › INZ has received 766 applications under the new Skilled Migrant Category (SMC). 819 new SMC applications have been decided.
- › INZ has received 1,354 Green List Straight to Residence (StR) applications and 265 Green List Work to Residence (WtR) applications. 1,472 StR and 281 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 list bullet.**

### 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.

### 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](#).

### 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.

### 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. You can use our [Resource Library](#) to find social media resources on immigration scams.
- › 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](#).
- › Our [webpage about the NZeTA](#) has now been updated with a decision tool that enables visitors to check their eligibility for an NZeTA.
- › 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.
- › Use our [new online tool](#) to check if your client can support a visa for their partner or dependent children.
- › 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.\*