

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Recognising National Occupation List occupations in AEWV

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is updating how 87 new occupations are assessed under the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) programme from 3 November 2025 to ensure higher skilled occupations in the National Occupation List (NOL) are recognised. The NOL is New Zealand's new job classification system, replacing the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) framework. It became the official standard in November 2024 and was updated again on 1 July 2025. Unlike ANZSCO, the NOL reflects today's labour market and will be updated annually. Refer to [the INZ website](#) for more information.

New Business Investor Work Visa opens pathway to residence

On 24 November 2025, applications will open for the [Business Investor Work Visa](#) to support investment in established New Zealand businesses. The visa will be valid up to four years and will allow applicants to include their partner and dependent children. Refer to the INZ website for information on the eligibility criteria and investment options.

Updated MOU to help boost tourism from China

INZ and Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) have signed an updated [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with selected Chinese travel agents to support visitor visa processing under the Approved Destination Status (ADS) and Free and Independent Traveller (FIT) scheme. The updated MOU reaffirms New Zealand's commitment to a strong and collaborative tourism relationship with China and was signed in Shanghai on 25 September 2025 by the Head of INZ, Alison McDonald, and Tourism NZ Chief Executive Rene de Monchy, with individual ADS agents. ADS is an arrangement between the Chinese Government and another country, that lets Chinese holiday travellers visit a country in a tour group or as a Free and Independent Traveller.

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.

23 OCTOBER 2025

› The Government has announced discussions to explore a [reciprocal working holiday scheme](#) with Iceland. If agreed, the scheme would allow young people from both countries to travel, work and study in each other's countries. Iceland has been a visa waiver country for New Zealand since 1973, and this potential agreement would build on that long-standing relationship

14 OCTOBER 2025

› INZ is currently managing [a system limitation](#) that affects how employees on AEWVs are linked to employers following a business sale or restructure. The system is unable to automatically create or update job tokens in these scenarios,

which makes it difficult to maintain accurate and up-to-date employee records. To address this, we have introduced a manual process as a temporary solution.

02 OCTOBER 2025

› INZ has made [important changes](#) to improve the safety and accessibility of online visa payments by adding 3D secure as a second layer of authentication for card payments to protect applicants' card information when paying online.

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

› INZ encourages anyone planning to visit New Zealand over the summer holiday period to apply for their visa as early as possible. Applications submitted closer to the holiday period may face delays due to the high number of applications received, which could affect your travel plans. Visit [the INZ website](#) for tips for a smooth application process.

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

› The Government has announced [changes to the Skilled Migrant Category](#) (SMC) Resident Visa that will help employers retain skilled workers and support long-term economic growth. These changes come into effect in August 2026, and more detailed information will be provided closer to the time.

› The INZ website has been updated with information about how to make it easier for [Pacific](#) and [Chinese](#) visitors to visit New Zealand from Australia. These changes come into effect on 3 November 2025.

02 SEPTEMBER 2025

› From 1 December 2025, INZ will only accept police clearance certificates issued by a Regional Passport Office of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs when required from Indian visa applicants who reside in India. Requirements for Indian nationals outside India, and for non-Indian nationals who currently or have previously resided in India, have not changed. Visit [the INZ website](#) for more information.

› On Monday 29 September 2025, a [redesigned online job check form](#) was introduced, along with refreshed immigration requirements. These updates aim to make the process clearer and more intuitive for employers and immigration professionals.

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 **23 October 2025** unless otherwise stated.

AEWV

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025–23 October 2025):

- › INZ has received 16,262 Employer Accreditation applications, including 10,208 applications for reaccreditation, and has decided 16,567 Employer Accreditation applications.
- › INZ has received 24,434 Job Check applications. 24,784 Job Check applications have been decided in 2025 to date. 61,097 Job Tokens have been approved, and 27,240 Job Tokens have been used for roles.
- › INZ has received 35,727 AEWV applications. 35,275 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](#)

VISITOR VISA

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025–23 October 2025):

- › INZ has received 382,236 visitor visa applications, with 258,962 of these being for General Visitor Visas, 62,636

being for Business Visitor Visas, and the remainder being for other types. 383,355 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](#).

SKILLED RESIDENCE

So far in 2025 (1 January 2025 – 23 October 2025):

- › INZ has received 2,533 applications under the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC). A total of 2,320 SMC applications have been decided.
- › INZ has received 3,843 Green List Straight to Residence (StR) applications and 880 Green List Work to Residence (WtR) applications. 3,845 StR and 809 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 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 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.
- › An [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:

IMMIGRATION ROUNDUP FOR EMPLOYERS

- › 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.
- › 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](#).
- › You can now check whether you need a transit visa or an NZeTA if you are transiting through Auckland International Airport on [the INZ website](#).
- › 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.