

**Absolute**  
IMMIGRATION  
People. Not Paper

# COVID-19: Immigration Impact

---

# Meet our panel

---

# Meet your panel



Jamie Lingham

**Global Immigration Lead**



Belinda Man

**Immigration Director**

# What's new?

---

# Government announcement regarding temporary visa holders in Australia

- There are currently 2.17million people in Australia on a temporary visa, some filling critical skills shortages in Australia including medical professionals, aged care professionals, agriculture and other essential service providers.
- Changes were announced on 4<sup>th</sup> April which impact the following visa holders in Australia:
  - 457/482 TSS Temporary Work visa holders
  - Working Holiday Maker
  - Student visa holders
  - SCV 444 New Zealand visa holders
  - Visitor Visa holders
  - Subclass 408 COVID-19 stream



# Working Holiday Makers

- Waiver of six month with one employer for those working in health, aged and disability care, agriculture and food processing, and childcare





# Seasonal Pacific Islander Workers

- Can extend their stays for up to 12 months to work for approved employers (ensuring pastoral care and accommodation needs of workers are met to minimise health risks to visa holders and the community).
- Will need to self-isolate if moving to a new region
- Approved employers will need to continue engaging with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment on labour market testing to ensure recruitment of Australians first



# 457/482 Visa holders

- Skilled Visa Holders
  - Can withdraw \$10,000 from superannuation for this financial year
  - If stood down, but not laid off, able to extend visa
  - Businesses can reduce hours without breaching obligations
  - Time spent in Australia prior to COVID-19 will count towards PR requirements





# 408 COVID-19 Visa

- For former and current holders of temporary visas to lawfully remain in Australia and who would otherwise be required to depart Australia who, but for the COVID-19 pandemic, are unable to leave Australia
- Must hold a visa that is 28 days or less from ceasing to be in effect OR held a visa that is no more than 28 days from ceasing to be in effect
- Unable to apply for the same temporary visa or any other subclass of temporary visa other than the Subclass 408 visa
- Must be part of workforce shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to areas including, but not limited to, agriculture, aged care and public health
- Must be engaged in or have the relevant skills to undertake critical work relating to supply of essential goods and services



# Government support

- Currently **no** financial support for:
  - Student visa holders
  - Student Guardian visa holders
  - Training visa holders
  - Visitor visa holders
  - Subclass 482
  - Subclass 457
  - Subclass 400
  - Subclass 408
  - Subclass 407
  - Subclass 403
  - Subclass 300





# Government support

- Partner visa holders (subclass 820 or subclass 309) **may** be eligible for Centrelink
  - Government has removed usual waiting period
- Subclass 491 or subclass 494 **may** meet the definition of Australian resident for social security purposes
- New Zealand citizens (444 visa holder)
  - Who arrived **before 26 February 2001** are eligible to access Australian welfare payments and the JobKeeper payment
  - Who arrived **after 2001** have access to JobKeeper payment



# Red Cross Assistance

- Red Cross will receive funding from the government for the next 6 months to deliver emergency relief & casework support to temporary visa holders
- Who is eligible?
  - In Australia on a temporary visa
  - In urgent financial hardship
  - Cannot access Centrelink, Medicare or similar services
  - Have no income, savings or other financial support (including overseas family)





# COVID-19 enquiry form

- Travellers who have been affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions who want to travel to Australia because:
  - Immediate family member of citizen or permanent resident
  - Have compelling or compassionate reason to travel to Australia urgently

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/covid19-enquiry-form>





# Future strategy

- Be aware of changing immigration updates & future visa options for this time
- Be prepared for changing compliance regulations to become more favourable – sponsored workers may be able to work for other employers & outside of Nominated occupation
- Sign-up to Absolute Immigration newsletter, follow us on social media, we will provide updates as soon as we get them
- Call & email Absolute Immigration for advice, we are here to help at this time



# Questions?

---

Please email questions to [jlingham@absoluteimmigration.com](mailto:jlingham@absoluteimmigration.com) & we will look to answer these either individually, or update through our mail-outs & social media.

# Absolute

IMMIGRATION  
People. Not Paper