

Global BRIEF



Your professional link to global immigration news

HONG KONG

POSITIVE CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION RULES, HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED WHICH WILL AFFECT SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS WHO ARE ACCOMPANYING VISA HOLDERS TO HONG KONG.

The changes will take effect from 15 May 2006 this year. For the past three years, i.e. since 2003, spouses and dependents of visa holders in Hong Kong, had to file for their own work visas if they wished to take up employment in Hong Kong.

In a radical move to generate economic activity, the Hong Kong Immigration Dept. announced last week that dependents of professional workers or capital-investment entrants admitted into Hong Kong will no longer need prior permission before taking up employment.

This means a victory for the trailing spouses who are often faced with the sad decision to have to give up their careers in order to follow their spouses on foreign assignments.

Those spouses who are currently restricted from working may apply to the department to remove the restriction for free, and the HKID has promised to process these changes in one day. Alternatively, the spouse can wait to have their restriction canceled when they apply for, and are granted, extension of stay upon the expiry of their current stay period.

There is no change to the arrangements for the dependents of people admitted into Hong Kong for study. They are not allowed to work unless they have obtained prior permission from the Director of Immigration.

Pro-Link Global urges their clients who are in Hong Kong and who have spouses who wish to work, to contact us immediately so that we can facilitate this for you.

TRAILING SPOUSES

For additional information on how you can get involved in supporting efforts to lobby foreign governments for changes to their laws that prevent spouses from working as derivative visa holders visit www.permitsfoundation.com.

NEW ZEALAND

RESTRICTIVE CHANGES TO GUARDIANS' ELIGIBILITY FOR WORK AND STUDY PERMITS

On 22 May 2006, the Minister of Immigration approved changes to temporary entry policy. These changes restrict holders of 'guardian permits' from being granted work permits or student permits. These restrictions are necessary as the Guardian policy was primarily instituted to protect the welfare of foreign children who come to study in New Zealand.

The amended policy will ensure that guardian permit holders are honouring their commitment to looking after the student once they are in New Zealand.

Guardians who are the holders of visitor permits granted under "Special Categories of Visitors - Guardians accompanying students to New Zealand" policy, are now prohibited from being granted a student permit or a work permit under the "General Work or Specific Purpose or Event" policy.

Guardian permit holders are, however, eligible to apply for a variation of conditions to their visitor permit for part time work (between the hours of 9:30am and 2:30pm) or for part-time study. The changes do not affect guardians' eligibility under any residence, work-to-residence or partnership categories.

BACKGROUND

The "Special Categories of Visitors - Guardians accompanying students to New Zealand" policy was introduced in 2003.

It was designed to allow parents or legal guardians of foreign fee-paying students aged 17 years or under, or enrolled in school years 1 to 13, to accompany and remain with the student for the purpose of providing care and support. This category was introduced following a Ministry of Education review on options for improving the pastoral care of very young international students. The guardian must be the legal guardian who normally cares for the child in the home country.

Full details of the policy are available at

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/E28D3DE8-CBFE-4266-B191-246F7D9F56AC/0/AmendmentCircular200608.doc>

In this issue
Volume 2 No 3 MAY06

HONG KONG:

POSITIVE CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES ARE GOOD NEWS FOR SPOUSES

SUPPORT THE PERMITS FOUNDATION IN THEIR EFFORTS FOR TRAILING SPOUSES

NEW ZEALAND: RESTRICTIVE CHANGES TO GUARDIANS' ELIGIBILITY FOR WORK AND STUDY PERMITS

Discover our Blog
Caveat Lector!

<http://www.pro-linkglobal.com/news.html>



Let us hear from you

info@pro-linkglobal.com
+1 941 794 6461 Tel
+1 480 247 5152 Fax

Visit us

www.pro-linkglobal.com

Forward to a friend

Why not forward this newsletter to co-workers or friends who might be interested in [subscribing](#) on our home page?