



VISA ALERT

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APPLICATION FEES INCREASE FROM 01.07.08

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship has announced an increase in application fees from 1 July 2008. This includes but is not limited to the Temporary Business 457 visa and Employer Nomination Scheme 856 permanent residence visa. New application fees are set out in the following Table:

APPLICATION FEES - FROM 1 JULY 2008			
Subclass	Sponsorship	Nomination	Visa
457	\$ 285	\$ 60	\$ 250
856	N.A	\$ 370	\$ 2,105

Please contact us for enquiries about fee increases for other visa subclasses.

VISA PROCESSING CHANGES FROM 01.07.08

The Minister has also announced a change in the location of processing 457 visa applications. From 1 July 2008 all 457 visa applications, related sponsorship and nomination applications will be processed in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth only. The establishment of these 'centres of excellence' aims to improve the speed and effectiveness of visa processing. Our firm is already seeing 24 - 48 hour approvals for decision ready applications.

:: REMINDER

The MSL does not include overtime or superannuation

A reminder that the Minister has announced a new Minimum Salary Level (MSL) for 457 visa holders from 1 August 2008. This will apply to both existing 457 visa holders and new employees. Legislation is yet to be introduced to Parliament to give effect to the Minister's press release in this regard.

Pending a Gazette Notice clarifying the new MSL, 457 visa holders will need to be paid in accordance with the following Table:

HR/WK	MINIMUM SALARY LEVEL - FROM 1 AUGUST 2008			
	GENERAL		ICT*	
	Non-Regional	Regional	Non-Regional	Regional
38	\$ 43,440	\$ 39,100	\$ 59,480	\$ 53,530
39	\$ 44,583	\$ 40,129	\$ 61,045	\$ 54,939
40	\$ 45,726	\$ 41,158	\$ 62,611	\$ 56,347

*Information Communications Technology Professionals

Today, the Minister has announced that new laws will be introduced to prevent the exploitation of 457 workers and ensure the wages and conditions of Australian workers are not undercut. Details will be provided when further information becomes available.

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