



# VISA ALERT

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**KATIE MALYON**  
& Associates, Lawyers

## HEALTH INSURANCE AND 457 VISA HOLDERS FROM 14.09.2009

**:: TIP**

Ensure new 457 visa holders do not run the risk of breaching new visa condition 8501 by seeking written approval to deduct health insurance premiums from their salary

**:: TIP**

Contact your health insurer to confirm they offer DIAC's minimum level of insurance cover or contact expatriate medical insurance specialists International Medical Assistance Network IMAN on +61 2 8437 2888 or wendyphelps@iman.com.au

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship has announced the following information regarding health insurance obligations on subclass 457 visa holders commencing **14 September 2009**:

1. existing 457 visa holders

Sponsors retain ultimate responsibility for the cost of treatment in a public hospital for the validity of the visa. Sponsors who fail to meet these costs may be subject to administrative sanctions.

2. 457 visas granted on or after 14 September 2009

Proposed 457 visa holders, including accompanying family members, are required to demonstrate they have made *adequate arrangements* for health insurance for the validity of the visa. This requires them **prior** to grant of their visa to submit *either*:

- evidence of enrolment with Medicare under a reciprocal health care agreement ("**RHCA**"). Australia has a RHCA with 10 countries: UK, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Italy, Malta and New Zealand. However, enrolment in Medicare is only possible after a person arrives in Australia; or,
- a DIAC approved template letter from their health insurance provider confirming that the benefits include **all** of the following items:
  - public hospital cover
  - surgically implanted prostheses
  - ambulance services
  - informed financial consent on admission to a hospital
  - global annual benefit limits not to be less than \$1 million per person
  - no waiting periods except for pregnancy and pre-existing conditions
  - pharmacy - all PBS drugs
  - medical services
  - no buy out clauses
- new visa condition 8501 requires all new 457 visa holders to ensure they *maintain adequate health insurance*. Failure to do so may result in visa cancellation. All health insurers are obliged to report a 457 visa holder's policy cancellation to DIAC.



**Enquiries:** Katie Malyon +612 8247 8247  
visas@malyonlaw.com  
MARN: 9589358

