



VISA ALERT

KATIE MALYON
& Associates, Lawyers

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CLOSURE OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONER 422 VISA FROM 01.07.2010

:: TIP

To ensure continuity of service, sponsors of Medical Practitioner 422 visas should apply now to become a Standard Business Sponsor of 457 visas.

The Medical Practitioner 422 visa will no longer be available to new primary visa applicants from **1 July 2010**. From this date, new applicants who are International Medical Graduates *must* apply for a 457 visa.

This is intended to simplify the options available to Medical Practitioners and provide:

- access to e-lodgement and streamlined processing
- flexibility to work as an **independent contractor** for several employers while being sponsored by a single approved Standard Business Sponsor.

Transitional arrangements

Existing 422 visas will not automatically expire on 1 July 2010. Instead, transitional arrangements mean that existing 422 visa holders will remain on their 422 visa until the validity period ends, they change sponsor or are granted a new visa.

Dependant family of existing 422 visa holders

Existing 422 visa holders can still apply to have their dependant family members join them on their current 422 visa after the 1 July changes. Applications will be processed as usual and, if granted, these visas will have the same expiry date as the primary visa holder.

However, in our experience, if adding a new born child then it is preferable for the Medical Practitioner to apply for a 457 visa to include the new born.

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

