



VISA ALERT

6 December 2010

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SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE ENS PROGRAM EFFECTIVE 5 DECEMBER 2010

NEW HIGH INCOME SALARY THRESHOLD & NEW OCCUPATIONS

:: TIP

Ensure that you apply for permanent residence as soon as you are eligible since the list of eligible occupations may change at any time

Increase in high income salary threshold

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship has increased the annual base salary threshold for those wishing to apply for a Permanent Visa under the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) on the basis of being a 'high income' earner, from \$165,000 p.a. to \$250,000 p.a. The new law is effective from 5 December 2010 but will not impact applications which have been lodged prior to this date.

Last set in 2005 the high income salary threshold has not been updated since. The Explanatory Statement accompanying the new law states that the increase is:

"... required to reflect increases in executive-level salaries."

DIAC did not issue any prior warning of this significant change. We have sought an urgent response from Canberra in relation to any new policy (as yet unpublished) that may accompany the new law.

Changes to the ENS Occupation List

DIAC's ENS Occupation List has also been amended to include the following 17 new occupations:

- Advertising Manager
- Biotechnologist
- Construction Estimator
- Fisheries Inspector
- Food Technologist
- Jewellery Designer
- Network Administrator
- Conference and Event Organiser
- Art Administrator or Manager
- Education Reviewer
- Fitter and Turner
- ICT Systems Test Engineer
- Liaison Officer
- Primary Products Inspector nec
- Snowsport Instructor
- Web Designer
- Chief Executive or Managing Director

The occupation of *Medical Technician nec* has been removed from the ENS Occupation List under these changes.

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