

17 December 2024
Media release

2025 AEWV changes good news for tourism businesses – the Christmas gift we wanted

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) welcomes the announcement today of changes to the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) system from January 2025.

“This is excellent news for the industry. Fixing parts of the AEWV scheme is something we have advocated hard for, and it’s positive to see the government being responsive to tourism business needs,” TIA Chief Executive Rebecca Ingram says.

TIA notes particularly the removal of the median wage requirement, which had been causing distortions in how much people are being paid. In some cases, this was leading to overseas workers being paid more than Kiwis for the same jobs.

“This change enables a more level playing field for businesses and employees in how they package up employee remuneration and benefits, and how they recognise individuals,” Ms Ingram says.

It’s also positive to see changes to the seasonal pathways – this will make it easier to get skilled staff and better recognises their seasonal experience from the international talent pool, for example, those in the ski sector, Ms Ingram said.

Another win is the increase in the visa duration for level 4 and 5 roles. This has changed from two to three years, which offers more stability for both workers and employers.

Other welcome changes will be improvements for low-risk employer job checking, lower work experience threshold for some applicants, and moves to improve processing times and greater streamlining overall.

The changes will be implemented in four different stages over the course of 2025, beginning in January. This is a critical issue for the industry, and this is a welcome announcement just before Christmas.

“We look forward to hearing further details and continuing to work with Immigration New Zealand in the New Year,” Ms Ingram says.

More information:

Immigration Minister Erica Stanford – Securing the skills and experience NZ needs: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/securing-skills-and-experience-nz-needs>

Immigration NZ – release: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/reforms-to-aewv-announced>

For more information, please contact TIA Strategic Communications Advisor Hamish Stuart – hamish.stuart@tia.org.nz or (021) 073-8455.

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Inspire House, 125 Featherston St, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz



KEY FACTS

- Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) is Aotearoa New Zealand tourism's peak industry body. We are the only independent association that represents all sectors of the country's large and diverse tourism industry.
- TIA has about 1200 member businesses from across the industry, ranging from small owner/operators to large publicly listed tourism corporates and international hotel chains.
- TIA leads implementation of the industry's **Tourism Sustainability Commitment**, which aims to see every tourism business in Aotearoa New Zealand contributing positively to our people and cultures, our environment and our economy.
- TIA delivers a comprehensive and diverse range of industry events including TRENZ, New Zealand Tourism Awards, Discussing Tourism regional events and Tourism Summit Aotearoa.

Visit www.tia.org.nz for more information

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Inspire House, 125 Featherston St, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz

