



Thursday, September 25, 2008

Following the Intra Community dialogue held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at Auckland, various community issues identified were immediately assigned to various NZICA subcommittees and a definite progress is being made.

The issues pertaining to Immigration were progressed through a series of meetings held by NZICA at Wellington, Auckland and other branch centers with Hon' Clayton Cossgrave, Minister of Immigration; Hon' Shane Jones, Associate Minister of Immigration; Mike Christie, Regional Manager – Operation Support; Peter Elms, Manager – Border Security Support, Kerry Greig, Branch Manager NZIS – New Delhi and Tanuva Majumdar – Immigration Manager, NZIS New Delhi. These meetings have been very effective and the following progress has been achieved so far:

1. A support letter from NZICA shall be accepted by New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) as a supporting document for Applicants facing problem in relation to 'Visitor's Visa Issues. NZICA shall be able to pursue the application with NZIS if a letter of Privacy Waiver in favor of NZICA is forwarded to NZIS by the applicant. The applicant can now approach a branch of NZICA to pass his concerns related to a Visitors Visa. The branch after scrutiny shall forward the same to NZICA office (P O Box: 1941, Wellington). The Immigration committee of NZICA will then recommend further action. Only a support letter from either General Secretary or President NZICA shall be acceptable to NZIS.
2. Specific purpose Visas (attending marriage and funeral) shall continue to be fast tracked by NZIS office at New Delhi
3. Any processing delay shall be taken up by NZICA with NZIS at regular interactive meetings in future.
4. NZIS is now issuing about 21,000 visitors visas from New Delhi branch and about 87% are processed without any concerns. Therefore NZICA advises its members to take additional precaution in making all declarations at the time of submitting the application to get through the approval process first time itself.
5. NZICA shall be able to take up even those cases which have been closed by NZIS but where NZICA can substantiate the requirement for reassessment with supportive documentation.

6. NZICA shall support NZIS in its firmness to deal with illegal entrants and Overstayers.
7. For getting seasonal employees from India, NZICA shall approach individual organizations for their workforce needs.
8. NZICA shall continue to project New Zealand as a tourist destination and add to the efforts of NZIS in increasing the number of tourists from India (already about 75% of visitors from India are tourists)
9. NZIS shall give due consideration to all issues raised by NZICA and a further stock of the situation shall be taken after 6 months with the then Minister of Immigration.
10. NZICA shall maintain a record of support letters and request the community to help to make this work.

**Please note that you can reach NZICA branches at:**

- Auckland Indian Association, PO Box 8110 Symonds Street, Auckland
- Pukekohe Indian Association (Inc.), P O Box 149, Pukekohe
- New Zealand Country Section Indian Association (Inc.); C/o-P O Box 10391; Te Rapa , Hamilton
- Bay of Plenty(Rotorua) Indian Association(Inc.); P O Box 294, Rotorua
- Waikato Indian Association (Inc.); P O Box 920 ; Hamilton
- Taranaki Indian Association, 170 Heta Road, New Plymouth
- Central Districts Indian Association (Inc); P O Box 4037, Palmerston North
- Wellington Indian Association (Inc.); P O Box 14-480, Kilbirnie,
- Christchurch Indian Association (Inc.); P O Box 22-423, Christchurch
- Manakau Indian Association (Inc.); 25 Tui Road, Papatoetoe, Manukau

Community members can also forward their requests through one of the associates of NZICA viz:

- NZ Punjabi Cultural Association Inc [bjaidor@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:bjaidor@hotmail.co.nz)
- New Zealand Kannada Koota Inc [anandgreat94@yahoo.com](mailto:anandgreat94@yahoo.com)
- Probasee Bengalee [d.bhattacharyya@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.bhattacharyya@auckland.ac.nz)
- Auckland Marathi Association [Varsha.Belwalkar@manukau.govt.nz](mailto:Varsha.Belwalkar@manukau.govt.nz)
- Auckland Malayali Samajam [president@nzmalayalee.co.nz](mailto:president@nzmalayalee.co.nz)
- Muth Tamil Society [ilango@merc.co.nz](mailto:ilango@merc.co.nz)
- New Zealand Telugu Association [beeramv@yahoo.com](mailto:beeramv@yahoo.com)

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