

Thursday, 20 April 2017

In response to the pending changes with New Zealand's immigration instructions, [Christiaan Arns](#) Licensed Immigration Advisor of FRENZ Recruitment, has published some answers to frequently asked questions for migrant Dairy Farm workers in NZ.

The pending key changes for:

If you are a Permanent Residency (PR) Applicants who is:

1. **Earning less than \$49,000 p.a.*** – you will not receive any points for NZ work experience – regardless of title or skill level classification (i.e. Herd Manager, Assistant Farm Manager) if pay is below this level.
2. **Earning more than \$73,300 p.a.*** - you will receive points even if a job was previously considered a low skill level (i.e. a Farm Assistant, Assistant Herd Manager or Herd Manager earning this amount or more would be eligible). The points apply only to the years when the salary was at this level.
3. **Earning more than \$97,700 p.a.*** – you will get bonus points (but probably a rare situation for migrant workers within the Dairy Farming Industry)
4. **30 – 39 years of age** will earn extra points compared to all other age brackets.

A migrant ready to apply for PR or has been invited to apply for PR – you should immediately submit your application before the new rules come into force on the **14 August 2017**. All applications submitted before the new rules will be processed under the old (current) immigration instructions.

If you are a Temporary Work Visa Applicant (Essential Skills Category) who is:

1. **Paid less than \$49,000 p.a.*** – you will only be able to work for a total period of up to three years after which you'll need to leave NZ. You'll be required to live out of NZ for an, as yet determined, period of time before you can apply for another NZ visa. We're awaiting INZ to define the time period and conditions for this 'stand down' time.
2. **Undertaking Spousal/Partnership application** - your spouse/partner will no longer automatically be entitled to an open work visa. The new entitlement for partners will be visitor's visas only. If your partner wants to work, they have to apply for a work visa and meet the requirements for a work visa.
3. **Paid more than \$49,000 but less than \$73,300 p.a.*** - you can apply for multiple temporary work visas just like now (3-year limit does not apply). The professional title of your visa is not relevant (i.e. DFA, Herd Manager, Assistant Herd Manager, etc.). The seniority level of your position is not defined by the title but only the pay rate. These positions are considered trainable positions and are at Skill level 4 or 5. This experience cannot be used towards a PR application.

If you are a migrant worker who currently work, and have primarily worked, in the South Island for 5 years or longer

If you're part of this group of people, you'll be entitled to apply for a work to residency visa. To meet the conditions of this visa, you need to be under 55 years of age and you will have to remain in the same region of the South Island and remain working in the dairy farming industry for another 2 years, starting on 21 May 2017. If you meet these conditions, you and your family will be granted PR after the 2 years. The salary conditions from above do not apply.

*INZ has yet to clarify if this is total package value

For additional individual advice, he can be contacted at: immigration@frenz.co.nz