

Changes to Partner of a Worker Work Visa

From 31 May 2023, partners of Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) and Essential Skills Work Visa (ESWV) holders who apply for a new Partner of a Worker Work Visa may have new work conditions in the visa.

Changes to Partner of a Worker Work Visa have now been confirmed. These changes are part of the Government's plan to rebalance the Immigration system to support a higher-productivity, higher-wage economy.

Work conditions for partners of migrant workers

People who successfully apply for a Partner of a Worker Work Visa on or after 31 May 2023 may have new conditions that mean:

- they can only work for an accredited employer
- they cannot be self-employed
- they cannot work below the median wage in roles covered by capped sector agreements.
- if they are working in a role:
 - not covered by an uncapped sector agreement, they must be paid at least the median wage in effect at the time they receive their visa, or job offer, whichever is later. This is currently NZD \$29.66.
 - covered by an uncapped sector agreement, they must be paid at least the relevant wage threshold in place. They will not be subject to a stand-down period.

This includes most partners of workers who hold an Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) or an Essential Skills Work Visa (ESWV).

Partners do not need to have a job offer to apply for this visa, and employers do not need to complete a Job Check. When granted, partners can change employers without applying for a Variation of Conditions. There is no minimum number of hours that partners need to work.

People who are currently employed will need to ensure their employment meets the conditions of their new visa when any new visa takes effect. People who are not employed will need to ensure any future job offer meets these conditions.

Any later changes to the employer's accreditation, the median wage and sector agreements will not impact the visa holder if they remain in the same employment. From 31 May, people will be able to check on the INZ website if an employer is accredited.

The changes do not affect current work visa conditions or people who apply before 31 May 2023. There are no changes to visa conditions for partners of New Zealanders or partners of those holding other work visas (such as a Post Study Work Visa).

Exceptions for partners of highly paid and Green List workers

Some partners of AEWV or ESWV holders will continue to be eligible for a work visa allowing them to

work in any occupation for any employer in New Zealand, with no median wage threshold. This includes partners of:

- migrants who are paid at least twice the median wage, or
- migrants who are working in a role on the Green List.

These exceptions include migrants who did not meet these requirements when they received their visa but have since met them through a pay increase or their role being added to the Green List. Evidence of eligibility will be needed as part of the Partner of a Worker Work Visa application, or through a Variation of Conditions request.

Source: [Immigration.govt.nz](https://www.immigration.govt.nz)

Brave in business e-learning

In partnership with Spark Business Lab and the Institute for Organisational Psychology, MBIE has created a really effective but simple tool to help small business owners. The tool consists of an e-learning series of videos, tips and templates to use. We've checked it out and it is impressive.

A particularly useful part of the tool is the [Headspace](#) section, which starts with videos explaining –

- why looking after yourself is good for business.
- how to look after yourself mentally.
- how to look after yourself physically.

Should you develop your strengths or spend time on your weaknesses? Do you know your strengths? Try a habit tracker for analysis and improvement.

We suggest you start with the [Headspace Check-in exercise](#). If you want to, you can do the test confidentially in an incognito tab.

Source: [Business.govt.nz](https://www.business.govt.nz)

This article is brought to you by AdviceWise People, who provide WGANZ's free employment helpline 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the article, please call Philip or Anthony.