

human connections

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Minister launches Significant Investor Visa

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP has just launched a new visa designed to encourage significant migration investment into Australia.

Business migrants with \$5 million or more to invest in Australia's economy can apply for a provisional significant investor visa, a new stream within the Business Innovation and Investment program.

The new visa makes it easier for migrant investors by offering concessions on visa requirements, such as not having to meet a points test and having no age restriction.

It has a relatively low residence requirement of 160 days spent in Australia over four years. After this, migrant investors are eligible for permanent residence provided they have maintained their investment.

Investment options include Commonwealth, state and territory government bonds, Australian Securities and Investments Commission

regulated managed funds and direct investment into proprietary Australian companies.

Visa applicants must:

- have a successful business or investment history;
- have adequate personal and business assets;
- submit an expression of interest in SkillSelect (ISA Group can help you with this);
- be nominated by a state or territory government (we can also help you with this); and
- make investments of at least \$5 million Australian dollars into complying investments.

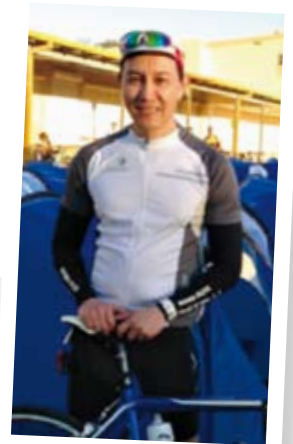
Visa holders can also extend their visa term. If approved, they can extend their provisional visa by an additional two years. A maximum of two extensions are permitted.

To find out more about applications for a Significant Investor Visa, please call ISA Group, or visit skillsselect.gov.au.

Social Update: Ride To Conquer Cancer 2012

The inaugural Ride to Conquer Cancer was the largest cycling fundraiser in Western Australian history, raising over \$4.6 million to help fund life-saving cancer research at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR).

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Christmas Office Closure

ISA Group offices will be closed from mid-afternoon on Friday 21 December, reopening Wednesday 2 January 2013.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ISA Group

Your complete immigration and overseas recruitment service

To meet the demand for skilled labour in some industries, Australian businesses need to find and recruit people from overseas to service existing contracts and secure new projects.

ISA Group helps businesses engage new staff for short to long-term work assignments by providing cost-effective and tailored visa and immigration solutions.

For more information, go to isa.com.au, or call us on **+61 8 9346 8888**.



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From the front page...

The journey of over 200 km saw 1219 cyclists ride from McCallum Park in Perth to an overnight camp in Pinjarra, before returning to Perth the following day.

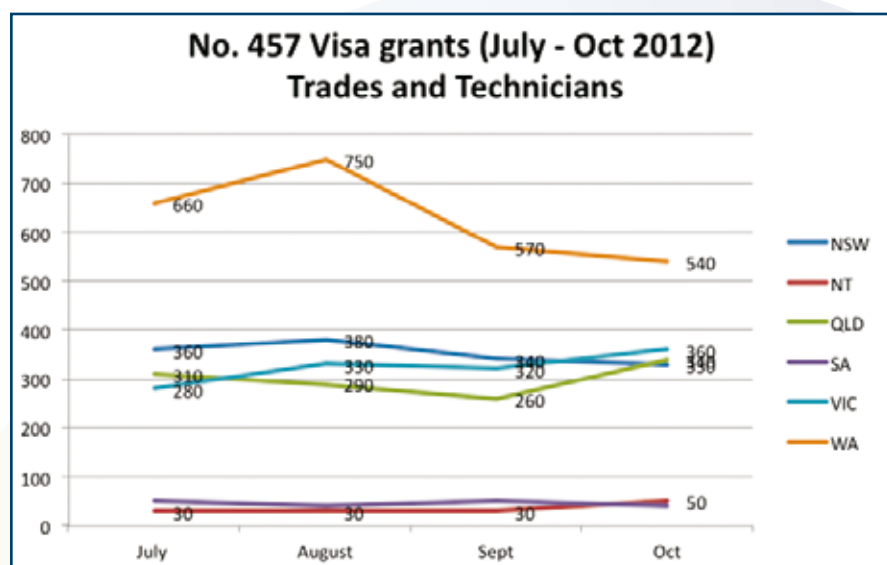
Darrell Teoh, who participated in the fund raiser on behalf of ISA Group said, "This has been a momentous and challenging journey. The training has been hard and gruelling. The nine-hour ride was a test of my physical and mental strength. It was a great feeling to cross the finish line. However, this pales in comparison to those who have battled against cancer.

"I've met a lot of wonderful people who participated in this event due to the impact of cancer on them or on someone they loved or had known. It's inspirational to be part of this event. Thank you so much ISA Group for supporting my epic ride and for supporting WAIMR."

Latest data on 457 Visa arrivals

Key Points:

- 457 visa holders to 31 October 2012 was 13.5% higher than the same period last year.
- Onshore visa lodgements to 31 October 2012 increased by 32.5% compared with the same period last year. Demand continues but may be levelling off.
- Primary visa holders to 31 October 2012 was 26.6% higher compared with the same period last year.
- Top 5 countries: United Kingdom 20.8%, India 20.2%, Ireland 8.7%, Philippines 6.9% and USA 5.6%.
- 51% of Visa grants are for professionals, followed by 26.3% for trades and technicians.



Meeting 457 Obligations – Leave without Pay

A reminder to all sponsors that 457 visa holders can apply for leave without pay (LWOP) and not breach their visa conditions. This is because these visa holders are considered to be in the continued employ of the sponsor, despite not working or receiving a salary.

Under the policy, the intended period of LWOP should not exceed 12 months or the remaining visa period, whichever is shorter. Visa holders must also be able to support themselves for the period of leave, without seeking work from another employer.

During the period of LWOP, sponsors are reminded that their obligations towards their 457 sponsored employees (and family if applicable) remain in force.

Obligations also include notifying the Department of Immigration's monitoring/compliance section in writing of all approved LWOP for visa holders.

If you're unsure of your 457 obligations as a sponsor or visa holder, or you require HR advice about what constitutes LWOP, please call ISA Group today.

Addressing skill shortages

ISA Group Director, Noelene Merrey and International Resourcing and BD Manager, Judith Uren recently attended the Pit Crew Labour Market Update Seminar to hear Peter Dyball discuss labour forecast data in light of reported commentary hailing 'the boom is over!'

The seminar provided evidence confirming that whilst construction activity may have slowed, there are sufficient committed projects commencing in 2013 in Oil and Gas and in Mining to create a dwindling supply of skilled workers, particularly in the second quarter of 2013.

Mr Dyball anticipated acute shortages in trade areas such as Structural Steel, Welding Trades, Fitters and Electricians.

Fortunately, ISA Group has a steady supply of skilled workers to fill these types of positions. Now is the perfect time to recruit overseas workers to fill that shortage in February or March 2013.

Contact: Gregor Black or Brett Merrey on 08 9346 8888.