



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Michael Wood	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of briefing	Accredited Employer Work Visa – Changes to Chef Eligibility Requirements	Date to be published	8 December 2022

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
October 2022	Accredited Employer Work Visa – Changes to Chef Eligibility Requirements	Office of the Minister of Immigration
3 October 2022	CBC-22-MIN-0047 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO [select one]

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Information withheld: Confidential advice to Government



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Accredited Employer Work Visa: Changes to Chef Eligibility Requirements

Portfolio Immigration

On 3 October 2022, the Cabinet Business Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-22-MIN-0432]:

- 1 **noted** that in April 2022, Cabinet agreed that there should be a qualification requirement for chefs to access an Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) [CAB-22-MIN-0145];
- 2 **noted** that the qualification requirement has been set as a New Zealand Certificate in Cookery (Level 4) or overseas equivalent, but that the sector has raised concerns that this is a barrier to the recruitment of chefs who lack formal qualifications;
- 3 **agreed** to remove the qualification requirement for chefs, which will have the effect of bringing chefs into line with the standard median wage threshold to chefs for the AEWV;
- 4 **agreed** that the decision in paragraph 3 above will be a temporary measure for 12-18 months while officials work with the sector on alternatives, which may include identifying an alternative credible assessment regime;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration (the Minister) will report back to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee in February 2023 with options for chefs who do not meet the requirements to access the proposed new Skilled Migrant Category settings;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister will announce the changes soon after Cabinet decisions, with a view to implement the new settings in early December, or sooner if operationally feasible;
- 7 **authorised** the Minister to implement more permissive AEWV settings for chefs in the immediate term (including for on-hand applications) until the new settings are phased in, i.e. no later than December 2022, taking into account broader Immigration Rebalance settings and operational feasibility.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta (part of item)
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Kiri Allan

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet