



RISK BRIEF

Fraudulently obtained Job offers in AEWV applications for Indian Nationals

7 August 2023
RV-RB-2023-120

KEY POINTS

New Delhi Risk and Verification Office (NDI) has identified likely fraudulently obtained job offers in Accredited employer work visa (AEWV) applications while conducting risk treatments.

NDI undertook analysis of 25 AEWV applications in which applicants did not require any qualifications or work experience as per job check requirements. Normally these applications would undergo swift approval as the primary risk triggered on AEWV applications is fraudulent documents. Applicants were interviewed via telephone and risks of fraudulently obtained job offers were identified, along with other concerns.

Recommendations have been made for new/updated triage risk rules and associated risk advice to support future visa processing and for AERMR activity to be considered on identified employers. It is also recommended that Risk & Verification Tasking Group (RVTG) task further work across the network to understand the gravity of this risk more broadly.

ANALYSIS

NDI reviewed a sample of 25 AEWV applications with the specific selection criteria of no qualifications or work experience required as per the job check. The positions of the selected applications were low skilled and included commercial cleaner, café assistant, sales assistant, shift supervisor, telecommunications cable joiner, among others.

Verification was undertaken on these 25 applications. This involved telephone interviews with the applicants regarding:

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Post the verification, it was identified that 20 (80%) of the applications had indicators of fraudulently obtained job offers. The applicants had minimal to no knowledge of the job role and the hiring process that was followed.

In most of these applications, the employer and employee belonged to the same nationality, the majority being from India. This appears to be an indicator of facilitation that meets the risk profile of a Culturally Vertically Integrated Business Model (CVIBM).

Risks Identified

1. *Premiums and recruitment costs:* Two applicants during their interview confirmed that they agreed to pay the New Zealand employer a sum of INR 450,000 (approximately NZ\$9,000) in exchange for a job offer. The employers identified were Commercial information [REDACTED] and Commercial information [REDACTED].
2. *Facilitation:* Seven applicants confirmed that family members or friends helped them obtain the job offers as the New Zealand employer was known to them. The applicants were not aware of the details in the job offer.
3. *Exploitation:* Most applicants did not have knowledge of pay rates, job duties, job location, leave entitlements, etc. This then also raised the risk of possible exploitation.
4. *Wage Inflation:* During the interview one applicant confirmed that he would be paid NZD 50 per day to work for 7-8 hours. This is not only below the minimum wage but also does not match the wage of NZD 30 per hour mentioned in his employment contract. The employer identified was Commercial information [REDACTED].
5. *Adverse Immigration history:* Two applicants were identified to have withheld information about declined visas from another country and the adverse immigration history of another country.

ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the analysis undertaken the following recommendations have been made:

1. NDI will be providing feedback to Business Analytics and Targeting (BAT) for a risk rule update for rule [M0539](#), and/or for the implementation of a new risk rule for AEWV applications where there are no requirement of any qualifications and work experience.
2. It is recommended that for Indian Nationals who are (NEWC) AEWV applications where there is no requirement for qualifications and work experience that the applicants are interviewed to determine how the applicant obtained the job offer, the applicant's awareness about the job, and the applicant's immigration history.
3. NDI will send the above identified employers where premium and wage inflation concerns were identified to CVT (Christchurch Verification Team) for AERM (Accredited Employer Risk Monitoring and Review)
4. Risk Brief is shared with INZ for consideration with the AEWV GI review.
5. RVTG tasks further analysis across all markets into AEWV applications where no exp/quals required to ascertain how extensive this risk is and results used to inform potential policy/process change.

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