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Flooding as a result of liquefaction damage, Christchurch

NZ Specialists

When considering migration there are so many questions that need to be answered. We will try, but if we don't know the answer then we will probably know someone who does. Some of the topics other migrants have asked for information on include:-

- Buying a House
- Renting property on your arrival
- Banking
- Tax & Trusts laws (UK to NZ)
- Child care and schooling
- Moving money to NZ
- Moving Pets to NZ
- Relocating your belongings
- Buying and Driving a car in NZ
- Kiwisaver (NZ pension scheme)
- Tax advice on keeping a UK rental property

If you would like information regarding the above topics or you have other topics to suggest then please email us and request the info. We have teamed up with a number of specialist providers who have built businesses helping people like you.

New Zealand market update

Welcome to the Catalyst Recruitment newsletter for July from a very cold New Zealand! Winter hit us with some ferocity this week; particularly if you happened to be on the South Island. A cold front moved up from the Antarctic bringing with it some of the lowest temperatures in New Zealand for years; at one point the talk was of snow in Auckland but that failed to eventuate.

To add to their misery Christchurch residents were walloped again with 45 cm's of snow falling in the central city and around 250 skiers got trapped overnight on Mt Lyford and had to shelter in the resort cafeteria before the road was opened the next day. In much of the region roads were closed, flights were grounded and many people didn't make it to work on Monday, unable to get through the snow. Things have improved as the week has gone on but people are certainly looking forward to the summer!

So apart from extreme weather, what's happening in New Zealand? Christchurch still remains the major focus in the country and as such we're sending out a special report going into detail on the current situation in the city next week. In other areas the Hobsonville Deviation (West Auckland) project has been completed and will be opening next week and the Victoria Park Tunnel is due to open 3 months ahead of time. Both projects will free up a large workforce which will likely be used in the Christchurch rebuild.

The award date for the Waterview project has been brought forward this week so that the Minister for Transport, Stephen Joyce, can make the announcement before he goes on holiday! August 16th is now d-day for the award of the biggest single project seen in New Zealand and a number of our major clients have their fingers crossed the result will go their way. It's been a busy week for Stephen Joyce who announced on Tuesday a 10 year spend of \$36 billion for state highways, local roads, public transport services and road safety around the country (not including Christchurch rebuild) an announcement that has put a smile on the face of the construction industry.

In general the country still remains quiet but the level of optimism is high and the number of vacancies has increased. Over the past 3 years we've had a very limited number of jobs to advertise but in the past 6 months this has increased to the point that we currently have over 200 positions available. Check out the new positions on our new and improved job board and get in touch if you're interested in applying.

As always get in touch if you're planning a visit or have committed to a move and we'll get in touch to discuss your plans and how we're able to help you.



Government pumps billions into road and rail

The Government is to commit hundreds of millions in extra funding to its "Roads of National Significance" (RONS) such as the Puhoi to Wellsford highway and Auckland and Wellington commuter rail services over the next three years.

The increased funding will come partly from cutting back the amount of money spent on managing funding allocations and transport planning.

Transport Minister Steven Joyce this morning released the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2012 which details plans to invest about \$36 billion over the next ten years in state highways, local roads, public transport, road policing and road safety promotion. The plan makes about \$2.95 billion available in 2012/13 for investment in the land transport sector, rising to \$3.25 billion in 2014/15 and a total of about \$36 billion over ten years which is a similar level of spending to that in current policy.

However, this morning's statement makes some significant changes from the existing plan.

It lifts the funding available for new and improved state highways by \$125 million for the first three years to further support the State Highway improvement programme including progressing the seven Roads of National Significance.

It also increases the funding available for public transport services by \$140 million for the first three years to help support the upgrade and expansion of the metro rail systems in Auckland and Wellington.

The cost of both funding increases would be partly met by "reducing the funding available for some activities classes, such as, transport planning and management of the funding allocation system".

"These reductions are important to encouraging greater value-for-money," the Ministry of Transport said on its website.

Mr Joyce said the the new statement built on the government's progress in supporting economic growth through investment in much needed infrastructure.

"Continued funding for State highways and the Roads of National Significance will help encourage business, tourism and jobs and will improve road-user safety."

"Providing the support necessary to repair the land transport network in Christchurch is also a top priority."

Source: NZ Herald
11:35 AM Tuesday July 26, 2011

Jason Spencer Case study of moving to NZ

Current Employer: HEB Structures, Structures Manager Tauranga Eastern Link

Jason first contacted Catalyst in November 2010 in order to secure a position so that he and his family could return to New Zealand. Catalyst interviewed Jason over the phone and spoke with clients whose work associated closely with Jason's extensive experience. After an interview with HEB Structures and some glowing reference checks Jason was offered the position and returned, with his family, to start work in February of this year. Jason continues to go great guns on the largest roading project in the Bay of Plenty and the family are enjoying the move back to the region.

Q. What inspired you to consider moving with your family to New Zealand?

A. *I had already lived in NZ for over a year previously and really wanted to return to NZ after spending some time back in the UK. I missed the working life as well as the Work and Leisure balance.*

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. Yes

Q. How has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

A. *Better quality of life and my leisure time is always filled with some kind of sport. Really enjoy the fitness side to living here.*

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. *Not gone back to the UK the first time! Family pressures when you move away are high and so being strong enough not to bow down to that pressure is a plus.*

Q. What one thing do you wish you had known about before moving?

A. *The price of food - although it's a necessity it is very expensive, but it wouldn't put me off moving here. Shopping bills can be a real surprise!!*

Q. What advice would you pass to someone commencing the process?

A. *Don't just look for a work visa for NZ. Definitely go for a skilled migrants residence visa that would open a lot more doors for you if you are able to go this way. My family and I did and we could see the benefits against others that chose not to.*

Looking back with hindsight, do think you have made the right move for your family?

A. *Yes, I do believe we have made the right choice - the beach life is great.*

Useful Facts:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 st Contact - | 5 th November 2010 |
| 1 st Interview - | 2 nd December 2010 |
| Job Offer - | 13 th December 2010 |
| [1 st contact to] Start - | 21 st February 2011 (3 months 16 days) |

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VISA Costs

Immigration advice and the associated NZ law

There's now a law in place in NZ to promote and protect the interests of people receiving immigration advice and to enhance the reputation of New Zealand as a migration destination. The Immigration Advisers Authority is responsible for the regulation of the immigration advice industry. Anyone giving New Zealand immigration advice must be licensed with IAA.

For clarity – neither Catalyst Recruitment nor any of our staff members are Licensed Immigration Advisers and as such can not legally provide you with immigration advice.

What we can do...

As you know – we have been responsible for assisting well over 300 families make the move to NZ. Part of our service is to make sure you make it through the immigration process. The only assistance we can give is to make you aware of the options most of the people we assist choose to get here! We thought that we might also let you know about the potential costs involved so you have a rough idea of what you might be up for! Obviously we are not in control of these charges and not only do they vary depending on your location and nationality, but they can change without us knowing.

Therefore – to make your own accurate calculation

1. Go to www.immigration.govt.nz
2. Select **Forms and guides** from the right hand menu (usually top)
3. Select **Forms and Fees** from the very top bar on the right hand side
4. Select **Office and Fees finder** from the central text
5. Now either use the **calculator** or **download the PDF**

A few options *(assuming UK citizen based in UK)*

A Working Holiday Visa

If you are 30 or under and fit the criteria – you can virtually download a visa for £70 that provides you with a Visa for 12 months in NZ (no police check or medical required). We have seen many people get this visa allowing them to accept an 11 month contract and converting within the 12 months to a longer term visa and a permanent job.

B Work - Talent Visa

Most of our clients are Accredited Employers with immigration (list on the NZIS website). If your new employer is Accredited you can secure a Talent Visa.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Cost | £155 for the application |
| Medicals | £300 per person (much cheaper in NZ - \$300) |
| Police checks | £35 per person standard |

(Example: Family of 5 will cost £1830, Couple £825)

C Work Visa - Long Term Skill Shortages List (LTSSL)

If one of our clients is not an Accredited Employer – your role will probably be on the LTSSL – in which case the application is slightly different, but the costs are the same as the Talent Visa (above)

After arriving on one of the temporary visas above – you will need at some point to secure a more permanent arrangement. Some people choose to do this direct, but it can take 4 to 6 months – so employers are less likely to wait for you!

Going Permanent *(You will probably be in NZ at this stage – so these figures are in NZ\$)*

Resident Visa - Skilled Migrant Category

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Expression of Interest – online | \$440 (if required) |
| Application Fee | \$2050 |
| Each member – once accepted will pay | \$310 Migrant Levy |

(Example: Family of 5 will cost \$4040, Couple \$3110)

N.B. Unless you have utilised the same medicals from previous use (bearing in mind they only have a 3 months lifespan) and police checks (which have 12 month lifespan) – you will need these again, Adding \$370 per person.