



Press release: Monday 3rd August 2009

Immigration New Zealand targets healthcare professionals to fill skills shortage

Significant job shortages in New Zealand mean that Immigration New Zealand is keen to hear from skilled British healthcare professionals who would consider a move to the 'Land of the Long White Cloud.' Applicants would then be put in touch with New Zealand's District Health Boards, which are in desperate need of skilled professionals in the sector. Specialist recruitment agencies, such as Health Professional NZ, are also helping skilled Brits to fill specific vacancies.

New Zealand is in need of a wide variety of healthcare professionals. Opportunities are currently available in medical, nursing, allied health, and clinical-technician positions. Those interested may include anyone who has recently been made redundant in the UK or others who are struggling to find work in the current climate. To register your interest please visit: <http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/>

In most cases, Brits with the right qualifications who can secure specific jobs within the healthcare industry should be entitled to permanent residency. What's more, because there is a significant shortage within this sector right now, the immigration process should only take a few months to complete.

Junior doctors may also be able to enter the country on a Working Holiday Visa. To qualify for this, applicants must be between the ages of 18-30. The Working Holiday Visa allows skilled and unskilled Brits to work and travel throughout the country for up to 23 months. Whilst primarily intended for those wanting a gap year, it does allow health professionals to work in their profession in New Zealand, provided they have registered with the relevant New Zealand Registration Board in advance. More details can be found by visiting: <http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/working-holiday-scheme~89.html>

Shyam Murti from Health Professional NZ commented on the healthcare job market in New Zealand:

"There are numerous opportunities available for British healthcare professionals looking for a new challenge in New Zealand. These range from psychiatrists, surgeons and other specialists to speech language therapists, nurses and midwives. There are opportunities in both urban and rural areas; working for public, private and non-governmental healthcare organisations so that professionals can choose the working environment that suits their needs."

New Zealand currently targets 45,000 skilled immigrants a year, with Britain being the largest source country of migrants with an annual average of 17,000 Brits opting to live permanently in New Zealand. A recent survey revealed a higher standard of living (48%), better weather (19%), a safer place to bring up children (17%) and a lower cost of living (16%) as the main motivators for moving to New Zealand.

For further information on the entry requirements, or to register your interest, please visit <http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/> or call 09069 100 100 (calls cost £1 per minute).

For further recruitment information from Health Professional NZ, please visit: <http://www.healthprofessionalnz.com>

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Further Information

For more information on working and living in New Zealand, please visit www.newzealandnow.govt.nz. This site has a media section.

For journalist enquiries, please contact Susie Tempest or Jenny Groutage at The Saltmarsh Partnership on 020 7928 1600 or email susie/jenny@saltmarshpr.co.uk.