

## **Special Direction—Extension of Visas Held by Class of Onshore Persons Whose Working Holiday Scheme Visas are Expiring to Manage Effects and Deal With Consequences of Measures Taken to Contain or Mitigate the Outbreak of Covid-19 or its Effects**

Pursuant to sections 78A and 52 of the Immigration Act 2009 (“Act”), by special direction, I extend the visas, and vary the work and travel conditions of those visas, held by the following class of people:

Every person who:

1. Is in New Zealand on 4 April 2023, and
2. Who holds a Working Holiday Scheme temporary visa (Working Holiday visa) with an expiry date between 4 April 2023 and 30 September 2023 (inclusive).

Visas held by this class are extended for a period of six months from the date on which they would otherwise expire (that is, the date in the visa record that the visa would have expired on, if not for this direction. For example, if a visa has the recorded expiry date of 31 May 2023, it will be extended to 30 November 2023 and expire on the beginning of 1 December 2023).

For the avoidance of doubt, visas that expire in accordance with section 63(2) of the Act are not included in the class of persons covered by this special direction.

In addition, where the visas held by this class of people are subject to work restrictions, those conditions are varied under section 52(4A) of the Act, to permit the visa holder to work in any employment in New Zealand except permanent employment. Where the visas held by this class of people are subject to multiple entry travel conditions, those conditions are varied under section 52(4A) of the Act, to permit multiple entry until the new expiry date.

I am satisfied that the making of this special direction is reasonably necessary to manage the effects, or deal with the consequences, of measures taken under the Act or any other enactment in New Zealand, and other measures taken elsewhere, to contain or mitigate the outbreak of COVID-19 or its effects. This special direction manages the ongoing effects on the labour market as a result of COVID-19, by allowing flexibility in immigration settings so that existing migrant workers can continue to fill labour shortages.

Dated this 2nd day of April 2023.

HON MICHAEL WOOD, Minister of Immigration.

### **Explanatory Note**

*The effect of this special direction is to extend Working Holiday visas by six months from the date they would otherwise expire (as well as multiple entry travel conditions) where the visa holder is in New Zealand on 4 April 2023 and the visa is due to expire between 4 April 2023 and 30 September 2023 (inclusive) and to remove any work restrictions on those visas to permit the visa holder to work in any employment in New Zealand except permanent employment.*