

RESIDENCE FROM WORK RELIGIOUS WORKERS POLICY

Holders of visas granted under Religious Worker instructions may be granted a Resident Visa where they meet the following requirements:

- have held and met the terms of a Religious Worker Work Visa as a religious worker for a period of at least 3 years;
- have an acceptable sponsor;
- have a genuine offer of work from their sponsor for religious work that is ongoing for a stated term of at least 5 years;
- are aged 55 years or under;
- meet the minimum English language requirements of IELTS 5.0 or can provide equivalent evidence;
- have at least 5 years of religious training and/or religious work experience;
- meet health and character requirements;
- have not, at any time since the grant of their work visa under the Religious Worker instructions, applied for, or been granted welfare assistance; and
- are in New Zealand at the time they lodge their application for a Resident Visa.

CONDITIONS AND CURRENCY OF RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS

Resident Visas granted under these instructions will be subject to the conditions that:

1. the applicant must undertake religious work for the sponsoring organisation only. This condition will apply for 5 years from the visa holder's first day as a resident in New Zealand, except where a Variation of Conditions has been granted (see below); and
2. the sponsor of the visa holder meets their obligations for 5 years from the visa holder's first day as a resident in New Zealand.

The multiple entry travel conditions on a Resident Visa granted under the Religious Work instructions must be valid for 5 years from the visa holder's first day as a resident in New Zealand.

VARIATION OF CONDITIONS

The holder of that visa may request that the conditions on their resident visa be varied to allow them to work for another registered charity of the same religious affiliation whose purpose is advancing religion.

The sponsoring organisation can be changed, for example, where the sponsoring organisation stated on the visa is deregistered as a charitable organisation under Section 31 of the Charities Act 2005.

The applicant must provide supporting documentation to Immigration New Zealand to confirm that the new sponsoring organisation is an acceptable sponsor and the visa holder will undertake religious work for the new sponsor.