

A Lawlers Concise Guide to *Moving to New Zealand*

New Zealand is a young country, with a friendly multi – cultural society. It's breathtaking scenery and temperate climate make it a land full of adventure, yet a modern, fully developed country of the western world with a population of over 3.8 million.

The information below is designed to answer any basic questions you may have regarding your forthcoming move. Remember to always ask your Removal Company or Consulate for any further advice you may need.

Housing: Most citizens of New Zealand own their own homes. Properties vary in style greatly but are mainly constructed from timber and are generally detached. The main residential centres are Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Travel: The two main International airports in New Zealand are Auckland and Christchurch. Wellington also has an airport but flights are limited to and from Australia, with regular internal flights between all cities and main population centres. Rail travel is available between all cities and a commuter rail system is available in Wellington.

Roads are kept to a good standard, and motorways exist in and near the main cities. All vehicles must be registered, but insurance is not compulsory.

Employment: Employment in New Zealand is only permitted for NZ and Australian citizens. Citizens from other countries need to hold a permanent residency visa, or work permit, indicating the type of employment allowed. These should be obtained prior to departure for New Zealand and can be applied for through the New Zealand High Commission.

Taxation: Income tax is normally collected at source by the employer. These contributions include, Public Health tax and Government Superannuation tax. GST (Goods & Services tax) is levied on most goods and services, and is currently charged at 12.5%. Rates (or local tax) are payable to the local authority, for providing amenities and local services. These are calculated on behalf of the local authority and are dependent upon the valuation of the property. Further details can be obtained from:

www.ird.govt.nz

Immigration: Admission into New Zealand is strictly limited for citizens other than those of New Zealand and Australia. To gain entry, a foreign national must obtain a visa. There are 4 main types of visa:

1. **Permanent Residency visa** – These visa's are issued to foreign nationals who fulfill the immigration criteria under current policy, such as job priority scheme, family connection or entrepreneurial skills.
2. **Work visa** – These are usually granted to people who fulfill the job priority criteria, but are usually limited in length of validity.
3. **Visitors visa** – Limited to 6 months validity.
4. **Student visa** – Limited in length of validity

Immigration policy is sometimes subject to change. It is important that you gain information from the nearest New Zealand High Commission, Embassy or Consulate.

Education: Free education is provided by Primary, intermediate and high schools for children from the ages of 5 – 17 years. Higher education is available at polytechnics and universities, and subsidised course fees are usually applicable.

Utilities: The power supply is 230voltsAC, 50 cycles. Check with manufacturers or appliance dealers prior to shipping electrical items, as some may require converting, which can prove to be very costly.

Natural gas is available in most towns and cities in the North, however in the South gas is generally restricted to LPG appliances.

Shopping: Shopping hours are usually from 9am – 5.30 pm Monday to Wednesday, extended to 9pm on Thursday and Friday. Weekend trading is from 9am – 4pm and supermarkets generally extend these hours.

Currency: New Zealand uses the decimal system of currency, with 100cents to each NZ Dollar. Notes: \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5. Coins: \$2, \$1, 50cents, 20cents, 10cents and 5cents.

Emergencies: The number for emergency services is 111

Health Service: New Zealand offers a subsidised health service which covers general medical requirements although not dental treatment. It is advisable that anyone settling in New Zealand purchase their own private health care plan if one is not provided by their company.

Import Requirements: Goods that have been owned and used by first time immigrants are usually permitted duty free entry, as are the effects of New Zealand citizens returning, who have been overseas for a minimum 21 months. It is also permitted for anyone holding a valid visa to work, provided that they are staying for a minimum 12 month period. In all cases, new and unused goods must be declared and may be subject to duty and/or GST. Further information is available from your moving company or the nearest New Zealand High Commission.

Prohibited Imports: Goods prohibited from importation include: Firearms & weapons, controlled drugs and medication, pornography, films, videos and tapes. Agricultural items such as plants or other vegetable matter, soil, foodstuffs, animals, either active or dead or their products. Certain animal skins and ivory goods, used camping or gardening equipment. It is essential that you obtain further advice and a comprehensive list of prohibited goods from your moving company or New Zealand High Commission.

Motor Vehicles: Motor Vehicles may be imported free of tax providing the importer has owned and used the vehicle for 12 months. All vehicles must comply with with the safety standards set down by the Ministry of Transport Comprehensive information is available from your Moving Company or NZ High Commission

Animals and Pets: Requirements for importing pets vary greatly depending upon the country of origin and certain other factors. A permit to import may be required and a quarantine period may apply. For further details please visit www.maf.govt.nz or contact your nearest NZ High Commission

Useful Contacts:

Lawlers Removals

Head Office

Wreakes Lane

Dronfield

S18 1PN

Telephone: 01246 413462

Fax: 01246 290348

The New Zealand High

Commission

80 Haymarket

London

SW1

Telephone: 0906 9100100

The information set out in this guide is not law, but is our interpretation of various laws and regulations as they pertain to individuals entering the country. All information has been checked by us, so that as far as possible, all information is correct at the time of printing. However the Lawlers Group cannot accept liability for any inaccuracies in the information given.

Always check with your local Embassy, High Commission or Consulate who may provide you with further information

Sept 2002