

CAPPED MIGRATION UPDATE

Following on from our Alerter in July this year, the Migration Advisory Committee has just published its advice to the Coalition Government on the recommended limits for Tier 1 and Tier 2 visas.

MAC states that the total number of out of country Tier 1 and Tier 2 visas should be between 37,400 – 43,700. This would mean a reduction on 2009 levels of between 13 – 25%, or up to 12,600 visas.

For Tier 1, MAC suggests a limit for 2011/2012 of 8,000 to 11,100 entry clearance visas. For Tier 2, the limit would be 29,400 – 32,600 visas. MAC has also made policy suggestions aimed at making Tiers 1 and 2 more selective and prioritising skilled workers with job offers.

These limits would not apply to those in-country who switch status, extend leave or to dependants. In addition, the Coalition Government has indicated that intra-company transfers will be exempt from the Tier 2 cap.

However, David Metcalf, the Chair of MAC, went on to state that *“it is not possible to reduce net migration to the tens of thousand by limiting work-related migration alone. The Committee assumes that work-related migration takes 20 per cent of the total cut – its fair share – which implies that family and student migration must take the other 80 per cent”*.

Damian Green, the Immigration Minister has said that the Coalition Government’s decision on the cap will be announced "shortly". We will provide further analysis once those proposals are published.

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