

Changes to migrant health screening requirements

The Department of Labour will be implementing the remainder of the Government's Immigration Health and Disability Screening Requirements in late August and November of this year.

Further consultations were held with the medical sector and other agencies to review the proposed Immigration Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate that was issued in November last year. As a result of these consultations, a revised Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate will now be issued.

The revised Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate will be made available in late August and applicants will be advised to use this form. It will be available later this month on the internet at www.immigration.govt.nz.

The main differences in the revised medical certificate (compared with the current certificate dated March 2005) are:

- additional compulsory blood tests for applicants 15 years and older – HIV, Hepatitis B, full blood count, serum creatinine, liver function
- assessment for critical developmental delay, particularly in children
- assessment for impaired cognitive performance, with screening compulsory for applicants aged 70 or more.

From 28 November, a new assessment criteria for determining an applicant's *Acceptable Standard of Health* will be in place and people wishing to visit or stay in New Zealand for more than 12 months (at present it is 24 months) will be required to complete a medical certificate.

Additional information will be available on the Immigration New Zealand website. If you have any questions you can send an email to health@dol.govt.nz.