

GOAL:

05

A supportive legislative and regulatory environment promotes the tourism and hospitality sector's growth.

Recommendations

- Undertake advocacy in relation to taxation policy and economic incentives designed to encourage more people into part-time tourism and hospitality work.
- Undertake advocacy in relation to reviews of immigration legislation and policy (including that planned for 2006) to ensure that immigration remains responsive to industry needs. *See Case Study 13.*
- Undertake advocacy to reduce complex and expensive compliance requirements for SMEs.

CASE STUDY // 13

Tourism Industry Association Highlights Immigration Act Review's Impacts on Tourism

The review of the Immigration Act was an opportunity for TIA to advocate to the Government for changes that would assist the needs of the tourism industry.

TIA facilitated a meeting between Immigration New Zealand and key players in the tourism industry – including the Ministry of Tourism, Tourism New Zealand, the Hospitality Association, Hospitality Standards Institute and Hotel Council – where an overview of the review was presented, with discussion on how specific sections would impact on tourism.

TIA subsequently made a detailed submission to Immigration New Zealand with a series of recommendations for changes that would benefit the tourism and hospitality industry.

It emphasised that while it was essential for New Zealand to manage security risks and protect its borders, it was also important to have a system where international visitors felt welcome.

Any changes to immigration law also needed to acknowledge labour market needs, with a system that would deliver greater flexibility to meet changing demands for skills and labour.

TIA called for:

- Changes to the working holiday scheme with provision for the extension of current work visas and introduction of longer work visas
- the extension of visa-free arrangements beyond the existing 53 countries
- the establishment of a single integrated visa framework to replace the current exemptions regime which is unnecessarily complex and difficult for tourism operators to deal with
- assurances that any collection of biometric information would not detract from the visitor arrival experience
- no increases to the penalty and offence regime for employers hiring people who were not entitled to work in New Zealand.

Contact: Simon Wallace
Policy Manager
Tourism Industry Association
Phone: 04 494 1842
Email: simon.wallace@tianza.org.nz