

Kia ora,

In light of the situation relating to ELE Limited's receivership and their employment of workers that are visa holders, we wanted to provide you with more information about the options available for both the employees and employers, and how you can contact us if you have more questions. Below is information you may need if you want to consider potential employment going forward.

### **Possible options**

Depending on your specific circumstances, visa options could include:

- **If you have a job offer from another Accredited Employer with a current job check, then you can apply for a Job Change.**
- **If you have a job offer for an employer that is not accredited and does not have a current job check, please use our dedicated email address so we can contact you to discuss your situation with you directly: [AEWVworkerresponse@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:AEWVworkerresponse@mbie.govt.nz)**

[www.immigration.govt.nz/job-change](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/job-change)

Please go to the link above for more information about applying for a job change. More detail is also provided in the attached fact sheet.

It is important to remember that in order to be lawfully in New Zealand, you need to hold a valid visa. As such, we encourage you to look into the visa options outlined above as soon as possible or contact us using the dedicated email address. If your visa expires, you will be in New Zealand unlawfully and liable for deportation. This will mean that you may not be able to come back to New Zealand again if you are here without a visa for 42 days or longer.

### **Partner/Dependents of AEWV holders**

If your dependent or partner already hold a visa based on their relationship to you as the primary applicant on your AEWV, they may not need to do anything further at this stage. They can contact us via our INZ contact centre at 0800 200 088 to discuss their situation.

### **Contacting about your visa application**

You can contact us on [AEWVworkerresponse@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:AEWVworkerresponse@mbie.govt.nz) which is the dedicated email address for this situation.

You can also call our INZ service centre from 06:00 to 22:00 Monday to Friday (NZT) excluding New Zealand public holidays. We will need either your INZ client, application or passport number when you call.

**If you do not speak English**

We can provide information in your language. Call us and when you connect with an operator, say the name of the language you speak. Stay on the line and we will get an interpreter to join the call. Do not hang up while you are being connected.

**MBIE Contact Centre**

0800 200 088

**Auckland**

+64 9 914 4100

**Wellington**

+64 4 910 9915

Thank you for working with Immigration New Zealand. We are focussed on ensuring workers in this difficult situation understand their options and we will prioritise the applications of those affected.

Ngā mihi,  
Immigration New Zealand

# Information for employers to support migrant workers

*This fact sheet is specifically for employers that are looking to support Accredited Employer Work Visa holders that are employed by the firm ELE Limited that has recently gone into receivership.*

**All workers on temporary visas have the same employment rights as all New Zealand workers.**

Paying less than the minimum wage or taking payment for providing a job is unacceptable and breaches New Zealand law.

## Supporting a worker that needs to change employer

**Option A – if you are an accredited employer with a job check you can support a migrant worker to apply for a job change**

[www.immigration.govt.nz/job-change](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/job-change)

**Option B – if you are an accredited employer without a job check you will need to apply for a job check before you can support the migrant worker to apply for a job change**

[How to apply for a Job Check | Immigration New Zealand](#)

**Option C – if you are an employer that does not have accreditation you will need to apply for accreditation before you can support a migrant worker to apply for a job change**

[How to apply for AEWV employer accreditation | Immigration New Zealand](#)

## More information on Job Change

If the employee has received a job offer from you, and you have a job check, they can apply for a job change. They will still need to meet the qualification and/or experience requirements specified in the job check. If approved, their visa conditions will be changed to let them work for you as a new employer. It does not make the visa longer. Their current employer does not have to give permission for them to leave.

You must be accredited to hire migrants for the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) and have a valid job check.

If you are not an accredited employer and do not have a current job check, please contact our dedicated email address so we can discuss your situation with you directly:

[AEWVworkerresponse@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:AEWVworkerresponse@mbie.govt.nz)

If the worker has been issued a visa to work for ELE Limited and they are yet to travel to New Zealand, they are advised to not attempt to travel on this visa. Individuals in this situation have received further information directly from Immigration New Zealand (INZ).

[www.immigration.govt.nz/job-change](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/job-change)

Getting this job change

- Will cost the worker NZD \$210
- The worker will need to check what to do if they hold an Accredited Employer Work Visa or another work visa with specific conditions.

## Migrant exploitation

The Migrant Exploitation and Protection Visa (MEPV) is for migrant workers who have successfully reported worker exploitation. The visa allows you to leave your current job quickly while the exploitation is being investigated.

It is important to note that migrant exploitation does not generally include situations where a company has gone into receivership or had to make staff redundant. Examples of migrant exploitation include when:

- your employer bullies or threatens you
- someone keeps your passport and money from you
- you cannot leave your workplace because the doors and windows are locked
- you must ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the toilet
- you have no time off from work
- you are paid too little money or none at all
- your employer forces you to work to pay off a debt
- your employer threatens to harm you or your family if you do not do as you are told.

More information on migrant exploitation can be found here:

[Migrant exploitation | Immigration New Zealand](#)  
[Migrant exploitation » Employment New Zealand](#)

## Contacting Immigration New Zealand

You can call us from 06:00 to 22:00 Monday to Friday (NZT) excluding New Zealand public holidays.

### Calling about your visa application

We will need either your INZ client, application or passport number if your call is about a visa application.

**If you do not speak English**

We can provide information in your language. Call us and when you connect with an operator, say the name of the language you speak. Stay on the line and we will get an interpreter to join the call. Do not hang up while you are being connected.

Where	Number
Contact Centre	0800 200 088
Auckland	+64 9 914 4100
Wellington	+64 4 910 9915
Rest of the world	+64 9 914 4100