

Legislation amendments for RRV – members of family unit

In March this year we sent you an alert regarding changes to the 5 year Resident Return visa (**RRV**), whereby applicants who cannot meet the 2 years' residence requirement and must rely on "close ties to Australia" will only be granted a 1 year RRV.

Recently, Department of Immigration and Citizenship announced further changes to the regulations regarding the visa period for RRV applicants applying solely on the basis of being a member of the family unit of an existing RRV holder.

Previously, applicants applying on this basis were granted a RRV with an equivalent visa period as that of the existing visa holder, regardless of their own actual period of residence in Australia.

Under the new regulations applicants will only be granted a 1 year RRV where they are relying on being a member of the family unit of an existing RRV holder, even where the existing RRV holder's visa is valid for more than a year.

These changes mean that in all cases, applicants who wish to gain a 5 year RRV must themselves meet the requirement of 2 years' residence in Australia.

These changes will take effect from 1 July 2012.

For further advice or information regarding the RRV, please contact Maria Ho on 08 8210 1274 or Anna Hsiao on 08 8217 1357.

家庭成员申请永久居民回程签证 – 法例变动

在今年 3 月份我们发给您了一份关于 5 年永久居民回程签证（RRV）政策变动的快讯，即未能满足 2 年居住要求，需依赖‘与澳洲有紧密联系’的申请者只能得到 1 年的 RRV。

最近，澳洲联邦移民局发布了关于依赖家庭成员所持有的 RRV 签证来进行 RRV 申请的签证期限的新法例。

在此之前，申请者如果依赖其家庭成员所持有的 RRV 签证来进行 RRV 申请的话，会得到与其家庭成员相同的签证期限，无论申请者在澳洲实际居住了多久。

新法例规定，如依赖家庭成员所持有的 RRV 签证来进行申请，最多只能得到 1 年的 RRV，即使申请者的家庭成员所持有的 RRV 有效期超过 1 年。

新法例将在 2012 年 7 月 1 日起生效。新法例实施后，希望得到 5 年 RRV 的申请者必须要亲自满足在澳洲居住 2 年的要求。

如果您想得到关于 RRV 签证申请的更多意见和信息，请联系何卓琳律师，联系电话 08 8210 1274 或联系肖安娜律师，联系电话 08 8217 1357.