

In Confidence

Department of Labour



Department of Labour Aide Memoire: China Southern Airline Travel Facilitation

Date Sent:

11 June 2012

Tracker No:

12/02960

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline for Action
Minister of Immigration (Hon Nathan Guy)	Note the attached information	N/A

Agencies Consulted (include contact where relevant)

N/A

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
	Advisor		
	Operations Support		✓

Minister's Office Actions (if required)

None

Enclosure: Yes

Minister's Comments



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Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide with you an update on Immigration New Zealand's (INZ's) discussion with Chinese Southern Airlines (CSA) concerning visa processing facilitation.

Background

2. Following your meeting with CSA on 20 April 2012, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) officials met with CSA representatives on 2 May 2012 to discuss the possibility of a special arrangement for their Gold and Silver Card holders.

Discussions with INZ

Arrangement with Australia

3. CSA advised that they were dissatisfied with the process they had agreed with the Australian Government to facilitate their Gold and Silver Card Holders. They identified the following as core issues:
 - Requirement for all visa applications to be managed through Guangzhou and;
 - Requirement for CSA flyers to purchase their holiday through CSA in order to get the advantages of the fast track treatment.
4. CSA are considering abandoning their requirement that Gold and Silver Card holders book their holidays as well as their air tickets through CSA to get the advantages of the Australian fast track system.

Potential Arrangement with New Zealand

5. CSA were keen to know if INZ is prepared to receive applications at all Visa Application Centres in China and Hong Kong and not just through Guangzhou. We agreed to give this idea favourable consideration as Visa Application Centres (VACs) have been set up at four different locations in China (Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing and Hong Kong). Currently, residents of China can lodge their application at any of these centres.
6. INZ also raised the possibility of having a fast track process for CSA Gold and Silver Card holders and potentially a special booth at INZ VACs.

7. CSA has also advised that the most important feature for their clients was avoiding the necessity to answer questions relating to financial backing and employment history and to provide evidence of these. INZ has agreed to consider this point.

INZ Perspective

8. CSA Gold and Silver Card Holders are likely to be low risk and would usually therefore get a swift decision on their application.
9. The attraction of being able to meet the requirement to have sufficient funds by virtue of their status as the holder of a gold or silver card and the power of the CSA marketing of their product may attract more visitors to New Zealand.

Next Steps

10. The current key issue is agreeing on a system to verify the cardholder status of the person presenting themselves as a CSA card holder. Both parties agreed to a system that is reliable and efficient.
11. Once both parties agree on the details of a verification process and what information may be requested from applicants, INZ will manage the process by way of an exchange of letters, which will focus on the principles rather than process detail, as the process may be refined over time with experience.
12. INZ is optimistic that an agreement in principle can be reached.