



Visa Application Charge Exemptions

An important update for organisations seeking exemptions from the Visa Application Charge (VAC) under the new 408 Temporary Activity Visa

1 December 2016

Dear Member,

Following the implementation of the 408 Temporary Activity Visa, the DIBP has restricted Visa Application Charge (VAC) exemption criteria.

To be VAC exempt, an organisation must now be either a **“registered charity”**, a **“government funded organisation”** or supporting/sponsoring applicants for a **“government funded event”**.

A **“registered charity”** must be listed on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Register.

- If this is the case, no further action is required to be VAC exempt

A **“government funded event”** is an event that has received Commonwealth or State and Territory Government funding:

- amounting to at least 50 per cent of the projected costs for conducting the particular event (or events); or
- of \$2,500,000 or more to conduct the particular event (or events).

Evidence of the above must be provided to DIBP with the application.

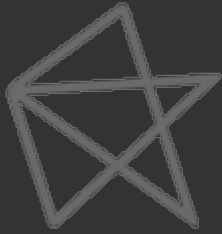
A **“government funded organisation”** is an organisation that in the most recently completed financial year:

- received at least 50 per cent of its revenue for day-to-day operations from Commonwealth or State and Territory Government funding.

An organisation **must apply to DIBP by 9 December 2016 to be recognised as a “government funded organisation” and be VAC exempt**. Organisations should provide relevant evidence to specialist.entry@border.gov.au

Approved applicants will be listed in a future legislative instrument declared by the Minister. Until this time, organisations that are not eligible for an alternative fee exemption will be required to pay the \$275 VAC per applicant and consult with the union for any visa applications.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact **René Spoons, Workplace Relations Advisor** on **(03) 8614 2000** or rspoons@liveperformance.com.au



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