QRG – Common VISA Questions Clarified

This information has been provided by the Office of Schools in response to commonly raised question. This is an official response to the procedural implementation of DET NSW policy.

Who needs a VISA?

All non-Australian citizens require a visa in order to lawfully remain in Australia. ERN has been established to allow the entry of visa details - no student should be enrolled without the provision of visa information. On rare occasions (e.g. emergency evacuation of refugees from war torn countries) students may present to a school with no visa. On these occasions principals make contact with the Multicultural Programs Unit (MPU) to confirm the status of the students. The MPU then liaises with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) in relation to individual students.

What about pre-schools?

The DET preschool policy states that the DET provides priority of access to children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are unable to access another children's services. The priority categories are children whose families experience financial hardship, children of Aboriginal descent, CALD children or children with disability. If a temporary visa holder is able to pay for the costs associated with pre-school they should be referred to other pre-school providers as the Department's provision is limited.