



Australian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association Limited

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Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Response to question taken on notice: Business Innovation and Investment Programme public hearings

The Australian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (AVCAL) would like to express its thanks for the opportunity to testify at the Joint Standing Committee on Migration's Inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP).

One question was taken on notice: whether we had knowledge of evidence of how well overseas policies similar to the Business Talent Visa (VC Entrepreneur stream) have worked in other countries, particularly in New Zealand.

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

New Zealand introduced a new Entrepreneur Work Visa effective 24 March 2014. Given its recent introduction, it is too early to obtain evidence on this programme's effectiveness.¹ Features of the new Entrepreneur Work Visa include:

- Minimum \$100,000 capital investment (can be self-funded), and meet a points test.
- Senior migration staff can waive the \$100,000 requirement at their discretion for applications proposing to establish a science or ICT-based business, or other export-oriented/high-innovation/high-growth sector.
- A fast-track programme for residence for applicants who significantly exceed the criteria.

A closer parallel with Australia's Business Talent Visa (VC Entrepreneur stream) can be found in **Canada**, which introduced its Startup Visa on 1 April 2013. Applicants need to have a minimum C\$200,000 investment from a VC member of the Canadian Venture Capital Association, C\$75,000 angel investment, or acceptance into a designated incubator programme. Media reports indicate that the programme is nearing approval of its first applicants, including the CEO of Vancouver-based Cognilab who stated that the reason the company decided to stay in Canada was because of the Startup Visa programme.²

We look forward to the Joint Standing Committee's report into the BIIP being handed down over coming months.

¹ The reasons for the introduction of this new visa are explained in this paper by the New Zealand Cabinet: [Business Migration Review](#), 2013.

² The Globe and Mail, [Startup visa program nears approval of first applicants](#), 11 Nov 2013.

Yours Sincerely,

Yasser El-Ansary
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AVCAL