

**Title:** Nauru: New business and media visa fees gazetted  
**MRN:** NU445H 07/02/2014 10:39:39 AM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:**  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:** 13/21  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:** NU338H, NU431H, NU414H  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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[REDACTED]

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### Summary

Immigration Regulations and Fees (2014) were gazetted and came into effect on 30 January. Due to a failure in the GoN email system, the gazette notice was not circulated widely. The much publicised media fee of \$8,000 for a single entry visa valid up to three months is now in force. The business visa fee of \$6,000 for a 12 month period is also in force, but there is a separate lower business visa fee of \$3,000 for a stay of up to three months. The Regulations include an employment visa fee category, which we understand would cover RPC service provider staff, with visa fees of \$200 single entry and \$400 multiple entry for a stay of up to two years.

---

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 January 2014 7:48 AM  
**To:** zz [External] yourn@comcen.com.au  
**Cc:** Shannon, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: NAURU BUSINESS VISA COSTS [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Frank

Sorry for the delay in responding.

It is the intention of the Nauru Government to increase the fee for a business visa to \$6,000 and this information/decision was included in their 2013-14 budget passed in September 2013. We understand the Nauru Government is very close to finalising and publishing a gazettal notice with the changes to the visa fees and to whom they apply.

Regards, Bruce

Bruce Cowled  
Australian High Commissioner  
Nauru  
T: +674 557 3380 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
M: +674 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Frank Yourn [<mailto:yourn@comcen.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 January 2014 1:53 PM  
**To:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Cc:** Shannon, Peter  
**Subject:** NAURU BUSINESS VISA COSTS

Good morning Bruce.

Greetings. It's been a very long time since we were in contact!

I hope your posting in Nauru is proving interesting.

This morning's The Age carries a report (attached) that business visas for Nauru have increased to AUD6000. This is the first I have heard of this. There was an increase in visa fees for journalists announced recently, and I am wondering whether the author is confused one with the other.

Are you able to shed any light on this, please? Is there an announcement or a relevant official Nauru Government document (regulation?)?



Any information you have will be appreciated.

Regards

Frank Yourn  
Executive Director  
Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council ([www.apngbc.org.au](http://www.apngbc.org.au))  
Australia Fiji Business Council ([www.afbc.org.au](http://www.afbc.org.au))  
Australia Pacific Islands Business Council ([www.apibc.org.au](http://www.apibc.org.au))  
P O Box 422, WYNNUM QLD 4178, AUSTRALIA  
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## Nauru charges \$6000 for business visa

Daniel Flitton

Published: January 28, 2014 - 6:54AM

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Nauru has raised the cost of business visas from \$400 to \$6000 as the tiny Pacific island cashes in on an economic boom from hosting Australia's refugee processing centre.

The dramatic increase in visa charges has generated confusion as it is yet to be set out in official regulations.

Public administration on Nauru has been in turmoil in the past week since the island's magistrate was deported and the Chief Justice banned from entering the country.

Australia already pays a visa fee of \$1000 each month for each asylum seeker held on Nauru, though it seems Australian officials and private contractors working at the detention camps will be spared the latest rise.

But there are fears many Chinese small business owners who run small shops selling food and petrol could be driven out of the country by the extra fee.

Visa charges are now the biggest source of revenue for the Nauru government, estimated to deliver \$18 million to the national budget.

Half that revenue comes from asylum seeker visas.

*This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/nauru-charges-6000-for-business-visa-20140127-31iwz.html>*

NU431H

**Title:** Nauru: New business visa fee: RPC service provider staff exempt  
**MRN:** NU431H 28/01/2014 08:13:43 AM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:**  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:** NU427H, NU420H, NU414H  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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[REDACTED]

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**Summary**

HOM was contacted last night with advice of a Cabinet decision to exempt RPC service provider staff from the charging of the new \$6,000 business visa fee. An email confirming this initial advice was later sent to DIBP Secretary Bowles.  
s 33(a)(iii)

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text ends  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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 FILE: 15/30563  
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**From:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 January 2014 7:36 AM  
**To:** CORMACK, Mark [IMMI]  
**Cc:** Matheson, Scott [IMMI] (Scott.Matheson@immi.gov.au); ken.douglas@immi.gov.au; SCHIWY, Simon [IMMI]  
**Subject:** RE: Update on Nauru business visa fee increase - application to OPC personnel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Mark

After receiving the email below on the journalist's comments, I spoke to Lionel last night and then sent the following response to DFAT, including our Minister's office.

"I just spoke to Justice Secretary (Aingimea)s 33(b).  
 I reported yesterday s 33(b)

To date no OPC personnel have been charged the \$6,000 visa fee, but Minister Adeang was less than re-assuring that they would not be charged in the future."

I also sent a cable yesterday advising that several Australians who had valid Nauru visas into the future, have had them cancelled in the past few days either when arriving or departing Nauru. They have been told to reapply for new visas and pay the \$6,000 business visa fee. s 33(a)(iii)

Cheers, Bruce

Bruce Cowled  
 Australian High Commissioner  
 Nauru  
 T: +674 557 3380 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 M: +674 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Mark CORMACK [<mailto:Mark.CORMACK@IMMI.gov.au>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2014 8:12 PM  
**To:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Subject:** FW: Update on Nauru business visa fee increase - application to OPC personnel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Interesting development!!

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Scott MATHESON  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2014 5:24 PM  
**To:** Mark CORMACK; Ken DOUGLAS; Simon SCHIWY  
**Subject:** FW: Update on Nauru business visa fee increase - application to OPC personnel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

!   
  
Scott Matheson  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Immigration and Border Protection  
Telephone: (02) 6264 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Email: [scott.matheson@immi.gov.au](mailto:scott.matheson@immi.gov.au)

UNCLASSIFIED

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2014 5:06 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Bruce Cowled (DFAT); Scott MATHESON  
**Cc:** s 2291)(a)(ii) Peter Shannon (DFAT)  
**Subject:** Update on Nauru business visa fee increase - application to OPC personnel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear All,

I received a call this afternoon from DFAT's media section. Apparently they were approached yesterday by Daniel Flisson, a Fairfax journalist, requesting TPs on the Nauru business visa fee increase. Daniel called back today saying he no longer required the TPs, and would be dropping his story, as he had spoken directly with "the Nauru Government Public Information people" (Daniel's words) who informed him that the business visa increase would not apply to OPC personnel. Daniel was told that the fee increase would be directed solely at individuals (primarily Chinese nationals) operating businesses on the island.

As this is information we have not heard before, I thought you would all be interested to hear it.

Kind Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Desk Officer  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Pacific Bilateral Section  
Pacific Islands Branch  
Pacific Division

E | s 22(1)(a)(ii)

W | [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2014 5:46 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Choi, James; Shannon, Peter; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Update on Nauru business visa fee increase - application to OPC personnel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I just spoke to Justice Secretary (Aingimea) s 33(b)  
I reported yesterday s 33(b)

To date no OPC personnel have been charged the \$6,000

visa fee, s 33(a)(iii)

Regards, Bruce

Bruce Cowled  
Australian High Commissioner  
Nauru  
T: +674 557 3380 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
M: +674 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2014 6:40 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Choi, James; Shannon, Peter; Cowled, Bruce  
**Subject:** RE: Update on Nauru business visa fee increase - application to OPC personnel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

It'll be interesting to see if Bruce has this confirmed out of official sources in due course.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Adviser

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Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
The Hon Julie Bishop MP

E | s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
T | +61 2 6277 7500

duplicate of email on p. 6



NU427H

**Title:** Nauru: New business visa fee  
**MRN:** NU427H 23/01/2014 01:06:45 PM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:**  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:**  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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**Summary**

We have spoken today to an Australian businessman, s 47 F(1); s 47G  
s 47 F(1); s 47G  
s 47 F(1)

s 47 F(1); s 47G

s 47 F(1)

s 47 F(1) This is the first case we are aware of involving an Australian being  
instructed to pay the new \$6,000 business visa fee.

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text ends  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

NU420H

**Title:** Nauru: Introduction of new (higher) business visa fee - update  
**MRN:** NU420H 20/01/2014 01:16:30 PM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:**  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:** NU414H  
The cable has the following attachment/s - attachment omitted in full  
31023023.PDF s 47G; s 33(a)(iii)  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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[REDACTED]

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### Summary

As reported in reftel, Sean Oppenheimer, Manager of Capelle and Partners the largest private company in Nauru, s 47G to make representations on behalf of the private sector against the proposed \$6,000 business visa fee. Oppenheimer has now written s 47G; s 33(a)(iii)

Several Ministers are openly acknowledging they particularly want the business visa fee to apply to Capelle and Partners expatriate employees, as they perceive Oppenheimer as having close links with Opposition MPs.

---

text ends  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

NU414H

**Title:** Nauru: Introduction of new (higher) business visa fee - update  
**MRN:** NU414H 15/01/2014 08:14:50 PM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:**  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:** NU15H, NU355H, NU384H  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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### Summary

Justice Minister Adeang has this week instructed Nauru Immigration staff to commence charging the new business visa fee of \$6,000 announced in the 2013-14 budget.  
s 33(a)(iii)

There is still no clarity on whether the new \$6,000 fee will apply to service provider staff employed at the RPC.  
s 33(a)(iii)

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Justice Minister Adeang has this week instructed Nauru Immigration staff to commence charging the new business visa fee of \$6,000 announced in the 2013-14 budget.  
s 33(a)(iii)

We understands s 33(a)(iii) Immigration staff are now advising visa applicants that the new fee of \$6,000 applies.  
s 33(b)

3. Sean Oppenheimer, Manager of Capelle and Partners the largest private company in Nauru, s 47 F(1); s 47G; s 33(a)(iii) in relation to the introduction of the business visa and the possible impact on his company which employs a significant number of expatriate Pacific Islanders and Filipinos. Oppenheimer has attempted to meet with Minister Adeang this week but the

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NU414H

Minister has been 'unavailable'. Oppenheimer met s 47 F(1); s 47G; s 33(a)(iii) and expressed his concerns about the substantial increase to the business visa fee and the absence of any consultation with stakeholders. s 47 F(1); s 47G; s 33(a)(iii)

4. There is still no clarity on whether the new \$6,000 fee will apply to service provider staff employed at the RPC.  
s 33(a)(iii)

text ends  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

REDACTED

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 January 2014 11:32 AM  
**To:** Cowled, Bruce; Shannon, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: Nauru visa fees [SEC=PROTECTED]

Bruce

In addition to those instances below, I recall us raising the issue during my visit to Nauru in late September when we called on Aingamea. While our focus was on the the business visa, I think we raised the issue of increased visa fees more broadly, including the media visa, foreshadowed in the budget.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director  
Pacific Bilateral Section  
Pacific Islands Branch  
Pacific Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Phone: 02-6261 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 January 2014 10:16 AM  
**To:** Shannon, Peter  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Nauru visa fees [SEC=PROTECTED]

Peter

Thanks your phone call. My cable (NU383H of 26 November) sets out background on the business visa and media visa fees. s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

Regards, Bruce

**From:** Shannon, Peter  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 January 2014 10:34 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Media  
**Cc:** Cowled, Bruce; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Breakfast seeking interview with Foreign Minister on Nauru  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

According to Bruce Cowled, our HOM on Nauru, whether the proposed increase in the cost of the visa has been gazetted yet is unclear. Bruce is doubtful that it has been but says it is certainly the intention of the government to do so.

The FMO response should be that we understand it is the intention of the Nauru Government to increase the cost, if it has not already done so. We could add that the increase is dramatic and unprecedented in the region. While it is a matter for the Nauru Government, we would hope the Government would reflect seriously on the implications of the cost increase.

A separate matter which might be behind the ABC's interest concerns a former ABC radio journalist from Queensland, Rod Henshaw, who today received a letter from the Nauru Government revoking his residency visa. Henshaw worked for the previous government as a public affairs adviser. Since the change of government in Nauru, he has worked in the private sector (we understand not doing any media work).  
s 33(a)(iii) s 47 F(1)

I've asked Bruce to send a message first thing in the morning if he gets any further information.

Peter Shannon  
AS PIB

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 08, 2014 08:58 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Shannon, Peter; Media  
**Subject:** Fw: ABC News Breakfast seeking interview with Foreign Minister on Nauru  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Peter,

As discussed - FMO would like a response on this media enquiry.

Grateful for your assistance.

Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media Liaison Officer | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Tel: +61 2 6261 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 08, 2014 08:13 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** FW: ABC News Breakfast seeking interview with Foreign Minister on Nauru [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good evening

Sorry for the late request but is it possible to get a response to the following?

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Media Adviser  
**The Hon Julie Bishop MP**  
 Minister for Foreign Affairs

Perth 08 9260 5030 | Canberra 02 6277 7500 | Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[www.juliebishop.com.au](http://www.juliebishop.com.au), [www.foreignminister.gov.au](http://www.foreignminister.gov.au)



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**From:** Jacqueline Street (Jacqui) s 47 F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 January 2014 5:04 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** ABC News Breakfast seeking interview with Foreign Minister on Nauru

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sorry for the late notice, but it has just come to the ABC's attention that the Nauruan Government has decided to increase its visa charge for foreign journalists.

<http://www.theglobalmail.org/feature/an-8000-gag-visa/804/>

The Nauru government has just confirmed to the ABC that journalists will now be charged eight thousand dollars to enter Nauru for three months. This is an increase from 200 dollars.

We would like to talk to the Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop about whether the Australian Government is concerned about this change, which may restrict the ability of the world's press to cover issues on Nauru.

I spoke with s 22(1)(a)(ii) from the Communications Minister's office, but he directed the query to you.

Could you get back to me on this email or s 47 F(1)

Best Regards



Jacqui Street  
 Planning producer, ABC News Breakfast  
 s 47 F(1)



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### **Business visa fee**

**[Handling note:** The indicated increase in the fee for Business Visas could impact the budget by approximately \$8 million per year if the increase were to apply to service provider visas. The Government would welcome assurances that the increase will not apply to service providers or to Australian Government officials.]

#### **Key points**

- Note that, in its 2013-14 Budget papers handed down in September, the Government of Nauru (GoN) announced plans to increase the business visa fee for entry to Nauru to \$6,000 (up from the current maximum of \$400 for a multiple entry visa valid for two years).
- Note potential implications for most, if not all, Australian expatriate workers engaged by service providers at the Offshore Processing Centre (OPC).
- The proposed increase in business visa fees may significantly increase the value of contracts the Australian Government has with the service providers.
- Need to reach an acceptable resolution on this matter.

#### **Background**

The GoN has also proposed an increase in the media visa fee to \$8,000 for a single entry visa. Media visas are a subcategory of business visas and also currently attract a maximum fee of \$400.



NU384H

**Title:** Nauru: Introduction of new (higher) business visa fee  
**MRN:** NU384H 27/11/2013 01:39:24 PM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** RR : Port Moresby  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:** NU383H  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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[REDACTED]

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### Summary

Further to reftel, HOM raised the Government of Nauru's plans to increase the business visa fee to \$6,000 with Justice and Finance Minister Adeang at today's Joint Working Group meeting on RPC matters.<sup>s 33(a)(iii)</sup>

. He advised that Justice Secretary Aingimea would be briefing Cabinet on the issue in coming days. Post will continue to monitor the situation and report any developments.

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text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

NU383H

**Title:** Nauru: Introduction of new (higher) business visa fee  
**MRN:** NU383H 26/11/2013 08:06:31 PM ZE12  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** RR : Port Moresby  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:** NU355H, NU15H  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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### Summary

The Government of Nauru (GoN) is pressing ahead with plans to increase the fee for business visas to \$6,000 (from the current maximum fee of \$400). Although ostensibly designed to target Chinese business owners, this change potentially affects most, if not all, Australian expatriate employees of service providers at the Offshore Processing Centre. GoN also plans to increase the media visa fee to \$8,000 for a single entry visa, raising separate concerns around transparency and media access. Intervention at a senior level may be required  
s 33(a)(iii)

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Further to reftel (NU355H), HOM received advice in recent days that the new, higher fee for business visas foreshadowed in the 2013-14 Nauru budget papers would be gazetted this week. Post (HOM/s 22(1)(a)(ii)) met with Justice Secretary Aingimea on 26 November to seek further details on the proposed changes and the potential implications for Australian expatriate workers in Nauru, particularly the significant number employed by service providers at the Offshore Processing Centre (OPC).

2. Aingimea advised that Cabinet had already approved changes to Nauru's Immigration Regulations raising the fee for a business visa to \$6,000 (the maximum fee is currently \$400 - this is for a multiple entry business visa for a period of up to two years). This change is ostensibly designed to capture Chinese business owners. However, Aingimea confirmed the higher fee would apply to any individual currently on a business visa - which Aingimea said Nauru's Immigration Department estimates is currently in the region of 2,000 people. Post estimates there are currently around 300-400 Chinese business owners on island. The fee increase therefore affects a far larger group.

3. We understand this change will potentially affect most, if not all, Australian expatriate workers engaged by service providers at the OPC. Transfield has confirmed that all of its employees hold business visas. Post also understands other businesses on the island (including Capelle and Partner) have engaged employees on business visas. It is unclear as to why these employees hold business visas (which the Immigration Regulations state apply to individuals 'conducting a business or profession in Nauru') as opposed to employment visas (which 'authorise the holder to engage in employment in Nauru'). Both currently attract the same fees. s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

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NU383H

s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

### **Motivations for change**

s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii); s 33(b)

### **Changes to media visas**

7. Another aspect of the proposed visa changes is an increase in the media visa fee to \$8,000 for a single entry visa. Media visas are a subcategory of business visas and also currently attract a maximum fee of \$400. In response to our concern that this sent a negative message with regard to transparency and media access, Aingimea responded that 'the message is you're welcome, but pay the fee'.

s 33(a)(iii)

### **Comment**

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

10. We will raise the GoN's plans to increase the fee for business visas to \$6,000 with Justice Minister Adeang at the next Joint Working Group meeting on RPC matters (scheduled for 27 November) and report further.

NU383H

text ends  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 September 2013 2:25 PM  
**To:** Cowled, Bruce  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Nauru\_DIBP meeting 130925 Canberra [REDACTED]

Bruce

I neglected to include in the record an exchange on business visas. I raised this with Nauru just before the meeting closed, asking the same questions we asked of him last week: who were they targeting, would they target RPC contractors and staff, what was the timeframe. Lionel responded along similar lines – no clear answers on who would be captured by the new visas but stakeholder consultations would be conducted before they started drafting up the new laws. They would seek our feedback directly. s 33(a)(iii)

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

NU355H

**Title:** Nauru: 2013-14 Budget: New revenue item of \$9m for business visas  
**MRN:** NU355H 20/09/2013 04:46:36 PM ZE10  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** RR : Port Moresby  
**From:** Nauru  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS Files:**  
**References:**  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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### Summary

The Nauru Budget 2013-14 handed down this week includes two significant visa revenue items, each for \$9m. One revenue item of \$9m is for the RPC visa fee of \$1,000 per month for each transferee at the Regional Processing Centre. The second revenue item of \$9m has the following description in the budget papers 'the government will also be introducing a higher fee for Business Visas in Nauru'. Given the lack of detail around the business visa and fee and the potential for it to apply to service provider staff employed at the RPC, we have separately brought the matter to the attention of DIAC Canberra (Ken Douglas) who will be meeting with Justice Minister Adeang next week.

The Nauru Budget 2013-14 handed down this week includes two significant visa revenue items, each for \$9m. One revenue item of \$9m is for the RPC visa fee of \$1,000 month for each transferee at the Regional Processing Centre (RPC), which was introduced when the RPC opened. The second revenue item of \$9m has the following description in the budget papers 'the government will also be introducing a higher fee for Business Visas in Nauru. The Government recognises that business in Nauru must contribute to the development of Nauru, therefore required to pay a higher amount in visa. This new visa fee will raise \$9 million for the Government'.

2. At a meeting with Justice Secretary (Aingimea) this week, we asked for more details of who would pay and how much was the business visa fee. s 33(a)(iii) and asked HOM to send him an email asking for further details. In his email response to HOM, Aingimea said his department is in the process of drafting the regulation to cover the new business visa fee and noted this process would include discussions with stakeholders. Aingimea asked that if we had any concerns could they be passed to him, to at least give his department an idea of the issues and whether they need to address them in the regulation.

3. Separately we discussed the business visa revenue item of \$9m with Finance Secretary, Tamakin. Tamakin said he was not involved in budget discussions around the business visa revenue item. He said it was principally Associate Finance Minister Russ Kun and Transport Minister Dowiyogo who worked on the matter. Tamakin understood the purpose of the high cost business visa was aimed at controlling the expansion of the Chinese traders in Nauru. Tamakin said there had been some discussion that the business fee would be around \$6,000



NU355H

per year. HOM also raised the matter with Ernest Stephen, Director Immigration, who knew nothing about the new business visa fee.

s 33(a)(iii)

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]