



NEW ZEALAND
High Commission NUKU'ALOFA
TE AKA AORERE

MEDIA RELEASE (FOR TONGAN MEDIA ONLY)

14 JUNE 2012

VISA SALE TARGETING TONGAN COMMUNITY

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is urging everyone to be wary of a scam involving the selling of visas.

INZ Nuku'alofa Branch Manager Michelle Frankham says the TVNZ ONE News report last night has alerted INZ to visas still being sold to Tongan nationals at a cost of \$290 each.

"This is a complete fraud and I want to remind everyone that INZ is the only agency that can issue a visa to travel and remain lawfully in New Zealand. Any visa or other purported authority not issued by INZ is not legitimate."

Ms Frankham says there is zero-tolerance for immigration fraud and people should always be very cautious of misinformation concerning the purchase of any visa for New Zealand.

New Zealand's High Commissioner to Tonga Dr Jonathan Austin strongly advises people who have concerns about their immigration status to talk to INZ and not to be taken in by such scams.

"If you have someone in your family that has run into difficulties with their immigration status, I encourage them to come forward and speak to any staff at INZ at the earliest possible opportunity, says Dr Austin."

/ ENDS.

For further information contact the Immigration NZ Nuku'alofa on 23977

Corner Taufa'ahau & Salote Roads PO Box 830 Nuku'alofa Kingdom of Tonga
T (00676) 23122 F (00676) 23487