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MEDIA RELEASE

Conducting work entitlement checks now a no-brainer for employers and candidates

Employers can now validate, track and manage a job applicant's lawful permission to work in Australia with the click of a button, following a new development in pre-employment screening technology which launched today.

The development comes after the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) invited WorkPro, a leader in pre-employment screening technology, to pilot a more user-friendly solution for conducting work entitlement checks through its Visa Entitlement Verification Online System (VEVO).

Ms Tania Evans, Manager of WorkPro, said the WorkPro visa-checking service is a positive step forward for employers and also candidates.

"For the first time, employees can become a step closer to being 'work-ready' by registering their own residency and citizenship information on-line, via WorkPro. They can then share that information with any potential employer who can instantly confirm that they're eligible to work in Australia," Ms Evans said.

"Both parties win - while it speeds up the hiring process, it also reduces the double-handling of information," she said.

Ms Evans said that given the penalties for failing to check working visas are substantial, it was critical to ensure that WorkPro's new service could meet DIAC's requirements, but also the business expectations of employers, particularly when it comes to flagging an individual for a re-check.

"Recruiters convicted under the employer sanctions legislation for employing or referring illegal workers face fines of up to \$13,200 or two years' imprisonment per illegal worker. Companies face fines of up to \$66,000 per illegal worker. Even if a candidate had a valid Visa initially, if they overstay their Visa, the penalties the employer faces remain significant," Ms Evans said.

"Employers can now streamline their main employment screening processes - induction training, national criminal checks, and now work entitlement checks - through one single, secure, on-line system. In doing so, they can quickly, easily and lawfully transition job candidates into employees.

"We are thrilled to enhance the use of the VEVO system for employers and individuals, as checking work entitlements is not only mandatory, it makes good business sense," she said.

For more information call Tania Evans, Manager of WorkPro on 03 9864 6017 or visit www.workpro.com.au.

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About WorkPro:

WorkPro is a web-based pre-employment screening solution designed to fast-track the onboarding process for employers and ensure candidates and employees are work-ready.

WorkPro is a central hub of key compliance-related processes, including a course library of work health and safety inductions, an instant national criminal check service, and a visa check service that assists employers to verify, track and manage candidate's personal, employment and induction information, while centrally storing results for future-proofing.

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