Immigration services for people living with HIV/AIDS

Nomos

People living with HIV/AIDS ('PLWHA') seeking to obtain a temporary visa or permanent residence are often challenged when trying to navigate their way through Australia's complex immigration system. In addition to needing specialised legal advice about Australia's immigration law and policies, including the strict health requirement, they often require strategic guidance in relation to selecting the best visa option available to them and professional support throughout the visa application process.

Our team at Nomos has been helping PLWHA with their immigration challenges for over 35 years and we embrace our role as lawyer, representative, lobbyist, strategist, lay counsellor and partner through the daunting visa application process. These days, more than ever before, effective representation can mean the difference between visa application approval and a long and stressful appeals process.

Our services

Initial consultation

We offer an initial consultation service where clients can meet with one of our expert immigration lawyers to confidentially discuss their immigration matter and obtain clear advice about their visa options and the best pathway forward, as well as strategic guidance about how to take the next steps in their case.

Visa application preparation, lodgment and support

We also assist clients prepare and lodge both sponsorship and visa applications with the Australian immigration authorities. Our team has handled thousands of applications on behalf of PLWHA so we can confidently guide clients through the process as we draw on the breadth of our knowledge and experience in liaising with health professionals to obtain medical reports, challenging Medical Officer of the Commonwealth ('MOC') opinions and health costings and, where applicable, securing health waivers.

Access to merits and judicial review

We regularly appear before the Administrative Review Tribunal to assist clients seek review of an unfavourable immigration or citizenship decision. We are also prepared to represent clients in court if that is the best way to achieve the required outcome.

Ministerial intervention requests

We also advocate on behalf of clients whose last resort is requesting the Immigration Minister to personally intervene in their case.

Our expertise

Kathryn Viegas leads Nomos' health case team. She has been recognized as one of Australia's best immigration lawyers and is an Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law. There are fewer than 80 accredited immigration law specialists in Australia, and Nomos is one of the elite group of Australian law firms that has an Accredited Specialists at its helm.

Kathryn has been employed by, and served on the Board of, the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre in NSW between 2002 and 2006. In addition to her role at Nomos, she is the Chair of the Management Committee of the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre ('IARC'), a not-for-profit organisation that helps vulnerable people navigate Australian immigration law. Throughout her career, Kathryn has been involved with a number of HIV service providers, including St Vincent's Hospital, ACON and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.

Kathryn is widely published and often presents at conferences on the topic of HIV/AIDS and Australian immigration and is recognised among Australia's leading experts and advocates in the field.

About Nomos

Nomos is a specialist immigration law firm that has been recognised through the Best Lawyers International peer survey as one of Australia's best immigration law firms.

Our Directors possess a broad range of professional and leadership experience acquired in top-tier and boutique law firms, multinational corporations, community legal centres, international organisations and educational institutions. Together, our Directors have more than 35 years' combined experience solving all types of immigration and citizenship problems.

As part of our commitment to the community in which we live and work, from 2017 – 2020, Nomos was a Corporate Partner of the St Vincent's HIV Future Fund which was established by the St Vincent's Curran Foundation to help reduce rates of HIV transmission and support HIV positive marginalised individuals. The fund also supports universal treatment, medical research and Stanford House, a short-term residential service for HIV-positive homeless people. St Vincent's Hospital has always been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS treatment in Australia and we are immensely proud to have contributed to their work.

Contact us

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