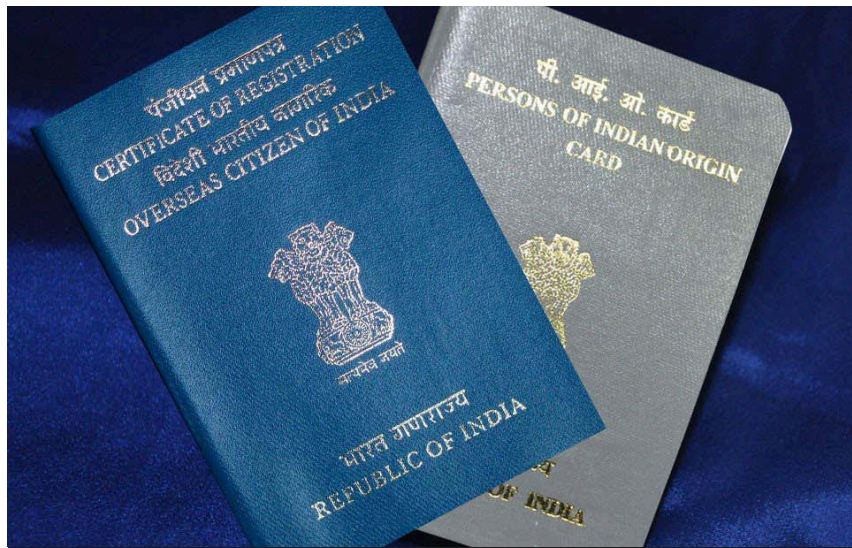




**Consulate General of India
Perth**

28 September 2017

PIO card to OCI card conversion



Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme stands withdrawn by the Government of India and has been merged with Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme. As per the existing rules, all PIO cardholders are required to obtain Overseas Citizen of India cards. **The last date for submission of application for registration as OCI cardholder in lieu of the existing PIO card is until 31 December 2017.** From October 2018, International Civil Aviation Organization will accept only machine readable travel documents therefore the existing PIO cards which are hand written will become invalid travel documents.

The PIO card to OCI card conversion process requires only two documents: i) Valid passport; and ii) PIO card. Eligible applicants must visit VFS Global website (http://www.vfsglobal.com/india/australia/oci_pio_service/Conversion-of-PIO-to-OCI.html) to complete online application for OCI cards. This service is provided *gratis*, if availed on or before the last date. However, the applicants will have to pay the service charges for the outsourcing agency as well as postal/courier charges. Conversion of PIO to OCI card after 31st December 2017 will attract a fee of USD 275 equivalent to fee applicable for issue of fresh OCI card.

All PIO card holders are requested to apply for OCI cards free of charge before the prescribed deadline i.e. 31 December 2017.
