



Fact sheet two: Reforms to Australia's permanent employer sponsored skilled migration programme

Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to advise the general public about the scope and implementation timeframes for reforms to the following permanent employer sponsored skilled migration programmes:

- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) visa (ENS visa)
- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187) visa (RSMS visa).

Implementation of these reforms will begin immediately and be completed by March 2018.

These reforms complement associated changes to Australia's temporary employer sponsored skilled migration programme. See fact sheet titled: *Reforms to Australia's temporary employer sponsored skilled migration programme—abolition and replacement of the 457 visa*.

What is changing?

Changes from April 2017

From **19 April 2017**, for new applicants for permanent employer sponsored skilled visa programmes:

- **Occupation lists:** The Consolidated Sponsored Occupation List (CSOL) will be significantly condensed, with 216 occupations removed, and access to 24 occupations restricted to regional Australia (e.g. occupations relating to farming and agriculture). The CSOL currently underpins the Direct Entry stream of the ENS visa.
- The CSOL will also be renamed the new Short-Term Skilled Occupations List (STSOL) and will be updated every six months based on advice from the Department of Employment.
- The other occupations list used for skilled migration, the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) will be renamed the new Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL). This list will contain occupations that have been assessed as being of high value to the Australian economy and aligning to the Government's longer term training and workforce strategies.

Changes from July 2017

From **1 July 2017**, for permanent employer sponsored skilled visa programmes:

- **Occupations lists:** The STSOL will be further reviewed based on advice from the Department of Employment. The MLTSSL will be revised based on outcomes from the Department of Education and Training's 2017-18 SOL review.
- **English language requirements:** A requirement of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (or equivalent test) score of 6 in each component.



The changes to the occupations lists for skilled migration will reduce the number of occupations accessible under these visas.

More information

More information about these reforms is available on the Department's website at www.border.gov.au