

By Vanessa Vazquez | March 2019



Skilled Occupation List Updates

Last week the Federal Government announced more jobs have been added to the Skilled Occupation List in an attempt to address Australia's labour shortage. The Medium and Long-Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL) has been standardised with more occupations being offered across the visa subclasses meaning skilled migrant workers can stay in Australia in a skilled occupation for a longer period.

For regional areas, 18 additional occupations that have been added to the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme including fruit, nut and crop growers, livestock farmers, dentists and anaesthetists. Employers in regional areas often have great difficulty recruiting skilled workers in such occupations. The changes should help address that issue whilst keeping the skilled workers in the jobs longer.

Visas for GPs Initiative

The Federal Government has also brought in the Visas for GPs Initiative to manage the number of doctors coming to Australia via the skilled migration program to work in our ever-expanding healthcare sector.

The initiative will affect the following occupations:

- General Practitioner
- Resident Medical Officer
- Medical Practitioners not elsewhere classified



Employers nominating the above positions will now be required to obtain a Health Workforce Certificate from a Rural Workforce Agency. Such certificate must state that a position exists and needs to be filled in a specific location and must accompany the employers' nomination application for the following visas:

- Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa
- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) visa; and
- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187) visa.

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