



July 1 Changes to Australian General Skilled Migration

Earlier this month, on July 1 the Australian Government implemented a series of legislative changes to the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program. There has been massive coverage in the media and across the internet detailing these changes and how they will affect current and future migrants to Australia on this program.

To get the greatest understanding of how these changes affect you we recommend that you contact Australian Migration & Visa Lawyers to obtain expert advice from one of our Registered Migration Agents, however below is an outline of these changes to give you an idea –

New Points Test (recognizes a broader range of skills and attributes of skilled migrants, focusing on better English levels and more extensive skilled employment) -

- Points no longer awarded for specific occupations (applicants must still nominate an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List)
- Pass mark required for GSM visas is set at 65 points
- Applicants must be under 50 years of age at the time of applying
- Meet the threshold of English language requirement of competent English
- Nominate and hold a skills assessment for an occupation on the SOL at time of applying
- Provide evidence of recent skilled employment in a skilled occupation or have recently completed the Australian Study requirement

English Tests

IELTS test must be undertaken in the 2 years immediately before the day on which the application was made and the applicant must have achieved a certain score. GSM applications lodged after July 1 2011 must include an IELTS test result unless the persona holds a passport from the USA, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada or Ireland.



New Skilled Occupation List (SOL)

Applies to new independent or unsponsored skilled migration applicants lodged on or after 1 July 2011 unless they are from applicants eligible for transitional arrangements.

Removed occupations on the SOL – Optometrist [251411], Orthoptist [251412], Panel Beater [324111] and Vehicle Painter [324311].

Added occupations on the SOL – Medical Physicist [234914], Environmental Health Officer [251311], Occupational Health & Safety Advisor [251312], Hospital Pharmacist [251511], Retail Pharmacist [251513], Barrister [271111], Solicitor [271311], Fitter (General) [323211], Fitter & Turner [323212], Fitter-Welder [323213], Metal Machinist (First Class) [323214], Boat Builder & Repairer [399111] and Shipwright [399112].

AMVL Employment Network Update

The AMVL Employment Network has been established to facilitate overseas skilled workers seeking both sponsored visas and employment, as well as seeking quality skilled overseas workers for Australian employers – managing all visa arrangements for both parties.

Since March this year the Employment Network has successfully placed seven individuals and families in to jobs on Employer Sponsored visas with Coates Hire. Most of these people have already arrived and started their new lives in Australia, including the Campbell Family (pictured). Whist AMVL arranged all of the visas for these families and individuals, Coates Hire paid for and arranged for all airfares, as well as paying for all associated visa costs.



If you're interested in moving to Australia on a 457 Employer Sponsored visa, or if you're an employer in need of quality skilled overseas workers contact our *Recruitment Specialist* John Young at john@australianmigrations.com .

Perth to become 'Regional' City

With an increased shortage of skilled workers in Western Australia (WA), the Federal Government has announced that Perth will soon be labeled a "country town" in a bid to attract desperately needed overseas skilled workers to the city. By introducing this radical change, businesses can more easily recruit more skilled and semi-skilled foreign workers to fill occupations such as child care, aged care and scaffolding.

As published in *The West Australian* "the program will result in Perth being included in the Government's regional sponsored migration scheme, giving the city's employers access to a potential national pool of 16,000 sponsored visa places for foreign workers.

"Workers coming to Perth under the program will be able to become permanent residents and businesses applying for the visa places will be given priority in the processing of their applications.

"The scheme lowers the benchmark of English language requirement for eligible workers, while the demands on employers regarding salary thresholds are also lower than under other forms of skilled work visas."

For more information about how you can engage in these opportunities contact AMVL and speak to one of our friendly Registered Migration Agents.

