



thinking skilled migration

The Australian Government has made significant changes to the Skilled Work stream of Australia's migration program. Many are wondering what the long and short-term effects will be for both foreigners looking to come to Australia for skilled employment, and Australian employers seeking overseas employees. One of the major changes is the abolition of the Temporary Work (skilled) Visa (subclass 457) that will take effect from 18 March 2018. The replacement visa will be called the Temporary Skilled Shortage (TSS) Visa with a range of new criteria.

It's important that if you are considering migrating to Australia in the next 12 – 24 months to understand what the new requirements set out by the Department will be, and how best to manage the application process so you can enter Australia with minimum delays. Alternatively, as an employer, it is necessary to know what is involved in hiring new employees from outside Australia.

The New Temporary Skilled Shortage Visa

The TSS will be the new temporary work visa that skilled applicants may apply for if they are wanting to work and live in Australia for a period of up to four (4) years. Under the new scheme there will be two streams of this visa. One stream will be a short-term visa issued for two years. The other stream will be a medium-term visa issued for up to four years. Linked to the new TSS scheme is a major change to the Skilled Occupations List, which will have a major impact on the occupations people can apply for.

From April this year, the Consolidated Sponsored Occupation List (CSOL) was replaced with the Short-Term Skilled Occupation List (STSOL), which has significantly reduced the number of occupations available from 651 to 435. Fortunately for Regional areas, 24 of those occupations are reserved for applicants who are nominating to work in regional Australia.

The Skilled Occupations List (SOL) is being replaced with a Medium Term Strategic Skilled List (MLTSSL). These new streams will be reviewed by the Department of Employment every 6 months and updated to reflect changes to the labour market in Australia. It is important to keep up to date with the occupations lists and what options you have if applying for a skilled work visa. You can find the combined list of all occupations, which is updated every 6 months, for the current 457 Visas at: <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists/combined-st-sol-mltssl>

Permanent Residency through skilled visas

From March next year, the four-year medium-term TSS Visa will allow applicants to transition to a permanent residence visa after living in Australia for the four-year period. If you hold a two-year TSS Visa you would have to apply for another visa before you can consider applying for permanent residency.

Another option is the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS), which involves applicants obtaining sponsorship to come and work in Australia from an approved regional employer. The applicant must meet the skills qualifications requirements their occupation and must live in Regional Australia as defined by the Migration Regulations 1994.

Skilled New Zealand Citizens

New Zealand citizens can apply for permanent residency through the new Skilled Independent (New Zealand) stream. This program helps to streamline the process from living in Australia to obtaining permanent residency.

Applying for any visa can be a complex and stressful process. Seeking advice from a Migration Agent can help to ease that pressure. Talk to us, you'll be inspired.

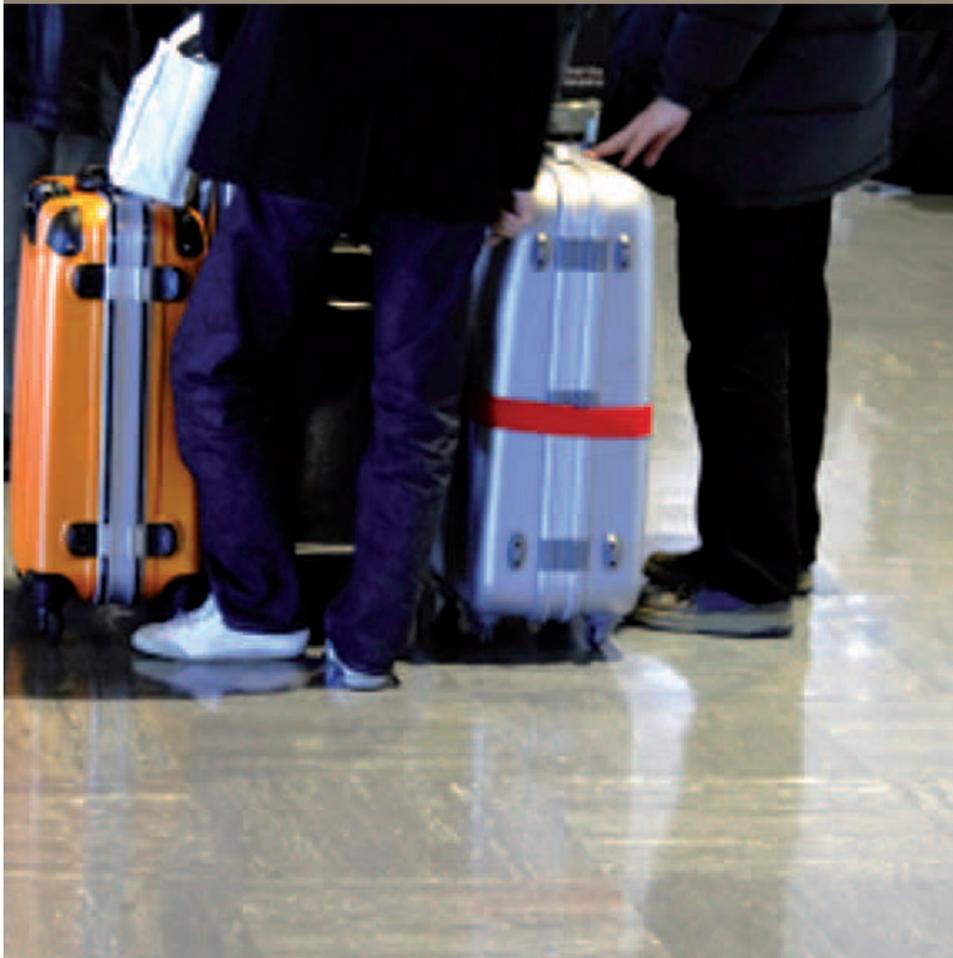
Christopher K C Serow

Principal, Solicitor Director, Notary Public Migration Agent (MARN 0854319)

Sam L Doyle

Paralegal

Thinking migration



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From commercial, insurance and business transactions to family, employment and estate matters.

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Mediation

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Notary Public

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Migration Agent

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thinking together

www.legalminds.com.au

T 1300 642 166

E contactus@legalminds.com.au

157 Beardy Street Mall, Armidale