



MIGRATION INFORM

Migration Agent Registration Number 0214353

May 2009

TEMPORARY (457) WORK VISA

Further changes to the 457 visa program came into effect on 15 May 2009, with the removal of semi-skilled occupations from the standard sponsorship arrangements.

The occupations affected by this change include occupations in the tourism, clerical and agricultural industries.

It is the second major reform to the program following the increase in the English language requirement.

The latest change means employers wanting to recruit overseas workers in semi-skilled occupations listed under the standard classification of occupations can only do so by successfully negotiating a labour agreement with the Australian government.

Occupations affected by this change include:

- Food & Beverage Receptionist
- Storeperson
- Beauty Therapist
- Retail Supervisor
- Dental Assistant

If you currently hold a 457 visa in a semi-skilled occupation the changes do not affect the validity of your current visa. You will however not be able to be granted another 457 visa under the standard business sponsor program for this semi-skilled occupation.

457 ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

Effective 14 April 2009 the minimum English language requirement for IELTS increased from 4.5 to 5 for all 457 visa applicants for trade occupations, and chefs and head chefs.

This requirement applies to people making an application for the first time. The revised requirements will apply to current 457 visa holders only where a subsequent application is made for a 457 visa seeking a stay period extending beyond the period of their current visa.

SKILLED MIGRATION

On 1 January 2009 the Australian government introduced the following measures:

employer sponsored skilled applications will be fast-tracked as these reflect the skills currently needed by employers

state and territory governments have been given greater scope to sponsor skills needed in their jurisdiction

applicants without a sponsor will only be given priority if they have a medical, IT professional or engineering occupation

In recognition of these changes the government has reduced the non-sponsored portion of the skilled migration program.