



## MIGRATION INFORM

Migration Agent Registration  
Number 0214353

February 2010

*'helping to achieve a more rewarding lifestyle'*

### PRIORITY PROCESSING

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship has set new priority processing arrangements for certain Skilled Migration visas.

The priority processing arrangements are designed to ensure that the Australian economy gets the skills it needs now, rather than those of visa applicants who applied first. These arrangements are designed to better address the needs of the industry by targeting skills in critical need across a number of sectors.

The direction applies to applications in the pipeline that have not been finalised, and to applications lodged on or after 8 February 2010.

The following processing priorities (with highest priority listed first) apply:

1. Applications from people who are employer sponsored
2. Applications from people who are nominated by a State/Territory government agency under a state migration plan agreed to by Immigration and Citizenship
3. Applications from people who are nominated by a State/Territory government agency and whose nominated occupation is listed on the Critical Skills List

4. Applications from people who are neither nominated nor sponsored but whose nominated occupation is listed on the Critical Skills List
5. Applications from people who are nominated by a State/Territory government whose nominated occupation is not listed on the Critical Skills List
6. (i) Applications from people whose occupations are listed on the Migration Occupations in Demand List **and** (ii) Applications from people who are sponsored by family and whose nominated occupation is not listed on the Critical Skills List
7. All other applications are to be processed in the order in which they are received.

The new arrangements apply to all visa applications including those in the final stages of processing. Applications in lower priority groups cannot be processed further until those in higher priority groups are finalised in accordance with the priority processing direction.

In addition, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship has decided to end the offshore General Skilled Migration visa applications that were submitted prior to 1 September 2007. The visa application charge will be refunded to these applicants.

This will affect about 20,000 applicants.