



MIGRATION INFORM

**Migration Agent Registration
Number 0214353**

December 2010

'helping to achieve a more rewarding lifestyle'

NEW POINTS TESTING

It is proposed that a new points test for general skilled migration visa applications will be introduced on *1 July 2011*.

The new points test balances the different factors that are considered when determining whether someone will be granted a skilled migration visa. It will deliver the best and brightest skilled migrants by emphasising high level qualifications, better English language levels and extensive skilled work experience.

The new points test will continue to award points for study in Australia, including regional study, community languages, partner skills and completing an approved Professional Year. Points will no longer be awarded on the basis of an applicant's occupation, but all applicants must still nominate an occupation on the applicable Skilled Occupation List.

The pass mark is the number of points required to be eligible for skilled migration and may be subject to change. It is expected that the pass mark will be set at 65 points.

Merry Christmas!

UPDATED 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 industry by targeting skills in critical need across a number of sectors.

From *14 July 2010*, processing priorities (with highest priority listed first) are:

1. Applications from people who are employer sponsored under the Employer Nominate Scheme (ENS) and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)
2. Applications from people who are nominated by a state or territory government agency with a nominated occupation that is specified on that state or territory's state migration plan
3. Applications from people who have nominated an occupation on the new Skilled Occupation List (SOL)
4. All other applications are to be processed in the order in which they are received