

# THE AURECLE

JULY 2017



## VISA CHANGES



★ *The occupation lists are scheduled to change and be updated again the 1st of December* ★

### 457 Changes – Applications lodged on and after 1<sup>st</sup> July

#### Occupation Lists

- Occupations have been upgraded from Short to Medium/Long Term, significant movement between the lists
- Some occupations that were removed have been re-instated
- 12 occupations removed and others transferred from STSOL to MLTSSL and vice versa
- Extra caveats applied to certain occupations (means special rules for a lot of occupation categories now)

#### English Test

- The English Language Salary Exemption Threshold (ELSET) has now been removed, meaning those applicants who earn above the top income tax rate will not be exempt from the English language requirements
- Other exemptions remain in place, for example, 5 years of full time study in English, eligible passports, etc.

#### Mandatory Police Checks

- There will be no exemptions for providing police checks
- Police checks are required from all applicants for every country lived in for 12 months or more, over the last 10 years, since turning 16 years of age

#### Training Benchmarks

- Strengthened guidelines on the types of training funds which may be used for Training Benchmark A and what expenditure will and will not be accepted for Training Benchmark B
- Training Benchmark A & B will be replaced with the Skilling Australian Fund (SAF) in March 2018

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*We offer a FREE assessment, so if you are ever considering whether someone would be eligible to keep on or hire, we can provide this feedback to you, obligation free and with complete confidentiality. Simply send a CV across and we can provide you with options or advice.*



Aurec can offer independent sponsorship under our Labour Agreement.

ASK US!



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*Please note: This newsletter contains broad information and requests for specific information on each case, please direct to us.*

## ENS & RSMS Changes Subclass 186/187 – Applications lodged on and after 1<sup>st</sup> July

### Occupation Lists

- Both the new MLTSSL and the new STSOL can be used for Direct Entry (RSMS continues to have access to skills level 1, 2 and 3 occupations)
- Occupation caveats will apply to Direct Entry Stream

### Age

- Age limit of 45 years old for Direct Entry Stream
- Age limit remains at 50 years old for Temporary Resident Transition (TRT) Stream, until March 2018, when it will be reduced to 45
- Current age exemptions will still be available

**Changes General Skilled Migration (189, 190, 489) – Applications lodged on and after 1<sup>st</sup> July**

Age limit of 45 years old

### English Language

- Competent English is required for all ENS & RSMS applications (level 6 on IELTS or equivalent)
- English language exemption for TRT Stream available for applicants who have studied full time in English for 5 years.

### Statistics 2016-2017 (to April 2017)

- 105,336 acquired citizenship via conferral
- 34,755 evidence
- 15,812 citizenship by descent
- 149 resumption
- 44 adoptions

### Service Standards / Processing Times

From 13 March 2017, the Department began to publish citizenship processing times on its website. The service standards previously published on the Department's website were often mistaken for actual processing times, rather than a performance target.

## Citizenship

### Legislation amendments

On 20 April 2017 the Prime Minister announced changes to strengthen the requirements for Australian citizenship:

- General residence requirement – 4 years as permanent resident
- English language testing – “competent” level
- New requirement to demonstrate integration
- New citizenship test questions on Australian values
- Revised Australian Values Statement
- Revised Pledge of commitment to reference allegiance – all applicants over 16 years of age in all streams (excluding evidence) required to make the pledge
- Integrity measures – bar on reapplying after being refused

Australian Citizenship application type	75% applications processed in	90% applications processed in
Conferral (lodgement to ceremony)	10 months	12 months
Descent (lodgement to decision)	69 days	4 months
Evidence (lodgement to decision)	6 days	26 days

### DID YOU KNOW ?

*Over 5 million people have chosen to become Australian citizens since 26 January 1949*



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