



AUSTRALIA'S NEW SKILLED OCCUPATION LIST

On 01 July 2010, the new Skilled Occupation List (SOL) released by Australia's Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) took effect as part of the country's immigration reform. The new SOL is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). The list prepared by Skills Australia, contain 181 occupations compared to the earlier list of 408 and now focuses on highly skilled occupations such as doctors, nurses, engineers, scientists, teachers, vets, locksmiths, dentists, midwives, mechanics, bricklayers, carpenters, tillers, electricians and plumbers. The occupations removed from the list include cooks, hairdressers, sign-writer, piano-tuner, interior decorator, green-keeper, gunsmith, parole officer, real state agent, fashion designer, hotel/motel manager, librarian, mathematician and massage therapist.

Australia will still accept highly qualified chefs and cooks despite the removal of these occupations from the new SOL. Hairdressers are no longer classified as demandable in the new list. Immigration and Citizenship Minister Chris Evans said that the removal of these occupations from the SOL would not be a barrier to the restaurants and hotel industry's ability to target the skilled workers it needs. Employers can nominate chefs and cooks on 457 visas, Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) employer-sponsored visas and the new State Migration Plans (SMP).

Minister Evans added that DIAC wants the skilled migration scheme to be demand driven (instead of supply driven) and refined towards highly skilled occupations to restore integrity to the skilled migration scheme and close the door on those seeking to manipulate the migration system. Furthermore, a targeted migration program will attract skilled migrants of the highest caliber and deliver people with real skills to meet the real needs of the Australian economy.

The SOL will not affect applications under the Employer Nomination Scheme or employer sponsored temporary residency visas (Visa 457). Individuals who have already submitted skilled Australian visa applications will have their application assessed against occupations appearing on the previous SOL. The complete new list of occupations can be accessed through the DIAC's website at <http://www.immi.gov.au/>.