

# Mobility: Immigration alert

August 2021



## Australia

### Refugee Talent pilot and international border update

#### Executive summary

As competition for talent in Australia is increasingly intensified by the ongoing border restrictions, EY welcomes the announcement of:

- ▶ vaccination thresholds for easing border restrictions under the updated four phase National Plan,
- ▶ a target date for digital vaccination authentication, and
- ▶ the Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement pilot.

#### Updated National Plan to transition COVID-19 response

The vaccination thresholds that will trigger transition through the four phases of the plan have been set. The thresholds are expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+ years old) who are fully vaccinated. Achieving these thresholds relies on vaccine supply and uptake and with no target dates proposed uncertainty continues.

The government also continues to work towards implementing digital vaccination authentication around October 2021.

#### A: Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot - summary

- ▶ arrivals reduced to approximately 3000 per week
- ▶ hotel quarantine for all arrivals
- ▶ establish international digital vaccination authentication

#### B: Vaccination Transition Phase - 70% vaccination

- ▶ restore arrival caps for unvaccinated returning travellers to approximately 6000 per week
- ▶ larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers
- ▶ capped entry of student and economic visa holders
- ▶ alternative quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents

#### C: Vaccination Consolidation Phase - 80% vaccination

- ▶ no arrival caps or outbound restrictions for vaccinated Australian citizens and permanent residents
- ▶ increase capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders
- ▶ travel bubble extended to additional low risk countries, e.g. Singapore
- ▶ gradual reopening of inward and outward international travel with safe countries with reduced quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated inbound travellers

#### D: Final Post-Vaccination Phase

- ▶ uncapped arrivals without quarantine for all vaccinated travellers
- ▶ uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on arrival testing
- ▶ quarantine for high-risk inbound travellers

#### Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement pilot

The Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement pilot has been developed through a collaboration between [Talent Beyond Boundaries](#) (TBB) and the Australian Government. The pilot removes many of the barriers that refugees and displaced people face when trying to access skilled migration pathways. It also provides employers with a realistic solution to address skill shortages by recruiting from overseas through streamlined processing.

EY is pleased to have had the opportunity to support TBB's dual humanitarian and economic goals through:

- ▶ employing skilled refugee talent, and
- ▶ securing Skilled Refugee Labour Agreements for other employers during the earliest stages of the pilot.

Key benefits offered by the pilot are:

- ▶ streamlined and priority application processing
- ▶ streamlined travel restriction exemption processing
- ▶ additional eligible skilled occupations

To access the pilot program, employers must request a Labour Agreement which is similar to business sponsorship. Visa pathways under the pilot are:

- ▶ Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) visa direct entry stream
- ▶ Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) (subclass 482) visa
- ▶ Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (SESR) (subclass 494) visa - with a permanent pathway to a Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191) after three years

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Identify vacancy and connect with TBB	Recruit from 20,000+ candidates on TBB's Talent Catalogue	Request a Labour Agreement with TBB's endorsement	Apply for an employer nomination and visa	Request a travel exemption, only required for temporary visas	Relocate with the support of TBB and <a href="#">Refugee Talent</a>

The list of 103 eligible occupations are primarily in the following sectors:

- ▶ Aged, Disability and Child Care
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Film production
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Hospitality
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Logistics
- ▶ Professional Services
- ▶ Trades
- ▶ Clerical roles are also listed

Streamlined requirements under the Skilled Refugee pilot	
Labour market testing	Waived
Skills, qualifications and work experience	Skills assessment and evidence of minimum work experience waived
Age	Increased to 50 for subclass 186 and subclass 494 visas
English	Reduced to Functional level
Temporary Skill Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT)	Discount of up to 10% in certain circumstances

### Next steps

EY will continue to keep you informed of developments regarding Australia's international border restrictions.

Contact your EY advisor to discuss the benefits of participating in the Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement pilot.

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