



TRANSITIONING TO THE TEMPORARY SKILLED SHORTAGE (TSS) VISA

From 18 March 2018, the Temporary Skilled Shortage (TSS) Visa program will replace the 457 Visa Scheme. Here's a summary of what has changed for businesses and individuals.

457 Visa Program

The 457 Visa Program has historically been the most commonly used program to sponsor skilled overseas workers for temporary work in Australia for up to 4 years.

April 2017

On 18 April 2017, the Government announced the Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) Visa program would replace the 457 Visa scheme.

From April, immediate changes to the program meant employers could only nominate skilled visa holders for a 2 or 4 year visa, depending on whether the nominated occupation appeared on the **Short-Term Skilled Occupation List (STSOL)** or **Medium-Term Skilled Occupation List (MLTOL)**.

July 2017

From 1 July 2017, **English language salary exemptions were removed** with only limited exceptions for intra-company transferees.

Visa applicants were also required to meet more rigorous character requirements, including police certificates from each country the applicant has spent 12 months or more in during the last 10 years.

TSS Visa From March 2018

From March 2018, 457 Visas will be completely replaced by the TSS Visa. Training benchmarks will be abolished and employers must instead contribute to the new **Skilling Australians Fund (SAF)** for each employee they nominate, as per the amounts below.

Small Business (Turnover: Less than \$10m)

TSS | \$1,200 per visa per year
Permanent Residence | \$3,000 per applicant

Medium to Large Business (Turnover: \$10m +)

TSS | \$1,800 per visa per year
Permanent Residence | \$5,000 per applicant

Only individuals with an occupation on the MLTOL are eligible for permanent residence.

Legislation is currently before the House of Representatives for:

- The public disclosure of businesses failing to comply with sponsorship obligations.
- The collection of tax file numbers for employer-sponsored visa holders in order to data match against the Australian Tax Office's records and prevent the exploitation of visa holders.

We encourage you to contact Interstaff's registered migration agents to understand how the changes impact you or your business.

