



Changes to the Skilled Occupation List for Migration

What is Skills Australia's role in developing a new Skilled Occupation List?

The Australian government has asked Skills Australia to advise on the development of a new Skilled Occupation List (SOL). The new list will support the General Skilled Migration program to meet Australia's medium to long term future skills needs.

Skills Australia is an independent board whose members have expertise in the areas of industry, economics and education. Skills Australia provides advice to the Commonwealth Minister for Education on Australia's current, emerging and future workforce skills and workforce development needs.

Why has the government changed the Skilled Occupation List?

The decision to introduce a new SOL follows a review of the Migration Occupation in Demand List. The aim is to provide a more targeted list of occupations to better meet the medium and long term future skills needs of the Australian economy.

The new SOL will be published on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website at www.immi.gov.au by 30 April 2010. The list will take effect from mid 2010.

Does the new SOL affect applications for General Skilled Migration?

After mid 2010, General Skills Migration visa applicants will have to nominate an occupation on the new SOL unless they are state/territory government nominated.

For all enquiries about visa applications, eligibility and transitional arrangements please contact the Department of Immigration and Citizenship at www.immi.gov.au.

Which occupations will be listed on the new SOL?

Skills Australia will identify skilled occupations of high value to the economy that align with the broader national workforce development strategy. The SOL is expected to include professional, managerial, technical and trade occupations.

How will Skills Australia determine the occupations on the new SOL ?

Skills Australia's advice will be considered in the context of broader Workforce Development considerations

In determining what occupations are to be included on the list, Skills Australia will assess occupations to determine whether:

- the occupation is a **skilled** occupation, based on the skill level and lead time necessary to develop the required skills
- the skills are **deployed for the use intended**, in other words there is a good occupational 'fit'; and
- The **opportunity cost** of the skills being in short supply is high, i.e. causing either bottlenecks or imposing significant economic or community costs.

Skills Australia will also consider whether the quality of **information** about the occupation is adequate to the task of assessing future demand; and if further intelligence from industry, research and government agencies is required to provide additional advice about the occupation.

Skills Australia will use a combination of macro-economic data, labour market data and detailed information to locate those areas where skilled migration is a sensible approach to help ensure a good match between supply and demand for skills in the medium and longer term.

