



## Permanent Employer Sponsored Visas Review

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is conducting a review of the permanent employer sponsored visa programs, which includes the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS), the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) and Labour Agreements.

### About the review

Australia is currently experiencing robust economic growth, which is creating new opportunities for skilled workers to work in a range of professional, managerial, technical and trade occupations. The government is committed to providing Australian employers access to overseas skills, ideas, contacts and technology that improves productivity and assist Australian businesses to compete in the global market.

The aim of the review is to ensure that the employer sponsored programs are responsive and relevant to changing economic and social conditions. The review will consider how the permanent employer sponsor visa products can be best positioned to ensure employers are able to obtain the skilled workers they genuinely need, whilst retaining the flexibility to respond to changes in the labour market and Australian economy.

The visas under consideration for the review are the:

- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclasses 119 and 857)
- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclasses 121 and 856)
- Labour Agreement (subclasses 120 and 855).

### Stages of the review

The review will be conducted in three stages.

#### Stage one - public consultation:

On 19 August 2011, the department released a public discussion paper, which will facilitate public consultation. The paper is available on the department's website.

**See:** [www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/discussion-papers/\\_pdf/discussion-ens.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/discussion-papers/_pdf/discussion-ens.pdf)

#### Stage two – recommendations:

Once the public consultation has been completed, recommendations on how the permanent employer sponsored visa can be best reformed will be developed and put to government for consideration.

#### Stage three – implementation:

The department will seek to implement any changes to the employer sponsored visas from 1 July 2012, in conjunction with the introduction of *SkillSelect*.

## Making a submission

All members of the public are invited to provide views that are relevant to the permanent employer sponsored visas. If you want to provide a written submission you should do so by **Friday 16 September 2011**.

Submission can be sent to the department:

- by email to the director  
**Email:** [sponsored.skilled@immi.gov.au](mailto:sponsored.skilled@immi.gov.au)

**or**

- by post to:  
  
Director, Employer Sponsored and Business Skills Section  
Department of Immigration and Citizenship  
PO Box 25  
Belconnen ACT 2616

The department will not publicly discuss any written submission received in response to the discussion paper. However, submissions may be made available on request. Submissions will not be treated as confidential unless they are clearly marked confidential. Requests for access to confidential submissions will be determined in accordance with the privacy and confidential information provisions with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).