

## Massive Updates to the Migration Program in 2024

### Summary of changes to the migration program

The following changes have been announced:

Category	Proposed Change(s)
Skilled temporary visas	<p>The <a href="#">Temporary Skills Shortage (subclass 482) visa</a> will be replaced by a three-tiered system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Essential Skills visa (those earning under \$70,000) – this visa will be restricted to certain sectors (to date aged care and disability sectors have been mentioned).</li> <li>2. Core Skills visa (earning between \$70,000 to \$135,000) – this will be based on a revised ‘skills in demand list’ developed by Jobs and Skills Australia and is expected to meet most trade worker demand.</li> <li>3. Specialist Skills visa (earning over \$135,000) – there will be no occupation list, however, trade occupations, machinery operators, drivers and labourers will be excluded from this option. There will be 3,000 places allocated per year.</li> </ol> <p>It is expected that changing employers will be easier under this visa, and therefore, reduce worker exploitation.</p>
Skills Australians Fund (SAF)	<p><a href="#">SAF</a> may be collected in smaller increments over time (such as a quarterly or monthly payment model). This will be in line with the intention of the new system to make changing employers easier for visa holders.</p>
<a href="#">Labour Market Testing (LMT)</a>	<p>The requirement to advertise on Workforce Australia has already been abolished by <a href="#">LIN 23/072</a> and the validity of advertisements will increase from 4 to 6 months. The ultimate aim is gradually phase out the LMT requirement entirely as skills shortage data improves.</p>
<a href="#">Points Test</a>	<p>No further details have been provided at this point, but a review of the points test will occur to more effectively identify migrants who will make the greatest contributions.</p>
Temporary Graduate Visa	<p>The <a href="#">Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa</a> will become more restrictive, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the length of stay</li> <li>• Preventing holders from moving back to Student visas</li> <li>• Preventing graduates from staying in Australia if they do not have skills in demand</li> <li>• Reducing age eligibility from 50 to 35 years</li> <li>• Increased English requirements</li> </ul>

Student visa	<p>The <a href="#">Student (subclass 500) visa</a> will also become more restrictive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased English requirements</li> <li>• Reducing the types of course eligible for student visas</li> <li>• Increased funding for visa integrity and identifying ‘genuine students’</li> </ul> <p>The ‘crackdown’ on migration levels will mainly be targeting applicants for Student visas, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese giving a <a href="#">scathing indictment</a> of migrants who are “enrolling in courses that don’t really add substantially to either their skills base or the national interest.”</p>
Global Talent and Business Skills	<p>The program will focus on smaller numbers of migrants who can make a greater contribution to Australia. To combat the current over-investment in smaller retail and hospitality businesses, this program will be revamped with a focus on the <a href="#">Significant Investor stream</a>.</p>
Foreign Investment Fees	<p>Foreign investors who buy established homes will be subject to greater penalties if the properties are left vacant.</p>
Regional Migration	<p>A review of the regional migration system will be undertaken to better target the needs of the regional population, as the current system is experiencing limited success in attracting migrants.</p>
General Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 20 unnecessary and duplicative visas will be removed to simplify the system</li> <li>• A new direction will be implemented to ensure that regional visas receive the highest priority visa processing</li> <li>• Investing more into migration compliance officers to prevent unmeritorious protection visa claims being made.</li> <li>• Closing COVID-19 concessions by the next financial year.</li> </ul>

### How Can Agape Henry Crux Help

As the legal changes have not been finalised at the time of writing, it is important for all migrants to keep an eye on this shifting landscape. If you are uncertain how this change would affect your migration status, contact us at Agape Henry Crux. Our [Accredited Specialist Immigration Lawyer\(s\)](#) and our team of immigration lawyers and migration agents are specialised in handling highly complex matters. You may [schedule an appointment](#) with one of our lawyers or agents to seek professional advice by calling [02-8310 5230](tel:02-8310 5230) or email us at [info@ahclawyers.com](mailto:info@ahclawyers.com).

We speak fluent English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Malay. If this isn’t your language, we can also help you arrange an interpreter.

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