

DIMIA MODL Policy Changes

For those students and workers who are lucky enough to nominate an occupation on the Migration Occupation in Demand List (MODL) when they apply for permanent residency you would be hoping to obtain the 15 points towards your point score. For years it has been a problem of what happens if the list changes after you apply.

In the past if the MODL changed and your occupation was removed after you lodged your application and your points had not been assessed before this change occurred, applicants would lose the 15 points they thought they were going to obtain. This policy remained unchanged for many years.

Recently a Federal Court case has ruled that where applicants nominate an occupation that is on the MODL when they lodge their applications, they should not be disadvantaged if the MODL changes whilst their applications are processed. DIMIA has quickly responded to this ruling and changed their long standing policy on allocating the MODL 15 points.

The recent DIMA MODL policy is now changed to these two basic rules;

1. If you nominate an occupation from the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) that is on the MODL when you apply. You will obtain the 15 points even if the MODL changes after you apply and your nominated occupation is removed the list.
2. If you lodge your application and your nominated occupation from the SOL is not on the MODL. If the MODL changes to include your nominated occupation before your points are finalised you will gain the extra 15 points which you would not have expected when you lodged your application.

So now all those students and workers who lodge their applications no longer need to be worried what if the MODL changes after they lodge their applications. I know this has been a concern of many Accounting students worried the MODL might change (again) in the future. DIMIA has been generous to allow the MODL points to be added even if the MODL changes to include your occupation and you may not have expected to gain the 15 points.

The last change to the MODL was on the 4th May 2005. The next scheduled review of the MODL is meant to take place in November 2005. This does not mean it will change in November but that decision will be up to the Minister. The MODL can change at any time without notice.

This MODL policy change has been one of the most considerate towards applicants we have seen from DIMIA for many, many years. It is a positive shift towards a client service charter approach to government processing.