

IMMIGRATION NEWS

Volume 104

WA Shock Changes to State Sponsorship Approval!



22nd December 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the new subscribers of IMMIGRATION NEWS and this latest edition brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services.

Please feel free to e-mail this newsletter to your friends.

Western Australia Shock Changes to Sponsorship

The Western Australian State Migration Centre made a surprise announcement that will affect many hundreds of international students around Australia.

State/Territory sponsorship approval has been a popular option for EGSM applicants looking to apply for permanent or temporary residency in Australia.

From 11.00 am this morning WA have announced that recent graduates from Australian educational institutions will require a job offer before they will be approved for WA sponsorship. Only students who have completed their two years of study in WA will be exempted from this new rule.

All applications lodged before this announcement at 11.00am will be processed under the old rules which do not require a job offer. Students who lodge beforehand do not need to be concerned about their applications.

This news will disappoint many potential applicants who were planning to apply for the WA approval.

We spoke to Claire English from the State Migration Centre this afternoon who confirmed the decision was made due to the global financial crisis and the fact that they had 800 applications ready to begin processing and another 400 applications where processing had commenced.

We have reproduced below the information of their web site

<http://www.migration.wa.gov.au/?page=skilled-migration>

**SPECIAL NOTICE - EFFECTIVE 11am Western Standard Time (Perth)
MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2008**

**CHANGES TO ON-SHORE SKILLED SPONSORSHIP FOR
GRADUATES**

**Applies only to on-shore graduates who have completed their studies
outside Western Australia**

From 22 December 2008, the Western Australian Government requires all on-shore graduates who have completed their studies outside Western Australia to have a formal job offer in a skilled occupation prior to submitting an application for sponsorship.

The sponsorship offered by the Western Australian Government to graduate students will be valid for a period of three (3) months from date of issue. For sponsorship to be confirmed with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) via Form 1100, applicants must register in-person at the office of the State Migration Centre (SMC), Perth within this three month period. Sponsorship approval, when granted, will be valid for the duration of the processing period.

At the time of registration graduates will be required to:

- confirmation of a job offer in Western Australia in a skilled occupation;
- SMC approval letter and agreement;
- passport for validation of identity;
- completed registration form; and
- evidence of local address.

If you do not register in person, sponsorship will not be confirmed and DIAC will be unable to process your visa application

Graduates who have lodged applications for State sponsorship prior to this notice and those who have completed 2 years of study within Western Australia will not be affected by these changes.

All efforts are being made to assess applications as soon as possible.

Your patience is appreciated

Skilled Occupation?

WA refers to a "skilled occupation" as an occupation from DIAC's Skilled Occupation list (SOL). When asked about whether Accounting students in particular had to provide job offers as 'Accountants' Claire stated "If a student comes to us having moved to WA with a 12 month job offer letter in an Accounts related employment area such as a bookkeeper or accounts officer then we are not going to knock them back".

This should leave the door open for some flexibility for the thousands of accounting students who are hoping to achieve WA state sponsorship approval.

All States Are Getting Tougher

While we are disappointed that the WA changes were made with no warning it does not come as a complete surprise given the current economic environment. We have noticed a dramatic shift over the last 6 months in the requirements of state sponsorship approval. We are sure this announcement will not be the last. Students should be sure to lodge their visa applications as soon as possible when they have met the minimum requirements.

Subscription to IMMIGRATION NEWS?

We have a few more newsletters to release this week so stay tuned!

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Wish them to stop then, unsubscribe@australiavisa.com

Kind regards

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