

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 120)

General Skilled Migration Cuts and Delays to Processing Times



16th March 2009

Dear Students

We received this email from the Migration Institute of Australia regarding cuts in the migration numbers but most disturbingly is the news of a significant delay in processing for most General Skilled Migration applicants from today.

The announcement does not mention the 485 or 487 visas and as they are temporary resident visas their processing should continue as usual.

MIA Release 16th March 2009

Dear Colleague

IMPORTANT: Cuts to Migration Program and GSM processing

Minister Evans has today announced cuts to the 2008 -09 permanent skilled migration program by 14 per cent "to protect local jobs while ensuring employers can access skilled professionals in industries still experiencing skills shortages".

The changes are a 14 per cent cut in the 2008-09 permanent skilled migration program intake [from 133 500 to 115 000], and **changes to the Critical Skills List (CSL).**

The Minister's announcement said that occupations removed from the Critical Skills List include Bricklayers, Carpenters, Plumbers, Welders, and Metal Fitters, and that the list will now comprise mainly health and medical, engineering and IT professions.

The new Critical Skills List is now being used by DIAC, but has not yet been made public. I understand that **all trades occupations have been removed except Gas Fitters, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers and Gasfitters.**

As soon as the new CSL is released we will advise members.

The Minister has stated that "The Critical Skills List will remain under constant

review and the Government will remove occupations from the list if demand for those skills can be satisfied by local labour."

We can therefore expect the Critical Skills List to be under continual review and changes can be expected at any time, depending on current economic circumstances.

Processing implications:

As of now, only General Skilled Migration applications which are State/Territory sponsored, or which have nominated occupations on the new Critical Skills List will be processed. There will be no visa grants to other applicants until further notice, which is not likely to be before 1 July 2009, and may be much longer.

The Minister's media release can be found at:

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/media-releases/2009/ce09030.htm>

Kind regards

Membership & Professional Services Manager
Migration Institute of Australia

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Kind regards

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