

TEMPORARY WORK (SKILLED) (SUBCLASS 457) VISA - FAQ

October 2014

The Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa enables eligible employers to address short-to-medium-term skill shortages in their business that cannot be filled from the local labour market.

It is a visa that can be granted for a maximum 4 years that will allow the visa holder and their family members to live and work in Australia.

What does it involve?

Sponsorship

It is a requirement for the employer to apply for approval as a standard business sponsor. This is required to nominate an occupation for a subclass 457 visa.

Nomination

The employer nominates an occupation for a prospective or existing subclass 457 visa holder.

Visa application

This part is concerned with the visa applicant and his or her family. It will require personal documentation such

as identity documents, educational qualifications or employment reference letters, health insurance and other relevant documents.

How long does take?

It takes approximately 4-6 weeks for a decision to be made by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. This timeframe may change

Proposed changes to the 457 program

An independent review of the 457 program was conducted and finalised in September 2014. The review made 22 recommendations including the abolishment of labour market testing, the relaxing of English language requirements and a review of the fee structure. At this stage it is unknown which of the recommendations will be implemented. Please keep an eye on this space for further updates as they are made available.