Skilled Migration to Australia – New Points Test Effective from 1 July, 2011

Key requirements:

- Required to score minimum 65 points to be eligible.
- All occupations in the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) will be treated equally. There are no 40/50/60 point occupations.
- Recognition of overseas qualifications the following points will be given for overseas qualifications: for Ph D 20 points; for bachelor degree with honours equivalent, or bachelor and masters degree 15 points.
- Recognition will also be given to overseas work experience as follows: people with 8, 5 and 3 years experience will get 15, 10 and 5 points respectively.
- There is special emphasis on English competency and proficiency.
 People with superior English (ie. 8+ in IELTS) will get 20 points; with proficient English (ie. 7+ in IELTS) will get 10 points; and those with competent English (ie. 6+ in IELTS) will not get any point at all.
- Applicants in the age group of 25-32 will get maximum points of 30 in the age category (younger age preferred), and maximum eligible age for skilled migration has also been raised to 49 years.

It appears that candidates will face relative difficulty in meeting the eligibility criteria (score 65 points) of the proposed test, commencing mid 2011. It is therefore suggested and better to apply under the current program criteria before 30 June 2011.

State Migration Plans (SMP)

Victoria, ACT, Northern Territory and South Australia (provisional) have announced their respective state and territory's migration plans. If nominated occupation in the SMP matches with the candidate's occupation (s), he/she should apply for sponsorship. If a candidate gets state sponsorship (Subclass 176), the application will be listed in the priority queue number 2 and the assessment and a decision will be relatively quicker.

However, effective from 1 July 2010, if any candidate lodged an application under the skilled independent (migrant) visa category (Subclass 175), such candidate cannot, and is not eligible to, convert the application to a sponsored (migrant) visa category (Subclass 176.)

For information only.

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20 January 2011