



Migration Strategy – At a Glance

The Government's vision is to get migration working for the nation, helping deliver a prosperous and secure Australia.

Getting migration working for the nation

Migration is central to Australia's national story and in times of change, migration has helped Australia tackle national challenges and build long periods of prosperity and security.

Migration can once again play a critical role for Australia to seize the opportunities of the coming decades. The problem is that our current system is broken.

The first comprehensive review of the migration system in a generation, the 2023 *Review of the Migration System* (the Migration Review), found 'a lack of clarity on what Australia has been trying to achieve through migration is at the heart of the problems the system faces today'.¹ Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM led the Migration Review and noted that the system was 'so badly broken' that it required a '10-year rebuild'. It is not delivering for workers, for businesses, or for Australians. And ultimately, the success of our migration system relies on the backing of the Australian people.

Our task is to get migration working for the nation. Reorienting the program to address our national challenges. Rebuilding social license by returning migration levels back to normal. And building better planning in the system so we can get the skills we need, where we need them.

If you are a worker, whether local or migrant, this Strategy means stronger protections of your wages and conditions. For businesses, it means getting the skills you need to grow and be more productive, particularly in critical areas like healthcare, the net zero transition, and the digital economy. For all Australians, it means a better-planned migration system, aiming to strengthen the community you live in and to improve your living standards.

This Strategy sets Australia on a course to confidently tackle future challenges. It's about building a more prosperous and secure Australia for our citizens, and laying a strong foundation for the generations to follow.

Five objectives to realise this vision

Five core objectives will underpin Australia's migration system, getting migration working for the nation to help deliver a prosperous and secure Australia.

- **Raising living standards for Australians** by boosting productivity, meeting skills shortages and supporting exports.
- **Ensuring a fair go in the workplace** by complementing the jobs, wages and conditions of all workers and preventing migrant worker exploitation.
- **Building stronger Australian communities** by better planning the migration intake, and giving migrants the opportunity to invest in their lives in Australia through permanent residence and citizenship.
- **Strengthening international relationships** by building stronger economic and social connections with our region and international partners.
- **Making the system work** by being fast, efficient and fair for migrants and employers.

Roadmap to realise our vision

To realise the new vision and objectives of Australia's migration system, an ambitious roadmap for migration reform is needed.

The 8 key actions in the Government's Migration Strategy roadmap have been developed through extensive consultation with business, unions, international education, civil society and many Australians. This draws on the key findings of the Migration Review, and the 483 public submissions it received.² These actions are supported by existing commitments, over 25 new commitments and areas for future reform.

In addition to the actions taken by the Government to date, the 8 key actions in the Migration Strategy deliver a better managed migration system and are expected to help return migration to near pre-pandemic levels by next financial year, through:

- Closing COVID concessions
- Strengthening integrity and lifting the standards in international education
- Ending settings that drive long-term temporary stays
- Tackling exploitation of the visa system
- Targeting skilled migration to genuine shortages.

8 key actions

1. Targeting temporary skilled migration to address skills needs and promote worker mobility

A new Skills in Demand visa with three targeted pathways, and visa settings that encourage migrant worker mobility in the labour market.

New commitments include:

- A new Specialist Skills Pathway to make it easier for Australia to attract highly skilled workers, for example in the technology or green energy industries
- A Core Skills Pathway to meet targeted workforce needs, with a simpler, regularly updated occupation list for the skills Australia needs
- New visa settings that give migrant workers more mobility in the labour market to help tackle worker exploitation and drive productivity
- Streamlined labour market testing and visa processing.

2. Reshaping permanent skilled migration to drive long-term prosperity

A commitment to explore a reformed points test for permanent skilled migration, and a new Talent and Innovation visa for migrants who can drive growth in sectors of national importance.

3. Strengthening the integrity and quality of international education

A package of integrity measures to lift the standards for international students and education providers, while ensuring graduates help meet skills shortages and do not become 'permanently temporary'.

New commitments include:

- Higher English language requirements for international students and graduates
 - More scrutiny of high-risk student visa applications and a \$19m investment into the Home Affairs student visa integrity unit
 - Restrictions on onshore visa hopping that undermines system integrity and drives 'permanent temporariness'
 - Strengthened and simplified Temporary Graduate visa settings
 - Measures to support international students and graduates to realise their potential.
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4. Tackling worker exploitation and the misuse of the visa system

A comprehensive suite of legislation, powers, penalties and policies to combat worker exploitation and restore integrity to the migration system.

New commitments include:

- A new public register of employer sponsors to improve integrity and support migrant worker mobility.

This commitment complements other strong measures outlined in the Migration Strategy to design migrant worker exploitation out of the migration system.

5. Planning migration to get the right skills in the right places

A longer-term, evidence-based approach to planning migration that closely collaborates with states and territories and ensures population planning is based on the best available population data and forecasts.

New commitments include:

- A new approach to planning permanent migration over the long-term and greater state and territory collaboration on net overseas migration forecasts.
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6. Tailoring regional visas and the Working Holiday Maker Program to support regional Australia and its workers

A new direction to ensure visas for regional Australia are prioritised first, and a commitment to evaluating regional migration settings and the Working Holiday Maker program to ensure migration supports development objectives in regional Australia and does not contribute to worker exploitation.

New commitments include:

- A new direction to ensure regional visas receive the highest priority visa processing.
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7. Deepening our people-to-people ties in the Indo-Pacific

A new approach to developing people-to-people links with our region, including through a direct pathway to citizenship for New Zealanders and increased mobility with Pacific Island and Southeast Asian countries.

8. Simplifying the migration system to improve the experience for migrants and employers

A system-wide simplification agenda that will streamline visa settings, reduce visa classes and make the system easier to use.

New commitments include:

- The removal of 20+ unnecessary and duplicative visas to simplify the visa system.
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Note: New commitments listed above are not exhaustive. ¹Commonwealth of Australia (2023) *Review of the Migration System*, p.21
²The report and submissions are available at [A Migration System for Australia's Future](#)