



CCIQ SUBMISSION

In support of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry position

Managing Australia's Migrant Intake: 2018-19 Migration Program



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND

2 February 2018

Benefits of Migration

1. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the Department of Home Affairs on the Migration Intake 2018-19 policy. This submission is written in full support of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) position as written in their submission.
2. CCIQ is Queensland's peak industry representative organisation for small and medium businesses. We represent over 414,000 Queensland businesses on local, state, and federal issues that matter to them. Our guiding focus is to develop and advocate policies that are in the best interests of Queensland businesses, the Queensland economy, and the Queensland community.
3. As outlined in the ACCI submission, migration is a benefit to Australia. The belief that migrants are taking Queensland jobs is a falsehood. Of the 183,608 permanent migrations in 2016-17, two thirds were from the skilled visa stream. Of that total, Queensland became home to 21,519 migrants (11.7 per cent). Roughly, over 14,000 of those were skilled migrants. In 2016-17, 59,400 jobs were created in Queensland alone. Therefore, it is incorrect to argue that migrants are taking jobs away from Queenslanders. They are filling approximately 25% of the jobs available, typically in areas where a skill gap exists due to Queensland's decentralised small population. Further, CCIQ echoes the sentiments of ACCI that there are over six million skilled Australians in the workforce in 2017, which overwhelms the 128,550 skilled permanent migrants that entered the workforce that year.
4. In the past 12 months alone, skilled migration has been detrimentally impacted by the changes announced in April 2017. CCIQ member, Labglass Pty Ltd, as outlined in a previous [submission](#), is a niche industry that relies on permanent migration to maintain business sustainability and to be able to continue to deliver essential goods to government and private enterprises.
5. CCIQ, along with ACCI advocates for maintaining the current levels of skilled migration in the 2018-19 Migration Program. This is due to the measurable benefits the Migration Program offers to the Australian and Queensland economy, workforce and culture.
6. If you wish to discuss CCIQ's position further we would welcome the any opportunity. Please contact General Manager, Kate Whittle, kwhittle@cciq.com.au.