



CCIQ SUBMISSION

**Department of Employment
Skilled Migration - Traffic Light Bulletin**



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND

1 December 2017

Introduction

1. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide commentary to the Department of Employment regarding the Traffic Light Bulletin in relation to skilled migration occupations.
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. The recent changes made to the skilled migration scheme, specifically the reduction of occupations has adversely impacted our members both directly and indirectly. The following submission addresses the skills shortages in Queensland, and includes a specific submission on behalf of a member of CCIQ as a pertinent example.

Skilled Workers Shortage

4. Upon release of the Traffic Light Bulletin, CCIQ consulted with industry and our members, to obtain feedback regarding the proposed changes and whether additional occupations require to be added to the Short Term Skilled Occupation List (STSOL) or Medium and Long Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL).
5. Members within the migration industry indicated that retail pharmacists (251513) is an occupation in high demand, especially in regional areas. Considering the proposed reforms to take effect in March 2018, CCIQ believes there is a strong argument to move retail pharmacist from the STSOL to the MLTSSL, to ensure regional pharmacies are able to recruit and retain skilled workers.
6. It is CCIQs understanding that impacts to diving instructor numbers have been addressed previously in submission made to the Department of Immigration Border Protection (DIBP) in May 2017 by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).
7. Tourism's direct contribution to the Queensland economy totalled \$12.6 billion in 2015/16. Since the changes made to the 457-visa category tourism operators have been finding it increasingly difficult to source skilled diving instructors (452311). CCIQ recognises the profession is listed currently on the STSOL, however again due to the nature of the work predominantly occurring in regional areas, it is important the occupation be moved to the MLTSSL.

Technicians and Trades Workers nec- ANZSCO 399999

8. In April 2017, after the Federal Government made sweeping changes to the 457 occupation lists, CCIQ was contacted by a member who is a glass manufacturer, an extremely niche industry in Australia.

9. Due to the removal of technicians and trade workers nec from the valid occupations lists they were no longer able to employ glassblowers, included under the definition. It is as a direct consequence of this decision this business has been unable to hire a skilled worker in the position of glass blower.
10. CCIQ provided a submission to DIBP, dated 5 May 2017 outlining the impact the CCIQ member had incurred. Please see attachment A for a copy of the letter.
11. What was highlighted in that letter was that *“Due to the unique nature of his industry, no Australian universities offer glass blowing qualifications. Some universities offer glass blowing introductory courses however these programs provide an insignificant amount of industry expertise to produce qualified glass blowers” ... “use of overseas workers is due to the complete skill shortage in Australia. It is also a skill set doubtful to ever be taught in Australia. Qualified glass blowers typically require six years of education with additional working experience to be of a relevant skill level to be appropriate for the occupation”*.
12. On 5 October 2017, the member contacted CCIQ again to expand on the impacts to their business as well as the benefits their products provide to the community and government clients. The glass products produced by the manufacturer are used in agriculture, science, medical, mining and essential services equipment. As one of only a handful, if they are no longer able to hire skilled glass blowers their products will either be delayed or no longer produced, a detriment to several industries.
13. The member has also worked closely with University of Queensland to assist with the creation of an accredited glass blowing course, in order to train local workers in the required skills. However, it takes years of training and experience to reach the level required by the glass manufacturer.
14. Please see Attachment B, a letter from the CCIQ member requesting technicians and trade workers NEC (399999) be reinstated with a caveat to only allow glassblowers.
15. Please see Attachment C, a testimonial from a Queensland statutory authority, SEQWater.
16. CCIQ believes it is vitally important technicians and trade workers NEC (399999) is reinstated as a valid occupation on the MLTSSL to avoid the closure of an important, niche manufacturer in Queensland, providing equipment to several industries.

Conclusion

17. CCIQ implores the Department of Employment to strongly consider the requests contained in this submission to move the aforementioned occupations from the STSOL to the MLTSSL and reinstate technicians and trade workers NEC (399999) with an appropriate caveat.

18. We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Traffic Light Bulletin. CCIQ would welcome any opportunity to discuss this submission further. Should you have any enquiries please contact Joseph Kelly, Policy Advisor at jkelly@cciq.com.au.