



Chamber of Commerce
& Industry Queensland

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Hon A M Bligh MP
Premier and Minister for Reconstruction
PO Box 15185
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Dear Premier,

As the state's peak business organisation, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) would like to congratulate you and your Government on securing support from the States and Territories for evaluation of three year working visas for international graduates in areas of skills shortages.

CCIQ represents the interests of 25,000 businesses across Queensland, many of which operate in rural and regional areas where skill shortages are particularly acute. Access to a skilled and educated workforce is essential to productivity and sustainable economic growth in Queensland's regions. In light of this, CCIQ recognises skilled migration as an important component of the national population and productivity agenda.

CCIQ anticipates that skill shortages will continue to be prevalent throughout Australia over the coming decades as our population continues to age and as the competition for highly skilled labour intensifies in both domestic and international markets. As the natural population growth rate declines and new entrants to the workforce taper, overseas migration is likely to play an increasingly important role in expanding the state's workforce.

Initiatives and policies designed to improve the ability of businesses to meet their skills needs and address ongoing skills shortages are highly supported by CCIQ and Queensland's business community. As such, CCIQ is supportive of your Government's initiative to lead the discussion on the extension of the graduate skilled migration visas.

Again, I would like to congratulate you on this initiative. CCIQ is committed to working collaboratively with the State Government to ensure that Queensland's workforce has the skills to meet the needs of the economy, business and industry into the future.

Yours Sincerely

Nick Behrens
General Manager, Policy
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland