

30 January 2015

Department of Immigration and Border Protection  
ATT: Skilled Visa Review and Deregulation Taskforce (Orange 302.51)

By email: [smdt@immi.gov.au](mailto:smdt@immi.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the state's peak body for small and medium businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes moves to simplify the skilled migration and temporary activity visa programmes.

In its submission to the Department in October, CCIQ confirmed its support for the use of skilled migration as a method of combatting skill and labour shortages. All Queensland businesses should have access to sufficient skilled labour to allow them to take advantage of emerging opportunities, allowing businesses to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace.

Part of remaining globally competitive is recognising the benefits of attracting new market entrants to Australian shores, and promoting the opportunities that arise from their participation in the Queensland economy. In this regard, CCIQ welcomes any moves on the part of the Government to capitalise on the benefits of an ever expanding marketplace for industry and the economy.

Skills development is one area where businesses can significantly benefit from fluidity in global labour markets. In particular, the Department's proposal paper addresses the increase in intercompany transfers of large global companies that have entered the Australian market, and highlights the opportunity to create a new short-term mobility visa.

CCIQ supports the creation of a short-term mobility visa category, where foreign workers with highly specialised skills (i.e. skills that are not easily accessible from within the Australian labour market) can more easily work in Australia to perform a particular role or complete a particular project in the short term.

Queensland businesses have told CCIQ that they are concerned with the level of economic activity within our state. Queensland businesses are looking to the Federal and State governments to implement policies that stimulate economic growth and create opportunities for the private sector, while meeting future skills requirements.

Increased investment and competition within Australia encourages efficiency, productivity and growth within the existing marketplace. It invites businesses to be innovative and adaptive, stimulating the economy and creating jobs.

Balanced and reasonable skilled migration policy plays an important role in promoting international investment in Australia, including the expansion of strong international companies in Australia. A streamlined and flexible visa framework benefits industry by reducing regulatory burden and increasing business certainty and confidence in the process. It will also have the effect of boosting Australia's international migration profile by improving regulatory environments for international companies looking to transition more easily into the Australian market.

A short-term mobility visa would provide greater access to highly specialised skills, ultimately benefiting skills development in the Australian workforce and creating opportunity to transfer those skills to fellow Australians in the process. CCIQ considers it a reasonable addition to Australia's visa program.

CCIQ reminds the Federal Government that any regulatory change to the current visa program will create a new burden on small business to understand and implement those changes. CCIQ avails to assist in this action.

CCIQ looks forward to the release of the new skilled migration and temporary activity visa framework following national consultations with stakeholders, and in particular industry representatives.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Behrens

General Manager - Advocacy