



## 457 VISA CHANGES - FAQ'S FOR CURRENT 457 VISA HOLDERS

As you may know, the current 457 Visa program will be replaced by the new Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) Visa in March 2018. Under the TSS Visa, applicants will need to meet more rigorous English language requirements and mandatory police clearances. It will also be more likely for applicants to undertake a skills assessment.

Here are our Frequently Asked Questions on what the changes mean for you as a current 457 Visa holder.



*If I already hold a 457 Visa, do I need to do anything to transition to the TSS Visa in March 2018?*

No - if you already hold a 457 Visa, then you can continue to hold your visa until its expiry. You will not be impacted by the new TSS Visa requirements, unless you wish to apply for an a new visa or change your position of work or employer.



*If I want to change my position of work, how will the TSS Visa requirements impact me?*

Under these circumstances, a new nomination will need to be lodged through your employer and the nomination must be for an occupation listed on the skilled occupation lists for the new TSS visa. The skilled occupation lists are reviewed and updated by the Government every 6 months to ensure skill needs across Australia continue to be met. We recommend seeking professional advice from a migration agent to understand the impacts on your particular case.



*Will I still be able to transition to a Permanent Residence Visa?*

Generally speaking, if your 457 Visa application was lodged up to or on 18 April 2017 or you held a 457 Visa on that date, you will still be able to transition to permanent residence under the existing Temporary Residence Transition Stream arrangements if you:

- Are under 50 years of age
- Have worked at least 2 out of the 3 years prior to your nominated position with your employer

If you had applied for a 457 Visa after 18 April 2017, your eligibility for permanent residence will depend on the criteria set by the new legislation, which is still being confirmed by the Immigration Department.

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