

**Changes** introduced in July 2017 and March 2018 mean that many people may no longer be eligible for ENS and RSMS applications.

### **Applicants Between 45 and 49 No Longer Eligible**

Applicants currently need to be under 50 when they lodge to be eligible for ENS or RSMS.

From 1 July 2017, applicants for the Direct Entry Stream of ENS and RSMS will need to be under 45 when they apply. There has been no information about possible exemptions for people 45 or over.

The Department of Immigration has indicated that the age limit for the Temporary Residence Transition Stream will not change until March 2018, but there is no guarantee that this won't change earlier than expected.

### **Higher English Requirement from July 2017**

From 1 July, all applicants for ENS and RSMS visas will need Competent English.

### **Increased Work Experience Requirements from March 2018**

Work experience requirements will be increased for employer sponsored visas from **March 2018** as follows:

- A minimum of 3 years of work experience in your occupation will be required to qualify for **ENS and RSMS visas**.
- Work experience requirements for applicants for the **Temporary Residence Transition Stream of ENS and RSMS** will be increased from 2 to 3 years

People who will be affected by these changes:

- **RSMS Applicants:** currently, applicants with relevant qualifications can apply for RSMS without needing any work experience
- **People Currently in Australia on 457s:** 457 holders are currently eligible for a Temporary Residence Transition Stream ENS or RSMS visa after 2 years with their employer. This will increase to 3 years from March 2018
- **International Students and Recent Graduates:** many international students and recent graduates are currently eligible for a 457 visa, then for an ENS visa through the Temporary Residence Transition Stream after working for their employer for 2 years. This pathway will no longer be available from March 2018 because 2 years of work experience will be required for the TSS visa

### **More Restrictive Occupations List from March 2018**

From March 2018, only applicants with an occupation on the [MLTSSL](#) will be eligible for permanent employer sponsored visas. There may be some additional occupations for regional positions.

The MLTSSL has only 183 occupations, mainly in accounting, engineering, IT, medical and allied health and trades. Currently, approximately 70% of ENS and RSMS applications are for people in occupations which are not on the MLTSSL. 60% of 457 visa holders are in an occupation which is not on the MLTSSL.

This change will have a significant impact on applicants for ENS and RSMS.

### **Additional Training Levies from March 2018**

From March 2018, a [training levy will be payable when applying for an ENS or RSMS visa](#). The amount will be \$3,000 for smaller businesses with turnover of less than AUD 10 million, or \$5,000 for larger businesses.