

# From 14 September 2009 Major changes impacting on 457 visa holders:

## Changing Employers

- All 457 visa holders are free to change employer or occupation without having to apply for a new 457 visa.
- Your new employer must be approved by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and then lodge a nomination for you.
- Once the nomination has been approved you may commence working for your new employer. (subject to any requirement to give notice to your old employer)

## English Language

- All new 457 applicants must achieve an IELTS test score of at least 5 in each of the test components of speaking, reading, writing and listening.
- You may need to achieve a higher IELTS results if you are required to hold a license, registration or membership to perform your role.

## Health Insurance

- All new 457 holders are now responsible for health costs incurred by themselves and their family in Australia.
- New 457 visa holders are also required to maintain adequate private health insurance for themselves and their family for the duration of their stay in Australia.
- If you have a 457 visa that was granted before 14 September 2009, your employer will continue to be liable for any health costs you incur in a public hospital for the duration of that visa.

## Market Rates of Pay

- Employers must ensure all 457 visa holders have the terms and conditions of employment that are equal to those that are provided to an Australian worker doing the same job in the same workplace and location.
- The Minimum Salary Level (MSL) that was in effect prior to 14 September 2009 will no longer apply for new 457 visa holders.
- Transitional arrangements are in place for sponsors with existing 457 holders to commence paying market salary rates no later than 1 January 2010.

# 457 VISAS & AVIATION



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# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can I join a Union?

- Yes, all workers in Australia have the freedom to choose to join a Union.

## My 457 visa will expire soon, what are my options?

- If you wish to remain in Australia long-term, you may lodge another visa application. The Australian Government is currently accepting permanent residency applications from skilled sponsored workers with experience in aviation maintenance engineering. To check eligibility please visit:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/visa-permanent.htm>

- If you do not wish to remain in Australia long-term and your current employer or another employer continues to need workers you could choose to apply for a new 457 visa. The 14 September changes to the 457 visa program will apply to your new application. To check your eligibility please visit:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/sbs/>

- To leave Australia before your visa expires

## What permanent residency options exist for Aviation Maintenance Engineers?

- There are many different permanent residency options available in Australia. Aviation Maintenance Engineers may be sponsored by their employer for a permanent sponsored visa. Depending on your circumstances you may apply using the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) or through the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS). Please visit the following link for further information:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/visa-permanent.htm>

- Some Aviation Maintenance Engineers may also be eligible for other types of permanent residency visas.

**Members of the Australian Workers' Union may contact the AWU's Immigration Officer to receive free immigration information and discuss visa options**

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