

Submitter information

Please provide your name and phone number, and preferred email address for contact if it is different from the one used to send this form:

s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(a)

In what capacity are you providing feedback?

e.g. on behalf of: your company, the company you work for, an industry organisation, a union, a licensed immigration adviser etc.

On behalf of the company I own

If you are representing a company or group, what is the name of that group?

What industry or industries does that group work in?

Restaurant

In your company or industry, what are the most common occupations for migrant workers?

Cooks/chef/kitchenhands/waiters/restaurant supervisors

What visa categories are commonly used by those workers?

i.e. resident visa, Essential Skills work visa, Work-to-Residence work visa (under the Talent or Long Term Skill Shortage List categories), Post-Study work visa (open or employer assisted), open work visa.

Work visa is the main followed by working holiday visa/essential skills work visa/work to residence visa/

Only answer the following questions if you directly employ migrant workers:

How many migrant workers do you currently employ? (Refer to the visa categories in the question above)

14

Have you supported an Essential Skills visa application for any of these workers?

Yes

Using wage or salary information to help determine skill level and access to Essential Skills migrants

Proposal 1: Introduction of remuneration thresholds to determine skill levels and associated visa conditions for Essential Skills visas

Consider the proposal of aligning the remuneration thresholds for the Essential Skills visa with the remuneration thresholds for the Skilled Migrant Category.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from defining lower-, mid- and higher skilled Essential Skills migrants in this way?

Give details of the occupations or sectors and wage or salary levels you are thinking of.

The biggest impact this will have is with our kitchen staff, the bulk of whom are either cooks, commis chefs or chef-de-parties. All skilled positions. My small business can only afford one sous chef which is the person on the pay rate required for a Skilled Migrant category. I currently employ a young chef who wants to apply for residence but she is only a first year chef-de-partie it will take her three to five years to gain the skills for a sous chef. Under the proposal I will have to constantly find new kitchen staff and in Queenstown we are in a DESPERATE need of kitchen staff. In the past I am the one who has been a driving force in encouraging staff to stay with the promise of sponsorship, that is how desperate the situation is in Queenstown.

Reinforcing the temporary nature of the Essential Skills visa and managing the settlement expectations of temporary migrants

Proposal 2a: Introduction of a maximum duration for lower skilled Essential Skills migrants

Consider the option of a three years for a maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills visas.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from the proposed maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders?

Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.

This removes the path for residency for many staff. I have a young cook from Brazil who would like to take up residency but he is a good five years away from obtaining the skills required. This is also detrimental to our senior floor staff who are no longer considered skilled.

Proposal 2b: Introduction of stand down period for lower skilled Essential Skills migrants

Consider the option for a year-long stand down period following the maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills visas.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from these proposed changes?

Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.

This will slow down economic growth in a booming town like Queenstown. Where are we going to find the extra staff as this will increase staff turnover.

Proposal 3: Require the partners of lower skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right

Consider the proposal to require the partners of lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from these proposed changes?

Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.

Partnership visas help staff in areas like Queenstown where cost of living is very high and the spouse on a partnership visa can get two jobs since they are not restricted. Again helps eliviate the chronic labour shortage Queenstown experiences.

Proposal 4: Require the children of lower skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right

Consider the proposal to require the children of lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from these proposed changes?

Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.

not sure

Reinforce that Essential Skills visas should only be granted for the period for which the employment is offered

Proposal 5: Make it explicit how the 'period of employment' condition applies to seasonal work

Consider the option to reinforce that Essential Skills visas for seasonal work are only for the length of the season and that the offer of employment must match the length of the season.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from these options?

Give details of the occupations or sectors you think are likely to be affected.

no sure

Consider the list of seasonal occupations being considered.

Are there any seasonal occupations that should be added or removed from this list? Why?

Consider the list of seasonal occupations being considered.

If you employ seasonal staff, or represent a sector with seasonal staff:

- What are the occupations of the seasonal staff within the sector that you are commenting on?
- For each of the occupations that you have identified, what is the typical period that you require seasonal staff to cover (e.g the peak of the season)?