

## Changes to Skilled Migration Program

Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Senator Amanda Vanstone and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Kevin Andrews have announced some changes to Australia's skilled migration program. In this new migration program, the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) now includes a number of agricultural occupations including “environmental research scientists”, “foresters”, “park rangers”, “soil scientists”, “agricultural scientists” and “agricultural advisers”. These changes took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004.

The MODL now contains 28 occupations across a range of skill levels and industries. This compares to 14 occupations in February 2003, 15 occupations in February 2002 and 22 occupations in February 2001. Specifically, the new Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL), which gives skilled migrants bonus points under points-tested visa categories, has been extended to include accountants and a number of traditional trade occupations which have been in short supply in many places across the country. The MODL also includes professionals such as “medical practitioners”, “medical specialists”, “registered nurses” and allied health professionals, particularly in regional Australia.

The MODL list of trade persons address the shortages of tradesman in the field of metal working and welding, and motor vehicles repair and maintenance. Meanwhile, chef and hairdresser continue to remain in the MODL list. Pastry cook is also included in the list. Another new trade profession included in the MODL list is Furniture Upholsterer.

Further, people can also receive extra points if they have a job offer in their nominated occupation from an organisation that has employed at least 10 people on a full-time basis for the 24 months just before they lodge an application.

### The new MIGRATION OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND LIST includes:

Occupation	ASCO 2 CODE
<b>Professionals</b>	
Accountants	2211
Medical Practitioners - General Medical Practitioners	2311-11
Specialist Medical Practitioners	2312
Registered Nurses	2323
Registered Midwives	2324
Registered Mental Health Nurses	2325

Hospital Pharmacists	2382-11
Retail Pharmacists	2382-15
Occupational Therapists	2383
Physiotherapists	2391-11
Medical Diagnostic Radiographers	2385
Radiation Therapists	2391-13
Sonographers	2391-17
<b>Associate Professionals</b>	
Chefs (excluding Commis Chef)*	3322 (part)
<b>Tradespersons</b>	
Metal Fitter	4112-11
Metal Machinist	4112-13
Toolmaker	4113-11
Metal Fabricator	4122-11
Welder	4122-15
Sheet Metal Worker	4124-11
Motor Mechanic	4211-11
Automotive Electrician	4212-11
Panel Beater	4213-11
Vehicle Painter	4214-11
Refrigeration and Airconditioning Mechanics	4312-11
Pastry Cook	4512-13
Hairdressers**	4931-11
Furniture Upholsterer	4942-11

Both Chefs and hairdressers would normally be expected to have a relevant trade certificate or higher qualification, and at least 3 years relevant experience following the completion of that formal qualification.