

Bonus for Accountants, Doctors and Car Repair Tradesman

In our last issue, we discussed about new occupations to be included in the Most Demand Occupation List. Skilled occupations in the new MODL include Accountants, Medical Doctors, Car repair and maintenance tradesman, and furniture upholstery repair. In this issue, we shall discuss some of the important issues relating to these occupations for migration purposes.

Accountant

Accountant was removed from MODL as of 12 March 2003 but re-admitted into the MODL again 1 Sept 2004. The three prescribed assessing authority for accountants are:

- Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA)
- Certified Practising Accountants Australia (CPAA)
- National Institute of Accountants (NIA)

To be assessed as suitable for migration purposes, an applicant will need to

- Have a tertiary qualification assessed as being comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree, and
- Have adequate coverage in the tertiary qualification of the “core accounting subjects” areas, and this is taken as fulfilling the curriculum of an Australian Bachelors degree in 9 of the following 12 areas:
 - Basic Accounting
 - Cost and Management Accounting
 - Financial and Corporate Accounting
 - Auditing
 - Current Accounting Issues (Standards and Theory)
 - Business Finance
 - Introductory Law (including contract law)
 - Economics
 - Statistics
 - Computer Information Systems
 - Australian Taxation Law

You may be qualified for accountant occupation if you have an undergraduate degree in Arts (for example) followed by a postgraduate degree in Accounting. Normally, a positive assessment from either NIA or CPA will be valid for migration purposes for a period of 5 years from the date of assessment.

Medical Practitioners

Medical doctors were for a long time not even in the list of Skilled Occupation List for migration purposes. It was branded as a “closed door” occupation. Formerly, overseas qualified doctors who wished to apply for migration to Australia must seek skilled assessment under other categories like “Scientist” etc. However, due to shortage of doctors in many regional areas, this profession has begun to open up since late last year.

Effective 1 Sept 2004, medical practitioner (including specialists) have been included in the MODL.

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is the prescribed relevant authority for medical practitioners who wish to seek skills assessment for the purposes of migration to Australia. Generally, medical practitioners with overseas qualifications who wish to practice in Australia are required to pass the AMC multi-disciplinary general examination which consists of a paper with 125 multiple choice questions, and a two-stage clinical examination, as well as meeting AMC requirements for English proficiency. Furthermore, medical practitioners who have passed the AMC examination or the specialist assessment program can seek to become a full member of the Royal Australian College of General practitioners (RACGP) or the Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS).

Persons who are not full fellow members of the RACGP or RACS can nevertheless work in Australia with provisional registration under the 4-year “422 Medical Practitioner” temporary visa, and sit for the AMC examination in Australia. Today, it is possible for overseas-trained doctors or formerly overseas medical students to come to Australia on either as temporary resident doctors or as permanent residents, but overseas-trained doctors require exemptions under the Health Insurance ACT 1973 to obtain Medicare Provider numbers from Health Insurance Commission (HIC) that enable them to prescribe pharmaceuticals, order diagnostic tests etc.

Another streamlined procedure allows overseas-trained doctors with general practice qualifications, who seek or have Australian permanent residence, to be assessed by the Royal Australian College of General practitioners (RACGP) as an alternative to their taking the AMC examinations. Doctors going through this process are conditionally registered to work in rural areas for a period of 5 years. Doctors undergoing this scheme are eventually eligible to become Fellow members of FRACGP.

Due to space limitation, the discussion on other tradesmen which are in MODL will be conducted in our next issue.