

TEMPORARY MIGRATION

Consult Australia's Advocacy Highlights

September 2021



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The recently released [Commonwealth Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration Report](#) reflects much of Consult Australia's skilled migration advocacy. The Committee focused on *'the impact temporary migration has on the Australian economy, wages and jobs, social cohesion and workplace rights and conditions.'*

Summarised below are the highlights for Consult Australia members.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



Simplifying Australia's visa system

The Committee recognised that Australia's migration system is complex, difficult to access, and constantly changing, making it hard for businesses to navigate, a view which Consult Australia supports. In response, the report recommends that a comprehensive review of Australia's visa system be undertaken to improve accessibility and clarity (recommendation 1).



Increasing resources to speed up assessments

Continuing the focus on improving accessibility to temporary migration visas, the Committee recommended an increase in resourcing at the Department of Home Affairs to improve visa application assessment times (recommendation 2). Consult Australia welcomes this recommendation and has been stressing the importance timely access to the global talent market, particularly in light increasing constraints on our industry's resources.



Improving communication channels

Consult Australia has been advocating the need for improved communication channels, highlighting that with the visa system constantly changing and evolving, particularly during COVID-19, the ability to navigate and understand the requirements and obligations on businesses is burdensome. The Committee recognised this and recommended that the Department of Home Affairs review current communication channels and seek to improve efficiency of responses and simplify their messaging (recommendation 3).



Collaborating for clarity and coordination

Consult Australia members have stressed the complexity of the temporary migration system, and we have highlighted in our advocacy the need for improved clarification and coordination of visa options. The Committee recommended that the Australian Government develop a collaboration strategy with key agencies including the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, as well as regular consultation with industry, unions and other stakeholders, to streamline Australia's temporary migration system, improve information dissemination, and coordinate programmes, laws, regulations and policies (recommendations 4, 6, and 7).



Bridging pathways

Consult Australia member businesses have been calling for bridging pathways to connect Australians with occupations in critical need of resources. The Committee recommended the Australian Government review existing education programs to increase the opportunities for credible career pathways in labour short occupations (recommendation 16).

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Partnering to tackle the skills shortage crisis

As advocated by Consult Australia, a collaborative approach to tackling the skills shortage crisis is vital. The Committee is calling on the Australian Government to establish an independent and multilateral body including government, industry and the unions to focus on defining skills shortages and pinpointing where they exist (recommendation 18).

Improving pathways to permanency

Consult Australia has called on the Australian Government to improve visa types for short-term roles. The Committee has adopted a similar position in the [*Final Report into Australia's Skilled Migration Program*](#) recommending that where appropriate, migrants have pathways to permanency and citizenship (recommendation 25).

NEXT STEPS

The report has been presented to the Commonwealth Senate for consideration and Consult Australia will continue to advocate for the highlighted reforms to be adopted in our engagement with relevant government agencies and other key stakeholders.