

ITEM 5: Better Planning for Stronger Growth

28 APRIL 2023

**AUTHOR: COMMONWEALTH
FOR DECISION**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That First Ministers:

1. **Note:**
 - a. the need for the Commonwealth, states and territories to have a shared ambition on the growth of Australian cities, towns and suburbs
 - b. to accommodate population growth, Australia will need to be more purposeful on the location and supply of housing, the organisation of economic activity and movement of people across our cities.

2. **Recognise:**

- a. the need for states to have a greater role in identifying their migration needs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

3. **Agree** the below measures that will support a national approach to the growth of our cities, towns and suburbs.

Migration

- a. **Agree** that the Commonwealth commit to a greater role for states and territories to contribute to Australia's migration settings as part of the development of the new national Migration Strategy.
- b. **Note** that the Commonwealth will undertake several measures through the 2023-24 Budget to improve migration outcomes including funding for increased visa processing capacity, expanding pathways to permanent residence for temporary skilled sponsored workers **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**
s 22(1)(a) These actions demonstrate the Commonwealth's commitment to working with the states and territories on migration reform including addressing previous requests for migration reform.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

KEY POINTS

1. Australia is seeing workforce challenges across a range of industries and regions. Growing our population through thoughtful and coordinated migration, supported by forward-looking planning and investments, will help alleviate immediate pressures and set up Australia for a strong future.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

3. A shared ambition is needed between the Commonwealth, the states and territories to support the growth of our cities, towns and suburbs.
4. Recognising the fiscal constraints that all levels of government are currently facing, concurrent action at all levels of government is required to drive much-needed reform in areas including infrastructure, migration, housing and planning, to meet growing demands on our communities.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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SUMMARY

Migration reform

The Commonwealth is committed to a transformed migration system that works for Australia and for migrants. A key enabler of this is the delivery of the Commonwealth's migration strategy, *A Migration System for a more Prosperous and Secure Australia*.

Greater role for the states and territories in Australia's migration settings

Following ongoing consultation with states and territories as part of the Review of the Migration System Final Report, the Commonwealth has developed an Outline of the Government's Migration Strategy. The Outline sets the direction for further detailed consultation, design and implementation. This will be shared with states and territories for consultation and it commits to creating a new, nation building endeavour with states and territories in longer-term migration planning.

In addition to the review, the Commonwealth is committed to ongoing work with the states and territories on migration reform including working to address previous requests for migration reform. Recognising this commitment, through the 2023-24 Budget, the Commonwealth will announce several measures as a first step to improve migration outcomes including:

Increased visa processing capability

The Commonwealth will provide additional funding to sustain enhanced visa processing capacity. This will ensure the Department of Home Affairs can continue to work on reducing the backlog, improve processing times and support delivery of visa facilitation priorities including those in relation to the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Home Affairs will also implement system changes to improve client experience, deliver more efficient processes and reduce wait times. This measure maintains the additional funding announced at the 2022 Jobs and Skills Summit.

Expanding pathways to permanent residence for temporary skilled sponsored workers

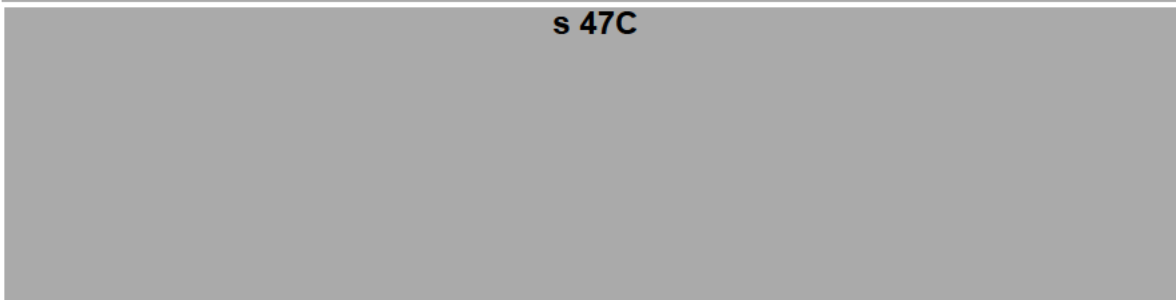
The Commonwealth will establish a pathway to permanent residence for all temporary skilled sponsored (TSS) workers, including those holding a Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa or a Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa. The expansion will enable employers to sponsor workers in a wider range of occupations permanently.



s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 47C



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

