

Ant Invasion

457 Visas Dispersing the Myth

Job shortage

There are more than 27000 job vacancies in metropolitan and regional areas in Western Australia, and those numbers are continuing to rise. Forecasts predicted the mining sector would also need an extra 50 000 workers by 2020. The jobs on offer in WA at the moment range from mining to healthcare and hospitality and we need tradespeople of all disciplines” Small Business Minister, Margaret Quirk WA

Businesses has recognised that due to the skilled labour shortage in Australia more and more companies need to recruit labour from overseas and interstate. However, there is a reluctance by many to consider this option, mainly due these misconceptions:

Bureaucracy Application procedure (to become a sponsor) is a complex and onerous process
Myth- this is mainly due to being unfamiliar with the process

Costs Expensive
Myth- actual normal costs are low

Obligations Onerous
Myth – Good normal employment practices are all that are required in most cases, Any extra costs like medical are usually incorporated in the package.

Timing It take a long time to process
Myth – Depending on the application it can take as little as 6 weeks

Why business should employ from overseas:

- Availability** Overseas workers are available and are highly skilled
- Positive Attitude** These people have made a life changing decision to move to Australia they so they are very committed to being successful in their work and new life.
- Financially** The minimum wage is \$43 440, but more importantly they are grateful for the opportunity to live and work in Australia, therefore they usually are very loyal.
- Stability** You can nominate the these people to work for you from 3 month to 4 years. They are committed to your company exclusively under the 457 visa.
- Cross Training** These people bring diversity to your skill set and to your work culture.

Reasons for hiring a 457 visa holder rather than an Australian resident

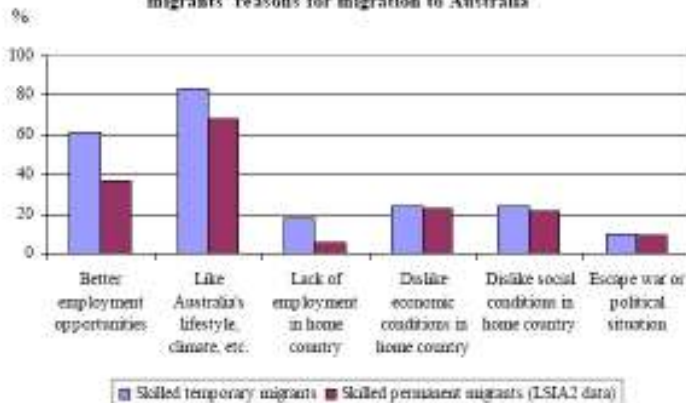
Reason	% of employers
Required skills difficult to obtain in Australia	89%
Need people to train others	57%
Sponsorship suits company's policy	40%
Require people at very short notice	26%
Foreign workers more committed to the job	22%
Visa conditions provide a higher level of control	12%
Sponsored employees have a lower cost	9%

Adapted from Khoo et al (2004)

There are over 10 000 registered sponsors in Australia

Why people come to Australia and why they stay.

Comparison of skilled temporary and permanent migrants' reasons for migration to Australia



Percentage of 457 visa holders indicating that reason was important or very important for wanting to apply for permanent residence in Australia

