



Policy costing

SMART visa	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: <p>This proposal would introduce a new SMART visa for world-leaders in science, medicine, academia, research and technology to ensure that universities, research institutes, medical, scientific and advanced technology industries, and public research agencies can bring the best and brightest talent to Australia.</p> <p>The new visa would be uncapped and cover jobs that are not on the skilled occupation list. A list of jobs eligible for the proposed SMART visa, along with their Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) codes, is included at Attachment A.</p> <p>The proposed SMART visa would be subject to the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) and the same visa application charge as the Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa.</p> <p>Employers of holders of the proposed SMART visa would be exempt from the Skilling Australians Fund Levy if their annual turnovers are under \$10 million whereas those with annual turnovers of \$10 million and over would be charged 6 per cent of the TSMIT per visa per year.</p> <p>The proposal would commence from 1 July 2019.</p>	

Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to have a small but unquantifiable impact on the fiscal and underlying cash balances over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. The proposal would be expected to have an ongoing unquantifiable impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period.

This proposed SMART visa would complement the existing Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa. The Government introduced the Global Talent Scheme under the Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa on 1 July 2018, which provided greater flexibility to businesses to attract highly skilled foreign workers, including no occupation restrictions, ability to negotiate variations on visa requirements, priority processing, and access to a permanent residence pathway. As the Global Talent Scheme only had a very small number of applications in the first seven months of its operation, it would be expected that the take up of the proposed SMART visa would be very low. It would be expected that the proposed SMART visa would be attractive to businesses with annual turnovers under \$10 million because of its exemption from the Skilling Australian Fund Levy.

This costing is subject to uncertainty around the number of visa applications for the proposed visa and the occupations nominated for the applicants. The financial impact of each application depends on whether or not the applicant would have otherwise applied for the Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa. Prospective applicants who shift to the SMART visa from other visa types would be expected to have a negative revenue impact due to loss of Skilling Australians Fund Levy revenue. Other applicants would be expected to have a positive revenue impact. The overall cost of the proposal is cannot be quantified because there is no information available about potential applicants.

Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	*	*	*	*	*
Underlying cash balance	*	*	*	*	*

* Unquantifiable.

Data sources

Department of Home Affairs, 2019. *Freedom of Information request FA19/01/00704*, Canberra:

Department of Home Affairs.

Attachment A – SMART visa – List of eligible jobs

Occupation	ANZSCO code
Aeronautical Engineer	233911
Agricultural Engineer	233912
Agricultural Scientist	234112
Analyst Programmer	261311
Anatomist or Physiologist	234512
Biochemist	234513
Biomedical Engineer	233913
Biotechnologist	234514
Botanist	234515
Chemical Engineer	233111
Chemist	234211
Chief Information Officer	135111
Civil Engineer	233211
Computer Network & Systems Engineer	263111
Dental Specialist	252311
Developer Programmer	261312
Economist	224311
Electrical Engineer	233311
Engineering Professionals	233999
Engineering Technologist	233914
Environmental Consultant	234312
Environmental Engineer	233915
Environmental Research Scientist	234313
Environmental Scientist	234399
Forest Scientist	234113
Geologist	234411
Geophysicist	234412
Geotechnical Engineer	233212
Hospital Pharmacist	251511
ICT Account Manager	225211
ICT Business Analyst	261111
ICT Business Development Manager	225212
ICT Manager	135199
ICT Project Manager	135112

Occupation	ANZSCO code
ICT Quality Assurance Engineer	263211
ICT Sales Representative	225213
ICT Security Specialist	262112
ICT Support Engineer	263212
ICT Systems Test Engineer	263213
Industrial Designer	232312
Industrial Engineer	233511
Industrial Pharmacist	251512
Information and Organisation Professional	224999
Marine Biologist	234516
Materials Engineer	233112
Mathematician	224112
Mechanical Engineering Technician	312512
Medical Laboratory Scientist	234611
Metallurgist	234912
Microbiologist	234517
Multimedia Specialist	261211
Natural and Physical Science Professional	234999
Naval Architect	233916
Network Analyst	263113
Physicist	234914
Resident Medical Officer	253112
Software & Applications Programmers	261399
Software Engineer	261313
Software Tester	261399
Statistician	224113
Structural Engineer	233214
Systems Analyst	261112
Transport Engineer	233215
University Lecturer	242111
University Tutor	242112
Veterinarian	234711
Web Designer	232414
Zoologist	234518