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## Subclass 457 Visas are Still Viable

Looking back, 2009 was an uncertain year for the subclass 457 visa program. The global financial crisis ("GFC") was upon us, unemployment was on the rise while the number of job vacancies was declining and migration legislation was constantly changing.

Recent research shows that despite the GFC, Australia is still experiencing a skills shortage. The Clarius Group reports that there is a shortfall of around 4,000 qualified chefs in Australia. Occupations such as builders, computing professionals, engineers, health professionals and tradespeople are also reported to be in high demand with employers continuing to source and recruit skilled workers from overseas.

Whilst last year's legislation changes appear daunting – the 457 visa program is still an effective avenue for filling skilled vacancies. Despite the changes to the sponsor's obligations, the implementation of a market rate of pay and increased English language requirements for visa applicants, the subclass 457 visa program remains a popular employer choice.

If your organisation has a strong commitment to:

- employing local labour
- non discriminatory work practices
- training Australians, and
- paying market rate salaries

then it may still be eligible to sponsor overseas workers through the subclass 457 visa program.

### Contacts

If you would like to discuss a 457 visa option please contact our registered migration agent, Rebecca Macmillan on (07) 3292 9704 or [rmacmillan@macrossans.com.au](mailto:rmacmillan@macrossans.com.au)