Skills Assessment for Direct Entry Permanent Residence Applications
5 October 2017

The Direct Entry stream of the subclass 186 Employer Nomination Scheme visa is essentially the same as the Temporary Residence Transition (two year pathway) stream except for one main difference: the skill requirement.

Under the Direct Entry stream, the applicant is not required to have worked for their sponsor as a 457 visa holder for two years (in fact, they don’t even need to have held a 457 visa). Instead, they need to prove their skills to the Department by obtaining a successful skills assessment in their nominated occupation.

The relevant assessing authority will differ based on the occupation. A full list of the assessing authorities for each occupation can be found on the Department’s website here.

The skills assessment requirements also differ with each occupation, however the applicant will generally need to show that they have both a qualification and employment experience relevant to their occupation. Processing times and fees also vary, with a skills assessment generally taking a few weeks to prepare, and a few weeks or even months to be finalised.

A Direct Entry applicant must obtain a successful skills assessment before they lodge their permanent residence application under the Employer Nomination Scheme. Applicants wishing to apply for Direct Entry based on an occupation listed on the Short Term Skilled Occupation List (STSOL) must do so before March 2018. After March, Direct Entry will not be available for occupations on the STSOL.

We generally recommend that applicants apply for their skills assessment independently, as the process focuses primarily on their personal skills and experience and knowledge of the occupation. Once the successful skills assessment is received, Ajuria Lawyers can then provide the applicant with our full professional services for the Permanent Residence application.

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