

Queensland Government Position Statement on Skilled Migration **Skilled Migration**

Skilled migration will be part of the Smart State Agenda. The Queensland Government recognises and values the positive economic and social contribution that skilled migrants have made and will continue to make to the Smart State. A clear objective of "Smart State" is to increase the human capital of Queensland and this aligns directly with the objectives of the Skilled Migration Program which attracts skilled individuals from other countries. The Skilled Migration Program will link directly to initiatives under the Government's agenda such as the Department of State Development's Queensland Government Trade Strategy: Export Solutions, and World Class Manufacturing Queensland, and the Department of Employment and Trainings Skilling Queensland and Education Queensland's Education 2010.

The Queensland Government encourages skilled migrants to settle in Queensland and will coordinate and develop support mechanisms that ensure skilled migrants and their families are welcomed, and that their positive impact on Queensland is maximised. Queensland will be promoted as a preferred destination for skilled migrants. This reflects that Queensland is a diverse and dynamic multicultural society, boasting a booming economy, spectacular natural features, enviable climate, and a relaxed lifestyle. Queensland is Australia's state of growth and opportunity, and as Australia's smart state, it has a flourishing, diverse business community - from innovative small businesses, to pioneering high-tech firms and large multi-nationals.

Queensland attracts leading business and investment from around the world, because it offers a range of competitive advantages: high economic growth; proximity to the Asia-Pacific region; competitive low tax business environment; multicultural lifestyle and positive community relations; skilled multilingual workforce; world class infrastructure, including world class health and education and training systems; and Queensland Government AAA credit rating. Business opportunities are enhanced by Queensland's location as the prime gateway to the growth markets of the Asia-Pacific region. International and domestic product movement is assured by the excellent network of roads and railways, sixteen ports, numerous domestic airports and three international airports.

The Department of State Development will be the lead agency to manage skilled migration activities State Development is the central entry point for Queensland

businesses to access government services and will provide extensive business information, advice and support. State Development will manage the skilled migration program in Queensland and will develop strategies such as targeted marketing, promotion, sponsorship, support services and whole-of government coordination. State Development will drive the Queensland Government Skilled migration agenda to ensure that:

- Economic growth is fostered and developed;
- Export capacity is strengthened;
- Increased investment is encouraged;
- Priority industries are supported;
- Efforts are made to address skill shortages;
- Families of skilled migrants are supported; and
- Regional growth is supported.

State Development will work in partnership with Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and with other Queensland Government agencies, to increase skilled migration to Queensland and coordinate and provide quality information and advice to skilled migrants and their families on arrival. Partnerships with Queensland Government agencies responsible for employment and training, health and education will be particularly important.

The Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution that skilled migrants and their families make to the social fabric of Queensland and will continue to undertake activities which foster community cohesion, and monitor and review Commonwealth Immigration and settlement policy to ensure equal access and opportunity.