

Mobility: Immigration alert

June 2021



United Kingdom and Australia

New trade agreement includes multiple immigration provisions

Executive summary

On 14 June 2021, the United Kingdom (UK) and Australia announced that a [Trade Agreement](#) (the Agreement) has been agreed in principle between the two countries.

Background

The announcement was recently made by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison at a meeting in London. It is understood that the Agreement will include provisions on temporary entry that are designed to support economic recovery, enhance opportunities for business travel, and encourage citizens and residents of each of the two countries to travel to, and work in, each other's territories on the basis of reciprocity. The Agreement in principle was published on 17 June 2021. The Agreement is not expected to enter into force until early 2022.

Important measures impacting mobility

The mobility section of the Agreement includes the following provisions, which are expected to come into effect in the next five years:

- ▶ The UK and Australia commit to remove economic needs tests (i.e., labor market tests) that would require them to prove that their citizens cannot be hired to do a job before employing citizens of the other country to do that job (e.g., UK companies would not need to prove that there are no UK citizens who are qualified and able to take on the job before hiring an Australian job applicant for that job, and vice versa).
- ▶ The two countries commit to provide balanced guarantees that are broadly reciprocal to maintain visa

pathways for service suppliers for a number of economic sectors, by bringing these into the Agreement.

- ▶ Australia and the UK will expand their Youth Mobility Schemes reciprocally to qualifying applicants aged 35 years or younger (up from 30 years or younger) for a total stay of up to three years (up from two years). Further, UK applicants under this scheme in Australia will no longer have to undertake specified work under the scheme.
- ▶ The two countries will look to support their agriculture and agribusiness industries, by building routes to facilitate mobility for those involved in this line of work.
- ▶ The UK and Australia will jointly explore opportunities to further enable workplace exchanges which facilitate early career mobility for those involved in innovation in industry, culture and the arts.

Key steps

Employers should remain abreast of developments relating to the Agreement's implementation, in order to confirm the applicability of the provisions of the Agreement to their employees. [Enhanced, practical mobility provisions](#) in trade agreements should (among other things) lead to enhanced access to international talent pools for employers and reduced administrative burden.

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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