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## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON SKILLED MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA**

Generally, there are two pathways for migration of Filipino skilled workers to Australia: either by being sponsored by an Australian employer, or by applying independently under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program.

Sponsorship by an Australian employer could either be through temporary or permanent visas. The most common visa option for Australian employers to hire skilled workers from overseas is the 457 visa sub-category, which is a temporary visa but could offer a pathway towards a permanent visa. The 457 sub-category visa is good for four years. For more information about the 457 sub-category visa, please see [www.immi.gov.au/allforms/booklets/books9.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/booklets/books9.pdf) . Another form of temporary visa is by means of a Labour Agreement, but this is accessible only by employers in specific industries, currently the meat and on-hire industries.

Employer-sponsored permanent visas are:

1. Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)
2. Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme
3. Labour Agreements

Each of these visa options has its own eligibility requirements and application procedures and gives rise to different sponsor obligations. For more details about these permanent visa options, you can go to [www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/ens/](http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/ens/) .

On the other hand, the General Skilled Migration scheme is for people who are looking to emigrate to Australia permanently and know this from day one and don't want to be sponsored by an employer. The visas available under this scheme may either be skilled independent (migrant) or skilled-sponsored (migrant), or skilled (regional sponsored). More information on the various visa options under the General Skilled Migration is available at [www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/](http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/).