



DAIRY INDUSTRY LABOUR AGREEMENT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RECENT CHANGES

Skilled overseas workers employed under a Dairy Industry Labour Agreement are now eligible for permanent residency, giving farmers more opportunities to attract and retain skilled workers and making the Australian dairy industry more attractive to skilled international labour.

Dairy Industry Labour Agreement

The Dairy Industry Labour Agreement (DILA) is an agreement between dairy farmers and the Department of Home Affairs.

It lets dairy farm employers recruit an agreed number of skilled workers from overseas in response to identified skill shortages in Australia. It provides an avenue for both temporary and permanent entry to Australia for overseas workers employed at the FLH 5-7 level of the Pastoral Award 2010.

Recent changes

The Australian Government has agreed to include a permanent residency pathway under the Dairy Industry Labour Agreement (DILA). This will assist Australian dairy farmers to address skilled labour shortages by providing a further incentive to attract and retain skilled overseas workers. These changes bring the dairy industry in line with similar agreements for the meat and pork industries.

People who are employed under the labour agreement can apply for permanent residency. For existing DILA holders, overseas workers on 457 or Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) '482' visas will be eligible to be nominated for an Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) 186 visa.

With a new pathway to permanent residency now available to skilled overseas workers, farmers can invest in upskilling their workforce, and reduce their ongoing recruitment costs. All new labour agreement and visa requests will continue to be assessed by the Department of Home Affairs.

How to apply

To vary existing labour agreements to enable a pathway to permanent residency for your valued staff or to apply for a new labour agreement, farmers should email:

labour.agreement.section@homeaffairs.gov.au

More information on hiring people from overseas can be found at the People in Dairy website at: **thepeopleindairy.org.au/visa**.