

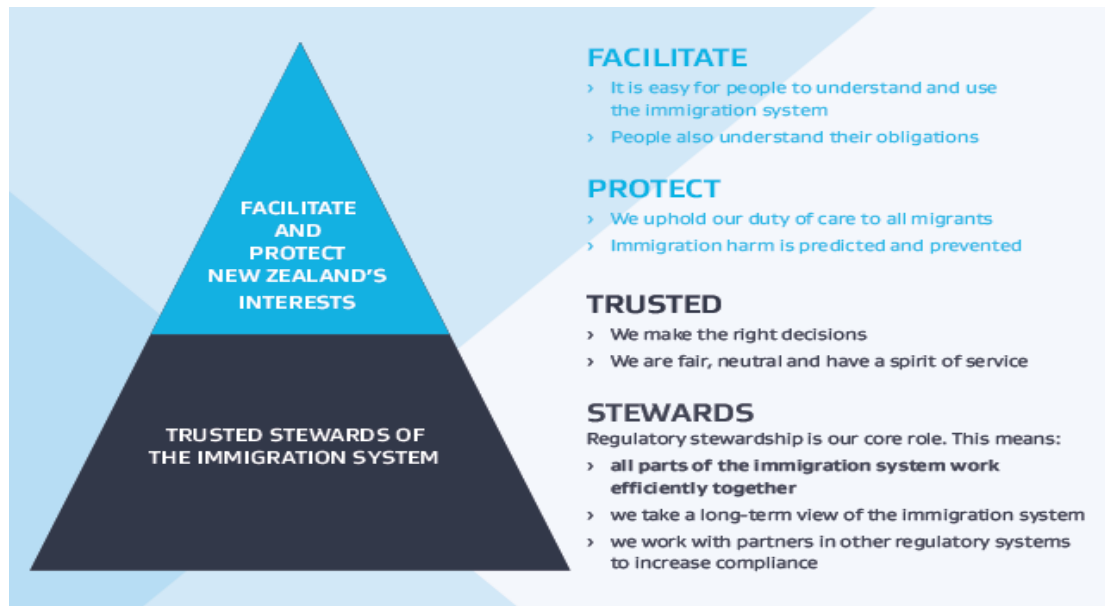
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# Immigration New Zealand Proposed Policy Changes

# INZ's *Striking the Balance* strategy

*Striking the Balance* strategy contributes to MBIE's goal of becoming a world leading regulatory steward by 2022.

We have an aspiration to be a trusted steward of the immigration system.



# Key messages

- Immigration helps to build a stronger economy and create jobs by encouraging innovation, deepening our links with international markets and providing the skills and capital we need for growth.
- We want to get the right migrants to New Zealand while remaining trusted stewards of New Zealand's border.
- Immigration policy allows highly skilled and experienced workers and their immediate families to migrate to New Zealand to help our economy grow.
- Immigration complements the supply of skills and labour when it cannot be met by available New Zealanders. It doesn't displace New Zealanders from jobs.

# Proposed Changes

- Government released public consultation document in **December 2018**.  
Consultation closed **18 March 2019**
- Decisions on the final proposals expected to be announced in **mid-2019**
- Work visa changes expected to be implemented around **mid 2020**
- Strike the balance between providing more incentives and support for businesses to employ more New Zealanders, and ensuring that access to migrant labour is available where there is a genuine need.

# The objective for proposed changes

1. Ensure that migrants are only recruited for **genuine shortages**, and employers across New Zealand can **access** the skills and labour they need.
2. Increase expectations on employers to **employ and train** more New Zealanders.
3. Reduce **exploitation** of temporary migrants and misuse of the immigration system.
4. Create **better connections** between the immigration, education/skills and welfare systems.
5. Make the system **easier** to navigate.

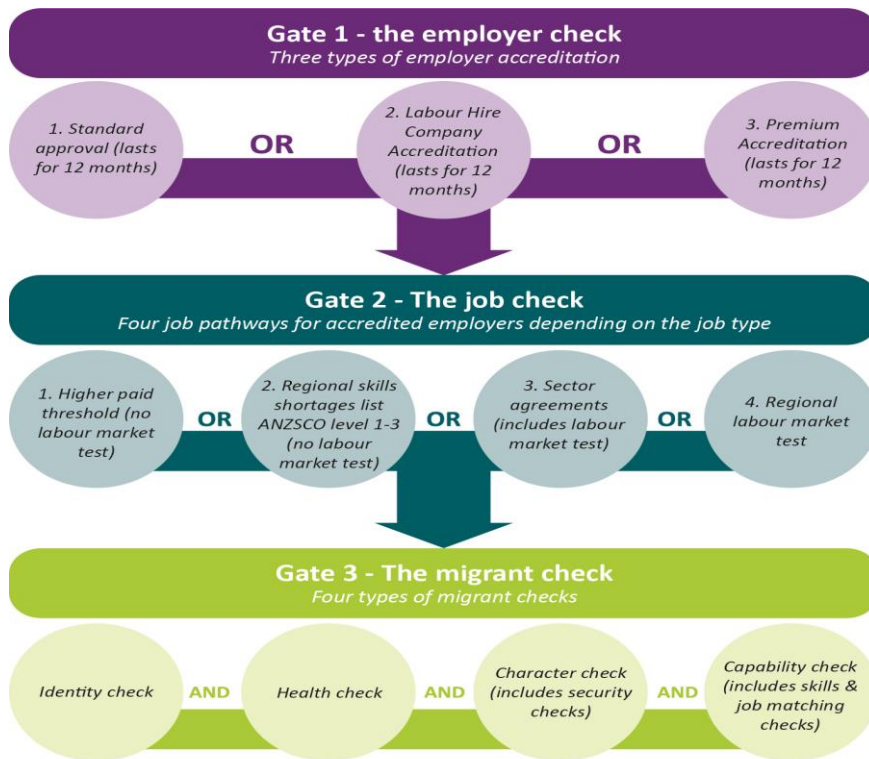
# Proposed Changes

- **Introducing a new framework** for all employer-assisted temporary work visas which will be **employer-led**, rather than migrant-led, and will include checks for employers, jobs and migrants
- Replacing the Essential Skills in Demand Lists with **Regional Skills Shortage Lists**
- **Introducing sector agreements** with sectors which rely heavily on migrant labour

These proposals impact the following 6 temporary work visas:

- Essential Skills including the Essential Skills in Demand Lists (ESID)
- Approval-in-Principle
- Talent (Accredited Employer)
- Work to Residence – Long-term Skill Shortage List occupation
- Silver Fern (Practical Experience)
- Silver Fern (Job Search).

# Proposed Changes – The Gateway Framework



# Proposed Changes – other

- Accredited employer threshold to be increased from \$55,000
  - Proposed to 150% of national median age (\$37.50 ph).
- Increase the remuneration threshold for mid skill workers under Essential Skills (currently 85% of national median wage or \$21.25 )
  - Proposed to raise to 100% of national median wage (\$25 ph).
- Reinstate family entitlements for lower-skilled workers
  - Proposed to grant partners visitor visas and children student visas.  
*Partners can obtain a work visa in their own right if they want to work.*
- Reviewing the stand down period for lower-skilled migrants
  - No proposal, sought feedback/views on this matter.



# Proposed Changes – Impact on employers

- Currently, the migrant is the principal applicant for most employer-assisted visas.

This means they must collect and provide information about themselves and the employer.

This can create issues for employers, and also limits INZ's monitoring and compliance of employers.

- While the new framework would initially require more administration for most employers, the changes as a whole may make overall process faster for employers who meet the required standards and will support better compliance and assurance processes.

ANY  
QUESTIONS  
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