

Global Skills for Provincial Victoria

The Global Skills for Provincial Victoria (GSPV) Program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Department of Innovation, Industry, and Regional Development.

The Program is delivered as part of *Global Skills for Victoria*, the State's Skilled Migration Strategy, to attract skilled and business migrants to regional areas and assist them in gaining employment.

Funds are made available to local government to assist councils to:

- attract skilled and business migrants to regional Victoria;
- assist migrants into employment; and
- provide flexible support to those individuals and their families to settle into work and life in regional Victoria.

The **Ballarat Workforce Participation Project** is a free, but time-limited resource for employers across the region to assist with skilled migration as a solution to filling skill shortages within local organisations. The aim is to source, attract and retain skilled migrants within the region to fill local skill shortages and to work with employers on their skilled migration needs. The project is administered by the City of Ballarat in partnership with People @ Work.

It is anticipated that because of recent changes to the 457 visa, many employers will embark upon a process to convert their existing 457 visas to RSMS visas sooner than they might otherwise have planned. The Ballarat Workforce Participation Project can assist employers undertaking this process.

The **Ballarat Workforce Participation Project** can:

- provide employers and employees with a range of information about skilled migration including links to key application forms, checklists, and visa information;
- provide linkages for employers to key resources and services;
- seek advice about specific immigration queries on behalf of employers and employees;
- assist with queries employees or prospective employees may have; and
- promote regional skill shortages to source and attract skills we need in the region.

We would like to be kept informed so we can track skilled migration success stories in our region. We consider a success story to be where the skilled migrant is brought into a workplace on a permanent basis. Retention of the skills our region needs is key to our work within the Skilled Migration Project. In fact, continued funding for the project from the State Government is tied to these outcomes.

If any organisations have, or are intending to employ skilled migrants, please contact us so we can include you in the range of resources we provide. We also produce an E-Bulletin specifically for skilled migrants. The bulletin provides information about issues, opportunities and events that may be of interest to skilled migrants in our region so that the people coming into our region are included and feel informed about the community they live in.

For further information contact Clare Bennett, Project Manager, Ballarat Workforce Participation, People @ Work

T 03 5333 5730 F 03 5332 9433 M 0407876068



A Victorian Government initiative

