

# Skilled Migration Assessment Policy

## Background

Dietitians Australia (DA) has been designated by the then Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, under the in Migration Regulations 1994 as the assessing authority for the occupation of Dietitian (ANZSCO Code 251111 1) since 2005.

The Australian Government's Skilled Migration program is a collaborative initiative between government and industry. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), work closely with professional assessing authorities like Dietitians Australia, to ensure the skills assessment is fair, transparent, and does not create unreasonable barriers to skilled migration.

As part of the General Skills Migration visa process, suitably qualified dietitians wishing to migrate to Australia must have their skills assessed by Dietitians Australia. Based on an established assessment criterion, developed to protect the safety of the Australian public, applicants will receive an outcome of either suitable or unsuitable for practice as an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) in Australia.

## Assessment Requirements and Process

Skills assessments are managed by the Regulatory Services Unit at Dietitians Australia and undertaken by the Dietetic Skills Recognition (DSR) Administrator or other member of the Regulatory Services unit at Dietitians Australia.

To be eligible to apply for a Skilled Migration Assessment, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Graduated from an accredited Australian Dietetic program but a permanent resident of an overseas country, or, completed the first 2 stages of the DSR process, ie. Assessment and Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) examination.
- English language proficiency (if more than 2 years since graduation or MCQ exam).
- Proof of identity
- Dietetic Employment (if applicable)

## Assessment responsibility

- Applications are acknowledged within fourteen (14) days of receipt with a unique reference number.
- Complete applications are processed within six (6) weeks.

## Required documentation

Applicants must submit the following:

### **1. Education Qualifications**

- Evidence of completion of an accredited Australian Dietetic program or
- Completion of the second stage of the DSR process (currently the MCQ examination).

### **2. English Language Proficiency**

Applicants must have either:

- Completed an Australian accredited dietetic program or passed the DSR MCQ exam within the two years prior to application; or
- Provide a valid English language test result (International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic – minimum of 7 for each component, Occupational English Test (OET) - minimum of 350 (B) for each component, or Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic) - minimum of 65 for each component, meeting DA's language proficiency standards.

Note: English language test results are valid for 2 years.

### **3. Proof of identity**

- Birth certificate (or other suitable Government issued identity document)
- Passport

and 1 form of Photo ID from the following list;

- Driving license
- Government issued ID card
- English language result

### **4. Employment (If applicable).**

- A current CV and evidence of employment, such as references or employment contracts. Dietetic employment will be included on an assessment if required.

### **Privacy and Document Storage**

Dietitians Australia complies with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

- All supporting documents are stored securely in a SharePoint folder.
- Identification documents are destroyed after three (3) years, while remaining application documents are retained for seven (7) years.

The assessment outcome must be submitted to the Department of Home Affairs by the applicant as part of their visa application.

### **Fees and Refunds**

- Assessment fees are payable at the time of submission.
- Fees are intended to be fair and should not pose a barrier to access.
- Fee increases will align with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and must be reported to DWER through the Annual Assurance Review.
- Refunds will not be given on assessments that have commenced.

- Refunds will be available if the application is withdrawn before an assessment begins.

### **Processing Timeline**

Applications will be processed within six (6) weeks of receipt of all documents and payment.

### **Appeals**

Applicants may request an appeal within fifteen (15) Business Days of the initial determination.

- Appeals must be directed to the DSR Administrator via email: [dsr@dietitiansaustralia.org.au](mailto:dsr@dietitiansaustralia.org.au)
- An acknowledgement of receipt of appeal will be issued within five (5) Business days of receiving the request in writing.
- Appeals will only proceed once the prescribed fee is received (refer to the fee schedule on the Dietitians Australia [website](#)).

The Manager of Regulatory Services will conduct an independent review of the assessment. The Skilled Migration Officer (DSR Administrator) will supply all relevant documentation to support this process.

The appeal decision is final and will be communicated via email within fifteen (15) Business days of receipt of an appeal.

### **Reporting to the Government**

Dietitians Australia provide mandatory monthly data reporting to DEWR, including

- Number of skills assessments found suitable/unsuitable,
- Applicants' country of passport,
- Breakdown of non-suitable outcomes by criteria not met,
- Number of reviews/appeal requests including outcomes,
- Number of applicants with Australian qualifications
- Additional information at the discretion of DEWR.

### **Fraud Prevention**

Applicants found to have made false or deliberately misleading claims on an application or if documents are found to be fabricated or manufactured will be deemed unsuitable and the applicant's details will be forwarded to the Department of Home Affairs.