Labor

Labor's China FTA Safeguards - At A Glance

Safeguard	Purpose	Further details
INVESTMENT FACILITATION ARRANGEMENTS (457 WORK AGREEMENT STREAM)		
Labour market testing	Support Australian jobs	Employers seeking work agreements (which allow employers to use overseas workers) must show they have attempted to find local workers before turning to overseas workers.
Australian jobs test	Support Australian jobs	Immigration Minister must consider whether work agreements will support or create local jobs
Labour market need	Genuine need to use overseas workers	Employers seeking work agreements must show they have a labour market need for overseas workers.
Training plans	Train local workers	Employers with work agreements must adopt training plans showing they will train local workers to address skills shortages.
Skills transfer requirement	Train local workers	Immigration Minister must consider whether overseas workers under work agreements will be able to transfer their skills to local workers.
Overseas worker support plans	Tackle exploitation of overseas workers	Employers with work agreements to adopt overseas worker support plans showing how they will support 457 visa workers including by providing information about workplace entitlements and access to local community and government services.
Additional conditions	Support Australian jobs	Minister may impose additional conditions on work agreements including minimum number of local workers to be engaged and ceiling on number of overseas workers to be engaged.
Transparency	Support Australian jobs	Minister to publish register of work agreements and report to Parliament on impact of work agreements.
MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS (457 GENERAL STREAM)		
Increase minimum base rate of pay for 457 visa workers to $57,000	Support Australian wages and conditions	Increase Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold from $53,900 to $57,000, restoring two years of indexation increases not passed on by Coalition. Index TSMIT to wages growth. Flexibility for Minister to tailor TSMIT to circumstances of specific industries.
SKILLS ASSESSMENTS		
Overseas trades workers to show Immigration Department they can meet trades licencing requirements when applying for visa.	Maintain skills and safety standards.	New visa criterion for 457 visa applicants will provide that in occupations where a licence or registration is required, the applicant must obtain the licence or show the Immigration Department they meet the requirements for obtaining a licence before being granted a visa.
Overseas trades workers to obtain Australian trades licence within 60 days of arriving and not to work until they obtain licence.	Maintain skills and safety standards.	New visa conditions will apply to 457 visas providing that in occupations where a licence or registration is required, the visa holder must not work until they have obtained the license, must obtain the licence within 60 days of arriving in Australia, must not engage in work inconsistent with the license, and must notify the Department of any changes to their licence including any conditions on the licence.

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