A number of changes to immigration instructions will take effect on 7 October 2019. The amended instructions will be included in an Amendment Circular at the end of September. The key policy instructions are set out below.

**Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa salary threshold**

The salary threshold that applicants must meet will increase from $55,000 to $79,560 per annum (150% of the current median wage). Any applicant applying for a Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa on or after 7 October will need to meet the new threshold, regardless of when the employer was accredited.

**Assessing Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa applications**

The salary threshold that applies at the residence stage is the threshold that was in place when the associated Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa was submitted.

**Assessing subsequent Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa applications**

If a person has applied for a Residence from Work visa and requires a further Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa so they can continue working while their application for a resident visa is determined, that work visa may be granted on the basis of the salary threshold in place when the original work visa application was made.

**Duration of accreditation**

The duration of accreditation that can be granted to employers is being limited to 24 months. This applies for any initial application or renewal that is submitted on or after 7 October.

**‘Fast-track’ to permanent residency**

The ‘fast-track’ to a Permanent Resident Visa (PRV) provided by instructions at RW2.1 will be removed from Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa holders applying for a Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa. Currently a Permanent Resident Visa (PRV) may be granted in place of a Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa if the applicant meets all the requirements to be granted a residence class visa and, at the time of their application for residence, has employment with a minimum base salary of $90,000.

People who hold or apply for Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa before 7 October 2019 who meet the requirements at RW2.1 will still be eligible for a Permanent Resident Visa.

**Silver Fern Job Search visa**

The Silver Fern Job Search (SFJS) visa will be permanently closed. The Silver Fern Practical Experience visa remains open so that all current SFJS visa holders can apply.