



AUSTRALIA CALLING YOUR TRADE, YOUR TICKET



The Complete Migration Guide
for Skilled Tradespersons

— For International Tradespersons — Offshore and Onshore —

Manoj Palwe

Senior Immigration Consultant
dreamvisas.com

AUSTRALIA CALLING

YOUR TRADE, YOUR TICKET

The Complete Migration Guide for Skilled
Tradespersons

For International Tradespersons — Offshore and Onshore

11 High-Demand Trades | Real Stories | Step-by-Step Process
Costs | Life in Australia | Reference Letter Templates
14 AI Master Prompts | PIC 4020 Risk Guide | Points Worked
Examples

By Manoj Palwe, RCIC (R422575)

Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant

CAPIC Fellow (R11592) | MIA Examination Qualified

President, Taurus Infotek | Dreamvisas

25+ Years | 10,000+ Families | 20,000+ YouTube Subscribers

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About the Author

Manoj Palwe is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC R422575), CAPIC Fellow (R11592), and MIA Examination Qualified. As President of Taurus Infotek operating under the Dreamvisas brand — with offices in Ajax, Ontario and Pune — he has spent 25+ years guiding families through the world's most complex immigration systems.

In that time, Manoj has assisted more than 10,000 families immigrating to Canada, Australia, Germany, the UK, New Zealand, and other destinations. His YouTube channel has grown to 20,000+ subscribers across 600+ educational videos, and he holds 600+ LinkedIn recommendations.

Manoj's mission is to provide transparent, reliable, and professional immigration services while educating clients about their options and rights. He believes that informed clients make better decisions and has dedicated his career to helping families navigate the complex world of immigration.

Professional Credentials

- Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) — R422575, active and in good standing with the CICC
- CAPIC Fellow — R11592
- MIA Examination Qualified (Australian Immigration)
- Migration Visa Consultant of the Year 2014
- 25+ Years of Immigration Consulting Experience
- 10,000+ Families Successfully Assisted
- 20,000+ YouTube Subscribers | 600+ LinkedIn Recommendations | 600+ Videos

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If this book helped you understand your options or avoid a costly mistake, please leave an honest Amazon review. Two minutes — it helps the next person in the same situation.

For a professional assessment of your specific immigration case, consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe at dreamvisas.com.

PERSONAL EVALUATION REPORT (PER) — PROFESSIONAL CASE ASSESSMENT

If you are planning to work abroad and would like a professional evaluation of your specific eligibility, pathway options, and risk factors, consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe.

Manoj is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC R422575), CAPIC Fellow (R11592), and MIA examination qualified — with 25+ years of frontline practice across Canada, Australia, Germany, UAE, and the Gulf states.

The PER includes: eligibility assessment for your target country, recommended pathways ranked by suitability, specific risk identification for your situation, and a clear step-by-step action plan.

Multi-country scope: Canada (primary), Australia, Germany, UAE, Gulf states, UK, Ireland.

For more information connect at manoj@dreamvisas.com

Note: A PER inquiry does not establish a consultant-client relationship. Formal engagement requires a signed retainer agreement.

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This book is educational only. It does not constitute immigration advice, does not create a consultant-client relationship, and does not guarantee any immigration outcome. Immigration laws change frequently; verify with official sources. Purchasing this book does not establish a professional relationship between author and reader. For advice on your specific situation, consult an RCIC licensed by the CICC or a qualified immigration lawyer.

All case studies in this book are based on real Federal Court decisions, publicly available information, and composite scenarios from practice. Names of individual clients have been changed or omitted for privacy.

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The Australia Calling Library

This book is part of the Dreamvisas Australia Calling series — a growing library of practical, expert-written guides for every stage of your Australian migration journey. Each book is trade- or visa-specific, written to the same standard as this volume.

Also Available in the Australia Calling Series

Australia State Nomination Master Guide 2026 — comprehensive guide to every state programme, invitation history, and nomination strategy.

Australian PR: Residency Obligation Survival Guide 2026 — how to maintain and protect your permanent residency while working and travelling.

Australian Citizenship Test 2026 — complete preparation guide for the citizenship examination with 500+ practice questions.

Germany Job Seeker Visa 2026 — for tradespersons considering Germany as an alternative or parallel destination.

Canada Work Permit 2026 — for tradespersons exploring Canada alongside or instead of Australia.

NRI 7 Costly Financial Mistakes — essential reading for any Indian national managing finances across two countries.

All titles available on Amazon Kindle. Search 'Dreamvisas' or 'Manoj Palwe' on Amazon.

Who This Book Is For

This book is for you if you are a skilled tradesperson who wants to move to Australia and build a better life for yourself and your family. It does not matter which country you come from. What matters is that you have real skills, real experience, and the willingness to follow a process.

This book is for you if you are a:

- Motor mechanic who fixes cars or trucks
- Welder who joins metal in a workshop or on construction sites
- Electrician who wires buildings or does industrial electrical work
- Plumber who installs water, gas, or drainage systems
- Carpenter who builds house frames, roofs, or formwork
- Diesel mechanic who services trucks, mining equipment, or farm machinery
- Fitter and turner who operates lathes and milling machines
- Air conditioning or refrigeration technician
- Bricklayer who builds walls and structures
- Painter who paints houses, offices, or industrial buildings
- Metal fabricator or boilermaker who cuts, shapes, and welds metal

If any of these describe you, and you have at least three years of paid work experience after your qualification, this book will show you exactly how to get to Australia.

How to Use This Book

Offshore applicant (outside Australia): Start at Chapter 1, then go straight to your trade chapter. Chapter 20 (12-Month Action

Plan) is your roadmap.

Onshore applicant (already in Australia on a temporary visa):

You may have a shorter pathway — go to Chapter 5 (State Nomination) and Chapter 4 (Points) first.

AI-powered readers: Jump to Part 4 (AI Master Prompts) for tools that accelerate every step.

Experienced reader who just wants the templates: Appendix E (reference letters), Appendix J (reference letter guide), and the AI Master Prompts are for you.

You do not need to read this book from cover to cover. Go to the parts that help you most.

Foreword: Why I Wrote This Book

In twenty-five years of immigration work, I have helped more than ten thousand families. Among all the people I have worked with, tradespersons hold a special place in my heart.

These are men and women who work with their hands. They build things. They fix things. They keep machines running. They are the backbone of every economy. But they are often the last to hear about the great opportunities waiting for them overseas.

I have watched welders from Punjab transform their lives in the Pilbara. I have seen electricians from Mumbai become solar energy leaders in Melbourne. I have guided plumbers from Chennai to thriving businesses in Queensland.

Every one of these stories teaches the same lesson: skilled trades are the golden ticket to Australia. The world has never valued tradespersons more than it does right now.

Australia is short of tradespersons. The country is building homes at record speed. It is investing billions in roads, railways, and bridges. It is moving to solar and wind energy. All of this needs skilled hands.

What Makes This Book Different

Most 'Australia PR' books are written for software engineers and accountants. They focus on the points test in the abstract, say almost nothing about TRA, and give no practical trade-specific guidance.

This book is different in three specific ways:

1. TRA-first: The Trades Recognition Australia assessment is the foundation of everything. This book covers it in more depth than any other published guide — including a worked application walk-through, complete document checklists, and

model reference letters for all 11 trades.

2. Construction and energy boom context: Australia's housing crisis and energy transition create specific, urgent demand for specific trades. This book tells you which trades are in genuine crisis demand, which states are paying the most, and how to position yourself to take advantage.

3. Practical templates: Real reference letter templates. Real duty description keywords. A real points calculator worksheet. Real AI prompts you can use today. This is a workbook, not a textbook.

In this expanded 2026 edition, I have added fourteen AI Master Prompts designed specifically for tradespersons navigating the Australian migration process. Each prompt includes human verification checklists and required document lists — because AI is a powerful tool, but the responsibility for accuracy always rests with you and your consultant.

Whether you are a mechanic in Pune, a welder in Ludhiana, or a bricklayer in Ahmedabad — this book is for you.

Manoj Palwe, RCIC (R422575)

Toronto, Canada — 2026

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AI Safety and Confidentiality Note

This book contains 14 AI Master Prompts that you can use with Claude, ChatGPT, or Google Gemini to accelerate your Australian migration preparation. Before using any AI tool for immigration purposes, read this page carefully.

What NOT to Paste Into an AI Tool

⚠ Never Enter These into Any AI System

Your passport number, date of birth, or place of birth
Your full residential address (suburb and state is sufficient)
Your employer's ABN, GST number, PAN, or Tax ID
Your bank account numbers or financial account details
Any third party's personal details without their consent
TRA application reference numbers or case-sensitive portal credentials
Confidential client or company information belonging to your employer

Use Anonymised Placeholders

Replace sensitive data with placeholders before pasting into any AI system. For example: instead of 'Passport No. A1234567', write '[PASSPORT NUMBER]'. Instead of your employer's ABN, write '[EMPLOYER ABN]'. The AI prompt still works correctly — and your data remains private.

AI Output Is a Draft — Not a Final Document

Every document produced by an AI tool is a starting draft only. Before any AI-generated content is used in a TRA application, visa application, or any official submission, it must be:

- Reviewed by a qualified RCIC or OMARA-registered Migration Agent for legal accuracy.
- Cross-checked against your actual supporting documents — every fact in the document must match a document you can produce.
- Verified for consistency — if your reference letter says you used specific equipment or procedures, you must be able to confirm this in an interview.
- Checked for Australian English and terminology by someone familiar with the industry.
- Signed by a real person who can vouch for its contents (for reference letters and statutory declarations).

AI Tools Do Not Have Access to Current Policy

AI tools are trained on historical data and may not reflect current visa fees, occupation list status, points thresholds, or TRA processing requirements. Any policy-specific information produced by an AI tool must be verified at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before you rely on it.

The Right Way to Use AI in Your Migration

Use AI to draft — then verify every single fact against your actual documents.

Use AI to structure — then have your migration consultant review the final structure.

Use AI to research — then confirm findings on official government websites.

Use AI to practice — interview preparation, English practice, scenario planning are all low-risk uses.

Never use AI to fabricate — any information in a TRA or visa application that cannot be supported by real documents is a serious legal and ethical problem.

PART ONE: THE BIG PICTURE

Chapter 1: Understanding Australia's Trade Migration Landscape

Why Australia Needs You

Australia faces a structural skills shortage that will last for at least a decade. Four forces are converging simultaneously: the ageing Australian workforce is retiring faster than new workers can be trained; the federal government has committed to building 1.2 million new homes by 2029; massive infrastructure projects require tens of thousands of trades workers; and Australia's transition to solar and wind energy demands electricians, fitters, and civil trades in unprecedented numbers.

Nearly half of all trade job advertisements in Australia go unfilled. The Australian Department of Employment estimates the shortfall in trade occupations will exceed 90,000 workers by 2027.

The Visa Pathways — Which One Is Right for You?

Last reviewed: April 2026. Caps, rules, and processing times may change without notice. Verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Visa	What It Gives You	Key Requirement	Best for Tradespersons Who...
189 — Skilled Independent	Permanent residency. Live anywhere. No sponsor.	85+ points typically needed	Have very high points — usually Superior English, 8+ yrs experience, aged 25-32. No compromises on location.
190 — Skilled Nominated	Permanent residency. State nominates you. Stay 2 yrs.	65+ pts plus state nomination (+5 pts)	Score 65-84 base points and can commit to one state for 2 years. Fastest

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			permanent pathway for most tradespersons.
491 — Skilled Work Regional	5-yr temporary visa, regional Australia. +15 pts. PR after 3 yrs.	65+ pts plus state/territory nomination (+15 pts)	Are willing to live in a regional area or mine site. Most accessible pathway for applicants aged 33+.
482 — Temp Skill Shortage	Employer-sponsored. 2-4 yr temporary. Can lead to PR.	Must have a job offer from approved sponsor	Have strong employer connections or are aged 40+ where points are limited. Best for diesel mechanics and electricians with mine site contacts.
494 — Employer Regional	5-yr employer-sponsored regional visa. Leads to PR.	Regional employer must sponsor you	Have a specific employer offer in a regional area. Good for FIFO positions in WA/QLD mining.
186 — Employer Nomination	Permanent residency via employer sponsorship.	2 yrs with same employer under 482	Are already in Australia on a 482 visa and employer wants to retain them permanently.

Understanding SkillSelect and EOI

You do not apply directly for a skilled migration visa. You first submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) through SkillSelect. After submitting your EOI, you wait for an Invitation to Apply (ITA). Once you receive an ITA, you have 60 days to submit your actual visa application.

The Role of Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Before you can claim trade points in your EOI, you need a positive skills assessment from TRA. A positive TRA assessment is the

foundation of your entire migration journey. Without it, you cannot submit an EOI for most trade occupations.

If You Feel Stuck After This Section

Migration decisions are high-stakes. If you are unsure whether your documents meet TRA standards, whether you are targeting the right visa stream, or whether your points score is optimised — a professional review can prevent months of costly delay.

Consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe at dreamvisas.com. This is entirely optional — the information in this book is designed to help you proceed independently. But a professional set of eyes on your specific situation is often worth many times its cost.

Chapter 2: The TRA Skills Assessment — Complete Guide

What TRA Is Looking For

TRA's job is to determine whether your overseas qualifications and work experience are equivalent to an Australian Certificate III in your trade. TRA does not conduct practical tests — it is a documentary assessment. The quality of your paperwork determines your outcome.

Step Zero: Build Your Career Timeline Table

Before touching the TRA application form, build a complete career timeline table. This one document will organise your thinking, identify gaps, and tell you exactly which evidence you need to collect. Here is the format — create this for yourself before you do anything else:

Period	Employer / Self	Role / ANZSCO	Key Tools / Standards Used	Evidence Available	Gap / Action Needed
2012-2015	ABC Electricals, Nashik	Electrician Trainee (341111)	Basic wiring, MCBs, conduit, 240V circuits	Certificate, transcripts, TFN records	Need reference letter — call HR
2015-2019	XYZ Engineering, Pune	Electrician (341111)	3-phase panels, VFDs, AS/NZS 3000, cable trays	Payslips all available, reference letter obtained	Add specific duty descriptions to letter

2019-2023	Self-employed, Pune	Electrical Contractor	Switchboard upgrades, solar installation	GST returns, bank statements, 3 client letters	Need statutory declaration for self-employment period
[Your Year]	[Your Employer]	[Your Role]	[Equipment, Standards, Materials]	[Payslips / Bank / Tax / Certs]	[What you still need to get]

Fill in this table completely before starting your TRA application. The last column — 'Gap / Action Needed' — is your preparation checklist. Do not submit your application until every gap in that column is addressed.

The Five Pillars of a Strong TRA Application

- Pillar 1: Qualification Evidence — certified copies of your trade certificate/diploma plus NAATI-certified translations.
- Pillar 2: Work Experience Evidence — detailed, specific reference letters from every employer.
- Pillar 3: Financial Evidence — payslips, bank statements, or tax documents proving you were paid for your work.
- Pillar 4: Identity Documents — certified passport, birth certificate, and any name-change documents.
- Pillar 5: Supporting Certificates — manufacturer training, international trade certs, licences.

CRITICAL: Misrepresentation, Document Integrity, and PIC 4020

Public Interest Criterion 4020 (PIC 4020) is one of the most consequential provisions in Australian immigration law. If the Department of Home Affairs finds that you — or anyone acting on your behalf — provided false or misleading information, bogus documents, or fabricated references in connection with a visa application, the consequences are

severe.

Under PIC 4020, a finding of misrepresentation can result in: refusal of the current visa application; a 3-year ban on being granted any Australian visa; in serious cases, a 10-year ban; and referral to the Australian Federal Police.

This applies to reference letters. A reference letter that describes duties the applicant did not perform, or exaggerates qualifications, is a fabricated document. TRA and the Department of Home Affairs do investigate — they contact employers, cross-check records, and conduct targeted audits.

This applies to qualifications. A certificate that has been altered, a transcript that has been forged, or a statutory declaration that misrepresents facts are all forms of document fraud.

This applies to your migration agent. If an unregistered agent fabricates documents on your behalf, you bear the consequences — not just the agent.

The only safe approach is complete accuracy. Every statement in every document must be true and provable. If you cannot prove something with real evidence, do not include it.

Common Reasons for TRA Rejection — and How to Avoid Them

Common Rejection Reason	How to Avoid It
Vague reference letters	Use specific duty descriptions with equipment names, standards, and procedures (see Appendix J)

Missing payslips	Use bank statements as backup. Get employer statutory declaration if needed.
Qualification not equivalent to Cert III	Obtain a curriculum comparison letter from your training institute.
Employment gap unexplained	Include a statutory declaration explaining any periods without work.
Documents not correctly certified	Use a notary public or JP. Check TRA's country-specific certification requirements.
Incorrect ANZSCO code	Consult a migration agent before submitting. Wrong code = assessed against wrong standard.
Insufficient evidence of skilled work	Supplement reference letters with photos, client letters, tax records, and manufacturer certs.

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Chapter 3: The Points Test — How to Maximise Your Score

This chapter comes before the English chapter for a reason: once you see your current points total, you will understand exactly why improving your English score is the most powerful action you can take. See the gap first — then accept the prescription.

The Points Table — What You Can and Cannot Change

Points Factor	Max Points / Notes
Age 25-32	30 pts — FIXED. Cannot be changed.
Age 33-39	25 pts — FIXED.
Age 40-44	15 pts — FIXED.
Age 45+	0 pts — FIXED.
English: Superior (IELTS 8.0+)	20 pts — CHANGEABLE. The biggest lever you control.
English: Proficient (IELTS 7.0+)	10 pts — CHANGEABLE.
English: Competent (IELTS 6.0+)	0 pts (but eligible) — CHANGEABLE.
Overseas skilled employment 8-10 yrs	15 pts — Partially changeable (need more time).
Overseas skilled employment 5-8 yrs	10 pts

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Overseas skilled employment 3-5 yrs	5 pts
Australian skilled employment 8-10 yrs	20 pts — CHANGEABLE (after arrival).
Degree/Masters/PhD qualification	15-20 pts — FIXED.
Diploma or trade qualification	10 pts — FIXED.
Partner skills (assessed qualification)	10 pts — CHANGEABLE (if partner gets assessed).
Partner English (Competent only)	5 pts — CHANGEABLE.
State nomination — 190	5 pts — CHANGEABLE.
State nomination — 491	15 pts — CHANGEABLE. The second biggest lever.
Community language (NAATI)	5 pts — CHANGEABLE if you speak a NAATI-tested language.
Australian study requirement	5 pts — Requires 2 academic years of Australian study.

Worked Examples: Real Points Profiles

The following three worked examples show how tradespersons at different life stages calculate their score and decide their strategy. Read the profile that most resembles your situation.

Example 1: Arjun — 25-Year-Old Welder, 4 Years Experience, IELTS 6.5

Factor	Arjun's Score
Age (25 years old)	30 pts
English (IELTS 6.5 — Competent)	0 pts (eligible, but no bonus)

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Overseas skilled employment (4 years)	5 pts
Qualification (Diploma in Welding Technology)	10 pts
Partner (single, no partner points)	0 pts
State nomination (not yet applied)	0 pts
CURRENT TOTAL	45 pts
Gap to eligible (65 pts)	20 pts to go
STRATEGY:	Two moves: (1) Push English to 7.0 = +10 pts → total 55. (2) Apply for 491 SA nomination = +15 pts → total 70. At 70 with SA nomination, invitation within weeks. Arjun has time and age on his side — English improvement is the entire game.

Example 2: Sunita and Rahul — 38-Year-Old Electrician, Spouse Has Engineering Degree, IELTS 7.0

Factor	Score
Age (38 years old)	25 pts
English (IELTS 7.0 — Proficient)	10 pts
Overseas skilled employment (12 years)	15 pts
Qualification (Diploma in Electrical Eng.)	10 pts
Partner skills (Engineering degree, assessed)	10 pts

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State nomination (not yet applied)	0 pts
CURRENT TOTAL	70 pts
189 visa (need ~85-90)	Still 15-20 pts short. Will wait years.
190 visa (+ 5 nomination pts = 75 pts)	Possible — check which states invite at 75 pts for electricians.
491 visa (+ 15 nomination pts = 85 pts)	RECOMMENDED. At 85 pts with 491 nomination, invitation nearly immediate.
STRATEGY:	Target SA or QLD 491 nomination. 85 pts = very competitive. Get partner's degree assessed NOW if not done — those 10 pts are the difference. English already at Proficient — check if Superior (8.0) is achievable for the extra 10 pts.

Example 3: Balram — 42-Year-Old Diesel Mechanic, 20 Years Experience, IELTS 5.5

Factor	Score
Age (42 years old)	15 pts
English (IELTS 5.5 — below Competent)	NOT ELIGIBLE — must reach 6.0 to submit EOI
Overseas skilled employment (20 years)	15 pts
Qualification (Diploma in Mechanical Eng.)	10 pts
Partner skills (none assessed)	0 pts
STATE NOMINATION (best)	15 pts

case)	
CURRENT TOTAL (once English passes)	55 pts
Gap to eligible (65 pts minimum)	10 pts short — even with 491 nomination
HARD REALITY:	At 42 with 5.5 English, the standard skilled migration pathway is extremely difficult. The most practical options are: (1) Employer-sponsored 482 visa — a mining contractor in QLD or WA will sponsor a diesel mechanic with 20 years and Caterpillar certs; or (2) Push English to 7.0 (+10 pts = 65 pts base), then the 491 (+15 = 80 pts) is viable — but English at 7.0 is very challenging at this stage.
STRATEGY:	Engage a migration agent immediately. Employer sponsorship (482) through a mining contractor is probably the fastest realistic pathway. Simultaneously improve English to 6.0 as a backup. Caterpillar and Komatsu manufacturer certifications are your key selling point to an employer sponsor.

If You Feel Stuck After This Section

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Chapter 4: The English Language Requirement

Now that you have seen your points score in the previous chapter, you understand why English is so critical. This chapter shows you how to improve your score as efficiently as possible.

The Four Proficiency Levels

Level	IELTS Score / Points
Competent English (minimum)	IELTS 6.0 all bands — 0 bonus pts but eligible to apply
Proficient English	IELTS 7.0 all bands — +10 pts
Superior English	IELTS 8.0 all bands — +20 pts
Native English speakers	Citizens of UK, USA, Canada, NZ, Ireland — automatically eligible

Accepted English Tests

- IELTS Academic or General Training — most widely used for migration
- PTE Academic (Pearson) — computer-based, faster results (5 business days)
- TOEFL iBT — accepted but less common in migration contexts
- Cambridge C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency — accepted
- OET — mainly for healthcare workers, not recommended for trades migration

The Investment That Pays for Itself

Moving from IELTS 6.0 to 7.0 adds 10 points to your score. For most tradespersons, those 10 points are the difference between waiting 18 months for an invitation and receiving one in 6 weeks. The financial value of 6 months of additional income in Australia — at AUD 80,000+ per year — far exceeds any cost of English tuition.

Band-by-Band Improvement Strategies

- Reading: Read Australian news (abc.net.au) and trade publications daily. Practise timed reading — 60 minutes for 40 questions.
- Writing: Practise Task 1 (graph/chart) and Task 2 (essay) daily. Use Grammarly for instant feedback. Aim for 350+ words in Task 2.
- Listening: Watch ABC Australia and SBS On Demand (both free). Target Australian accent specifically.
- Speaking: Find a language exchange partner on iTalki. Practice explaining trade tasks in English. Record yourself.

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Chapter 5: State Nomination — Every State Explained

State and territory nomination adds either 5 points (190 visa) or 15 points (491 visa) to your score. For most tradespersons, these extra points are the key to receiving an invitation in a reasonable timeframe.

New South Wales

NSW Skills List updated quarterly. Electricians and plumbers consistently demanded. Regional NSW streams active. Commitment: 2 years (190) or 3 years in regional NSW (491).

Victoria

Melbourne's Big Build programme creates outstanding demand for construction trades. Active offshore stream for electricians and plumbers.

Queensland

Fortnightly invitation rounds. Strong demand in regional centres (Cairns, Townsville, Mackay). Mining and construction create year-round demand.

Western Australia

Highest wages in Australia. Mining sector pays exceptional rates. WA actively recruits welders, diesel mechanics, and metal fabricators. FIFO roles available.

South Australia

Most accessible state for new applicants. Weekly invitation rounds. Proactive international outreach. Adelaide — most affordable capital city.

Tasmania

Weekly rounds. Beautiful lifestyle. Lower wages but significantly lower living costs. Best for quality-of-life focussed migrants.

Northern Territory

DAMA programme creates pathways for NT employers to sponsor outside standard caps. Darwin pays premium wages.

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Skilled Resident Visa for those already in ACT. Government infrastructure projects create demand for electricians and plumbers.

State	Official Website to Monitor
NSW	migration.nsw.gov.au
VIC	liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au
QLD	migration.qld.gov.au
WA	migration.wa.gov.au
SA	migration.sa.gov.au
TAS	migration.tas.gov.au
NT	migration.nt.gov.au
ACT	canberrayourfuture.com.au

If You Feel Stuck After This Section

Migration decisions are high-stakes. If you are unsure whether your documents meet TRA standards, whether you are targeting the right visa stream, or whether your points score is optimised — a professional review can prevent months of costly delay.

Consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe at dreamvisas.com. This is entirely optional — the information in this book is designed to help you proceed independently. But a professional set of eyes on your specific situation is often worth many times its cost.

PART TWO: YOUR TRADE CHAPTER

Chapter 6: Motor Mechanic (Automotive Technician)

Motor Mechanic (Automotive Technician) — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 321211

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 30 + Competent English + 8 yrs exp + Diploma = ~60 pts base. With 491 nomination = 75 pts.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-24 months offshore to 491 visa; 3 yrs in regional area to Subclass 191 PR

Typical Salary Range: AUD 60,000 – 100,000/yr

Key States to Target: WA, QLD, SA — all actively nominating

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Australia's fleet of 21 million registered vehicles is increasingly complex. EV mechanics are critically scarce.

Dealerships, independent workshops, fleet operators, and mining companies all employ motor mechanics with persistent vacancies.

Real-Life Migration Story

Ravi's Story — From Pune to Perth

Ravi had 12 years servicing cars at a large Pune dealership. He held Toyota manufacturer certifications but no formal trade certificate.

His consultant used Toyota certificates plus detailed reference

letters to build a compelling MSA application. TRA accepted this. WA nominated him.

Today he works at a Perth Toyota dealership specialising in hybrid and EV servicing. His EV knowledge made him more valuable than most locally trained mechanics.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Manufacturer certifications can substitute for formal qualifications in TRA documentary assessments.
- 12 years of payslips = undeniable proof of sustained skilled employment.
- EV/hybrid knowledge is a differentiator — study it before arrival.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Motor mechanics assessed by TRA under MSA. Qualification equivalent to Certificate III in Automotive Light Vehicle Technology needed. References must describe specific diagnostic and repair procedures — not general statements.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Diagnoses and repairs petrol and diesel light vehicles using scan tools and manufacturer service manuals.
- Services and repairs engines, gearboxes, differentials, braking systems, steering and suspension.
- Replaces and adjusts clutch assemblies, timing belts/chains, and fuel injection systems.
- Performs logbook services including oil changes, brake inspections, tyre rotation, fluid replacements.

- Reads and interprets wiring diagrams to diagnose electrical faults in lighting, charging, and EV control systems.

Licensing Requirements in Australia

Vehicle Examiner Licence allows roadworthy inspections — significantly increases earning potential. AUD 200-400, sit within first 6 months.

Life in Australia as a Motor Mechanic (Automotive Technician)

Modern vehicles are complex computer systems. Continuous training is part of the job.

Career leads to service manager, technical trainer, or workshop owner.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary assessment
English Test (IELTS/PTE)	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Vehicle Examiner Licence	\$200 – \$400	Valuable add-on
Visa Fee (491)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
State Nomination	\$0 – \$400	Varies
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,000 – \$14,000	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- **Physical:** Moderate. **Technology:** Comfort with diagnostic software essential. **EV Skills:** Major advantage. **Business:** Workshop ownership realistic within 5-10 years.

Chapter 7: Welder (First Class)

Welder (First Class) — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 322313

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 28 + Proficient English + 9 yrs exp + Diploma = ~75 pts base. With 491 = 90 pts.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-22 months offshore to 491 visa; 3 yrs regional to PR

Typical Salary Range: AUD 65,000 – 120,000/yr

Key States to Target: WA (Pilbara), QLD (Bowen Basin), SA, VIC

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Australia's welding workforce is ageing rapidly — average age over 50. Snowy 2.0, LNG expansions, and solar energy all need welders urgently.

Welders are the occupation most likely to receive state nomination in WA and QLD in any given month.

Real-Life Migration Story

⚡ Gurpreet's Story — From Ludhiana to Karratha

Gurpreet had 9 years welding structural steel and pressure vessels in Ludhiana, holding international MIG, TIG, and MMAW certifications.

His consultant secured a curriculum comparison letter mapping his Indian certs to Australian standards. WA nominated him.

He now earns over AUD 110,000 at an oil and gas facility in Karratha on a FIFO roster.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- International welding certs (ISO, AWS, ASME) significantly strengthen a TRA application.
- FIFO roles pay 30-50% more than equivalent city work.
- 9 years of continuous experience = maximum overseas employment points (15 pts).

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Welders assessed under Certificate III in Engineering — Fabrication Trade or Certificate III in Boilermaking and Welding. References must describe specific welding processes, materials, positions.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Performs MIG (GMAW) welding on mild steel and stainless steel in flat, horizontal, and vertical positions.
- Performs MMAW (stick) welding on structural steel in 1G through 4G positions.
- Performs TIG (GTAW) welding on stainless steel pipe to coded weld procedures.
- Reads and interprets weld symbols on fabrication drawings and WPS documents.
- Operates plasma cutter and oxy-acetylene torch for metal preparation.

Life in Australia as a Welder (First Class)

Work ranges from clean fabrication workshops to outdoor mine sites to offshore platforms.

FIFO rosters (2 weeks on, 1 week off) offer exceptional financial rewards.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Welding Certification Verification	\$100 – \$300	If applicable
Visa Fee (190)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
State Nomination	\$0 – \$400	Varies
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,000 – \$14,500	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Physical: High. Heat: Extreme. Certification: Australian coded welds may require re-qualification. FIFO: Extended time away from family.

Chapter 8: Electrician (General)

Electrician (General) — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 341111

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 32 + Proficient English + 8 yrs exp + Diploma = ~80 pts base. Very competitive.

Realistic Time to PR: 16-22 months offshore to 190 or 491 visa; 190 gives direct PR

Typical Salary Range: AUD 70,000 – 120,000/yr

Key States to Target: All states — most consistently nominated trade in Australia

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Electricians are the most in-demand tradesperson in Australia. The renewable energy transition alone requires 35,000 additional electricians over 5 years.

Every state nomination list features electricians. Victoria's Big Build, QLD's clean energy projects, and WA's mining sector all generate continuous demand.

Real-Life Migration Story

Suresh's Story — From Chennai to Melbourne

Suresh had 8 years industrial/commercial electrical experience in Chennai plus ABB and Schneider training.

After 5 months, TRA returned a positive result. Victoria nominated him on 190. He deliberately worked as an assistant

for 6 months to learn Australian standards, then sat his Electrical Workers Licence exam on first attempt. He now runs his own electrical contracting business with 3 employees.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Bank statements can substitute for lost payslips alongside an employer letter.
- Working slightly below your level initially to learn local systems is a smart investment.
- Getting licensed quickly (within 3 months) is the most critical post-arrival priority.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician. Three years post-qualification experience. References must describe installation work, not just maintenance.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Installs, tests, and commissions electrical wiring systems to AS/NZS 3000 Wiring Rules.
- Terminates cables in distribution boards, switchboards — MCBs, RCDs, fuse links.
- Reads and interprets single-line diagrams, wiring schematics, and cable schedules.
- Diagnoses and repairs faults in motors, control panels, and distribution systems.
- Installs conduit, cable trays, and cable management for industrial installations.
- Programmes and commissions VSDs, PLCs, and BMS interfaces.

Licensing Requirements in Australia

Electrical Workers Licence is mandatory. Theory exam based on AS/NZS 3000. Begin studying before departure. Cost AUD 300-800. Process takes 4-8 weeks after arrival.

Life in Australia as a Electrician (General)

Solar installation accreditation adds significant earnings. Self-employed electrical contractors in Sydney/Melbourne can earn AUD 200,000+ per year.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Electrical Workers Licence	\$300 – \$800	Mandatory
Visa Fee (190)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
State Nomination	\$0 – \$400	Varies
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Strongly recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,500 – \$15,500	Including licensing

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Licensing: Mandatory — plan to sit exam within Month 1-2.
Solar: Accreditation adds premium. Career: Self-employment highly achievable within 3-5 years. Demand: Most secure trade in Australia.

Chapter 9: Plumber (General)

Plumber (General) — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 334111

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 30 + Proficient English + 10 yrs exp + Diploma = ~80 pts base.

Realistic Time to PR: 16-22 months to 190/491; 190 gives direct PR

Typical Salary Range: AUD 65,000 – 110,000/yr

Key States to Target: All states — QLD and SA especially active

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

1.2 million new homes need plumbers. Every new home in Australia requires a licensed plumber — making this the most recession-proof trade.

Gas plumbers who also install solar hot water systems earn a significant premium.

Real-Life Migration Story

Ajay's Story — From Mumbai to Brisbane

Ajay had 10 years domestic and commercial plumbing plus gas fitting in Maharashtra with excellent HR records and complete payslips.

TRA positive in 4 months. QLD nominated. Obtained plumbing licence at TAFE within 6 months. Started own business within 18 months.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Complete payslips = fast assessment.
- Gas fitting documented specifically in reference letters is essential — TRA assesses it separately.
- Starting a plumbing business within 18 months is achievable with good networking.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Plumbing. Three years experience. Gas fitting must be separately documented in references — it is not automatic.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Installs and repairs cold water, hot water, and drainage systems to NCC Plumbing Code and AS/NZS 3500.
- Solders, press-fits, and threads copper and steel pipe up to 100mm for water supply and gas.
- Installs and commissions gas appliances — hot water systems, cooktops, space heaters.
- Installs roof drainage — gutters, downpipes, stormwater connections.
- Reads hydraulic engineering specifications and plumbing drawings.

Licensing Requirements in Australia

Plumbing Licence mandatory. Gas Work Licence separate. Both require theory assessment at TAFE. Budget AUD 400-800 per licence. Plan 3-6 months for full licensing after arrival.

Life in Australia as a Plumber (General)

Solo plumbing contractors in Sydney/Melbourne charge AUD 150-250 per hour. The business potential is extraordinary.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Plumbing Licence	\$400 – \$800	Mandatory
Gas Work Licence	\$300 – \$600	If applicable
Visa Fee (190)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$9,000 – \$16,000	Including licensing

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Licensing: Two separate licences may be needed. Business: Self-employment highly achievable. Demand: Most recession-proof trade.

Chapter 10: Carpenter

Carpenter — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 331212

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 28 + Competent English + 8 yrs exp + Diploma = ~65 pts. With 491 = 80 pts.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-24 months to 491 visa; 3 yrs regional to PR

Typical Salary Range: AUD 60,000 – 95,000/yr

Key States to Target: NSW, VIC, QLD — housing construction boom

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Australia's housing target of 1.2 million new homes by 2029 makes carpenters critical.

Formwork carpenters on commercial sites earn premium rates and are especially scarce.

Real-Life Migration Story

□ Deepak's Story — From Nagpur to Newcastle

Deepak had 8 years carpentry in Nagpur but his employer had closed. His consultant guided him to obtain a statutory declaration from his former supervisor plus tax returns and project photos.

TRA accepted the package. NSW 491 nominated. Promoted to leading hand within a year.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Statutory declaration + financial evidence can substitute for a formal reference letter when employer no longer operates.
- Regional city (Newcastle) gave 15 bonus points on 491.
- Reliability earns promotion quickly in Australian trade environments.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Carpentry. Three years experience. References must describe specific carpentry operations — note that carpentry and joinery are separate ANZSCO codes.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Sets out, cuts, and erects timber stud wall frames and roof trusses from architectural drawings.
- Installs door and window frames, architraves, skirting boards, and interior joinery.
- Lays and finishes timber and engineered timber floors.
- Constructs and strips formwork systems for concrete columns, beams, and slabs.
- Reads architectural plans, elevations, and roof geometry to calculate cutting lists.

Life in Australia as a Carpenter

Formwork carpenters on commercial sites earn significantly more than residential. Supervision roles accessible within 3-5 years.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
White Card	\$50 – \$100	All construction sites
Visa Fee (491)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,000 – \$14,500	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- **Physical:** High. **Precision:** Australian building codes require tight tolerances. **Formwork:** Learn it — adds significant premium.

Chapter 11: Diesel Mechanic

Diesel Mechanic — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 321212

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 35 + Proficient English + 11 yrs exp + Diploma = ~80 pts base.

Realistic Time to PR: 16-22 months to 491 visa; also strong 482 employer sponsorship market

Typical Salary Range: AUD 70,000 – 110,000/yr

Key States to Target: WA (Pilbara), QLD (Mackay, Bowen Basin), SA

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Australia's mining, transport, and agriculture depend entirely on diesel machinery. Caterpillar and Komatsu dealerships have persistent vacancies.

FIFO diesel mechanics in WA and QLD mines routinely earn AUD 100,000-130,000+ per year.

Real-Life Migration Story

Balvinder's Story — From Chandigarh to Mackay

Balvinder had 11 years servicing heavy trucks and Caterpillar equipment with Tata, Cat India, and Cummins manufacturer training.

His TRA application was strong. QLD nominated him. Placed in Mackay — gateway to the Bowen Basin coalfields.

His fortnightly take-home exceeds his entire year's income from India.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Manufacturer certs (Caterpillar, Cummins, Komatsu) are highly credible TRA evidence.
- Mackay is strategically excellent — service hub for Australia's largest coalfields.
- 11 years = maximum overseas experience points.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology. References must describe diesel engine diagnosis, fuel systems, turbochargers, after-treatment systems.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Diagnoses and repairs diesel engine faults including injector failure and DPF blockage using diagnostic software.
- Overhauls diesel engines including reboring, fitting piston rings, and grinding valves.
- Services hydraulic systems on earthmoving equipment — pumps, motors, control valves.
- Maintains automatic and manual gearboxes, torque converters, and differentials on heavy vehicles.
- Performs PM services on Cat, Komatsu, and Hitachi equipment per OEM schedules.

Life in Australia as a Diesel Mechanic

Choice between city workshop and FIFO mine site is a lifestyle decision. Mining site mechanics develop broad skills across many machine types.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Visa Fee (491)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
State Nomination	\$0 – \$400	Varies
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,000 – \$14,500	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Physical: High. FIFO: Extended time away from family. Technology: Diagnostic software essential. Income: FIFO diesel mechanics earn some of the highest wages.

Chapter 12: Fitter and Turner (Metal Machinist)

Fitter and Turner (Metal Machinist) — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 323211

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 35 + Proficient English + 10 yrs exp + Diploma = ~80 pts base.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-24 months to 491/190 visa

Typical Salary Range: AUD 65,000 – 105,000/yr

Key States to Target: WA, QLD, SA, NSW (manufacturing centres)

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Fitters and turners are the backbone of Australia's manufacturing and mining maintenance sectors. The average age of experienced fitters is rising rapidly.

Mining sites in WA, QLD, and SA regularly advertise for rotating equipment fitters at premium rates.

Real-Life Migration Story

Pradeep's Story — From Nagpur to Newcastle

Pradeep had 10+ years at a large Nagpur manufacturing plant. Concerned his Indian diploma would not be recognised.

His consultant secured a curriculum comparison mapping his

diploma to Certificate III Engineering — Mechanical Trade.
TRA approved.
Now working at a mining equipment facility in Newcastle.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Curriculum comparison letter bridges Indian diploma to Australian Cert III standard.
- Mining region (Newcastle) provides strong demand with better lifestyle than remote sites.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III Engineering — Mechanical Trade. References must describe lathe/milling operations, precision measurement, and component assembly.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Operates manual and CNC lathes to tolerances of 0.01mm.
- Performs milling operations on horizontal/vertical mills for keyways, slots, flat surfaces.
- Uses micrometers, vernier callipers, and dial indicators for precision measurement.
- Fits and assembles bearings, seals, gears, and couplings.
- Programmes basic CNC turning and milling using Fanuc or Siemens controls.

Life in Australia as a Fitter and Turner (Metal Machinist)

Work ranges from clean manufacturing workshops to heavy industrial plants. Mining pays the most.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Visa Fee (189/491)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,000 – \$14,500	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Physical: Moderate. CNC: Learn before arrival — highly valued. Precision: Extreme accuracy required. Mining Premium: Rotating equipment fitters command exceptional wages.

Chapter 13: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 342111

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 30 + Proficient English + 7 yrs exp + Diploma = ~75 pts base. With 491 = 90 pts.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-22 months to 491 visa

Typical Salary Range: AUD 70,000 – 110,000/yr

Key States to Target: SA, QLD, NSW, VIC — year-round demand

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Australia's climate creates non-negotiable demand for HVAC. The HVAC market is worth AUD 3 billion and grows with every new building and every degree of warming.

Commercial HVAC mechanics with data centre cooling experience earn 20-30% more than average.

Real-Life Migration Story

Fahad's Story — From Hyderabad to Brisbane

Fahad had 7 years HVAC experience in Hyderabad with excellent documentation: monthly payslips and manufacturer training certificates.

TRA approved in 4 months. SA nominated. Started in Adelaide, moved to Brisbane. Now manages a team of 6 technicians.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Complete payslips + manufacturer certs = fast assessment.
- Starting regional (491) then moving to a city as career grows is a proven strategy.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. References must cover split, ducted, VRV/VRF systems and refrigeration.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Installs and commissions split-system and ducted air conditioning units.
- Services and repairs VRV/VRF systems — refrigerant charging, leak detection, compressor replacement.
- Maintains commercial refrigeration for cool rooms, display cabinets, and freezer rooms.
- Performs electrical connections, control wiring, and fault diagnosis on HVAC systems.
- Recovers, recycles, and charges refrigerants per environmental handling procedures.

Licensing Requirements in Australia

Refrigerant Handling Licence (AUD 300-600) mandatory. Restricted Electrical Licence (AUD 200-500) in most states. Plan two licensing exams after arrival.

Life in Australia as a Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic

Year-round demand. Service van work — different buildings every day. Specialists in energy-efficient or data centre cooling earn premium rates.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Refrigerant Handling Licence	\$300 – \$600	Mandatory after arrival
Restricted Electrical Licence	\$200 – \$500	Most states
Visa Fee (491)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$9,000 – \$16,500	Including licensing

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Licensing: Two separate licences. Data Centres: Specialisation adds 20-30% to earnings. Growth: One of Australia's strongest long-term demand trades.

Chapter 14: Bricklayer

Bricklayer — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 331111

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 33 + Competent English + 12 yrs exp + Diploma = ~70 pts. With 491 = 85 pts.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-24 months to 491 visa

Typical Salary Range: AUD 60,000 – 95,000/yr

Key States to Target: SA (Adelaide), VIC (regional), QLD

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Australian homes use brick veneer construction. 1.2 million new homes = structural long-term demand for bricklayers.

Fast, skilled bricklayers on piece rates (paid per 1,000 bricks) can earn well above award rates.

Real-Life Migration Story

Mahesh's Story — From Ahmedabad to Adelaide

Mahesh had 12 years bricklaying in Ahmedabad. His consultant described both the types of brickwork and his ability to read drawings in reference letters.

SA nominated. In Adelaide, his speed — 600 bricks per day vs the local average of 400-500 — made him the most wanted bricklayer on site.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Australian standards differ (mortar, patterns, safety) but core hand skills transfer perfectly.
- Speed and quality is what Australian builders pay premium rates for.
- SA lower living costs + strong demand = excellent lifestyle outcome.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying. References must show: laying to line and level, building walls/arches/piers, reading plans, mortar application.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Lays face bricks, common bricks, and concrete blocks to line and level.
- Constructs piers, arches, curved walls, and feature panels from drawings.
- Mixes mortar to specified ratios and applies consistently.
- Installs damp-proof courses, flashings, and weep holes per building codes.
- Restores and repoints heritage brickwork using lime mortar.

Life in Australia as a Bricklayer

Piece-rate work rewards fast, quality workers. Path from employee to subcontractor is well-established.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
White Card	\$50 – \$100	All construction sites
Visa Fee (190)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
State Nomination	\$0 – \$400	Varies
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,500 – \$15,000	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Physical: Very high — heavy lifting, bending, kneeling. Piece Rate: Speed directly rewards earnings. Heritage: Lime mortar adds premium opportunities.

Chapter 15: Painter and Decorator

Painter and Decorator — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 332211

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 33 + Competent English + 9 yrs exp + Diploma = ~65 pts. With 491 = 80 pts.

Realistic Time to PR: 18-24 months to 491 visa

Typical Salary Range: AUD 55,000 – 85,000/yr

Key States to Target: NT, QLD, SA — tropical climates need frequent repainting

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Every new building in Australia needs painting. Australians also love renovating — constant stream of work.

Industrial protective coatings and high-rise commercial painting earn premium rates. Start-up costs are low.

Real-Life Migration Story

Sanjay's Story — From Delhi to Darwin

Sanjay had 9 years painting in Delhi specialising in textured finishes and luxury interiors. Worried decorative painting wouldn't qualify.

His consultant reframed his reference letters: surface preparation, spray equipment, reading specifications, heights work. TRA approved. NT 491 nominated.

Within 3 years, started own business employing 4 painters.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- Reframing reference letters from 'artist' language to TRA trade language was the key.
- Darwin's tropical climate = more frequent repainting = more work.
- Low start-up costs made business ownership achievable quickly.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III in Painting and Decorating.
References must show: surface preparation, brush/roller/spray application, colour matching, heights work.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Prepares surfaces by sanding, filling, sealing, and priming before paint application.
- Applies paints and protective coatings using brushes, rollers, and airless spray.
- Matches colours using manufacturer colour charts and tinting systems.
- Works at heights using scaffolding and elevated work platforms safely.
- Reads paint specifications and MSDS to select correct products.
- Applies epoxy floor coatings and industrial anti-corrosion treatments.

Life in Australia as a Painter and Decorator

Varied work. Less physically demanding than some trades — longer working life. One of the easiest trades to start your own business.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
White Card	\$50 – \$100	Required on sites
Visa Fee (491)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,000 – \$14,500	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Heights: Regular ladder/scaffold work. Industrial: Coatings specialisation adds significant earnings. Business: Lowest barrier to self-employment of any trade.

Chapter 16: Metal Fabricator (Boilermaker)

Metal Fabricator (Boilermaker) — AT A GLANCE

ANZSCO Code: 322311

Assessing Body: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA)

Typical Points Profile: Age 35 + Proficient English + 13 yrs exp + Diploma = ~85 pts base.

Realistic Time to PR: 16-20 months to 190/491 visa

Typical Salary Range: AUD 70,000 – 120,000/yr

Key States to Target: WA (Pilbara, Goldfields), QLD (Bowen Basin), SA

Last reviewed: April 2026. Rules, fees, and occupation lists change without notice. Verify all details at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before action.

Why This Trade Is in Demand

Boilermakers are among the highest-paid tradespersons in Australia. Mining sector dominates demand.

Energy transition adds new demand: solar farm structures, wind turbine towers, battery storage installations.

Real-Life Migration Story

Harjinder's Story — From Jalandhar to Karratha

Harjinder had 13 years building structural steel, storage tanks, and pressure vessels in Jalandhar with international welding certifications.

Positive TRA result in 3 months. WA nominated. Straight to the Pilbara. Fortnightly pay exceeds AUD 5,000.

What You Should Learn from This Story

- 13 years + international certifications = fast assessment.
- Project photographs provide visual proof of fabrication capabilities.
- Pilbara direct = highest-paying destination for fabricators.

Skills Assessment Process (TRA)

Assessed against Certificate III Engineering — Fabrication Trade. References must describe: technical drawing reading, plasma/oxy-fuel cutting, MIG/TIG/MMAW welding, structural assembly.

Model Duty Descriptions for Your Reference Letter

Use these as templates. Replace with your actual duties, equipment, and standards:

- Fabricates structural steel beams, columns, purlins from engineering drawings.
- Cuts and shapes metal using plasma cutter, oxy-acetylene torch, and guillotine shears.
- Performs MIG and MMAW welding on carbon steel in flat, vertical, and overhead positions.
- Assembles and installs conveyor frames, hoppers, chutes, and support structures.
- Applies WPS (Weld Procedure Specifications) and controls pre-heat and inter-pass temperatures.

Life in Australia as a Metal Fabricator (Boilermaker)

Mine site FIFO or suburban workshop — a lifestyle choice. Physical work requiring strict safety compliance.

Approximate Costs

All amounts in AUD. Verify current fees at official websites before budgeting.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA MSA Application Fee	\$300 – \$500	Documentary
English Test	\$400 – \$430	6.0+ each band
Welding Cert Verification	\$100 – \$300	If applicable
Visa Fee (190)	\$4,640	Primary applicant
State Nomination	\$0 – \$400	Varies
Health Examinations	\$350 – \$500	Panel physician
Migration Agent Fees	\$2,000 – \$5,000	Recommended
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$8,500 – \$15,500	Varies

Last reviewed: April 2026. Fees change without notice — verify at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Is This Trade Right for You?

- Physical: Very high. Confined spaces: Welding inside tanks and vessels. FIFO: Remote mine site roles available at exceptional wages.

If You Feel Stuck After This Section

Migration decisions are high-stakes. If you are unsure whether your documents meet TRA standards, whether you are targeting the right visa stream, or whether your points score is optimised — a professional review can prevent months of costly delay.

Consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe at dreamvisas.com. This is entirely optional — the information in this book is designed to help you proceed independently. But a professional set of eyes on your specific situation is often worth many times its cost.

PART THREE: YOUR LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Chapter 17: The Top 10 Mistakes Tradespersons Make

In 25 years helping tradespersons migrate, I have seen the same costly mistakes repeated. Every one below has caused an application to fail, a timeline to extend by years, or a perfectly qualified tradesperson to miss their opportunity. Read this before anything else in Part Three.

Mistake 1: Not Verifying Your Exact ANZSCO Code

A motor mechanic (321211) and diesel mechanic (321212) are different codes with different qualification requirements. Getting this wrong means your entire application is assessed against the wrong standard. Consult an agent before submitting.

Mistake 2: Writing Vague Reference Letters

'Performed welding work' is rejected. 'Performed MIG and TIG welding on 6-20mm mild steel plates in flat, vertical, and overhead positions, working from fabrication drawings to AS/NZS 1665 standard' is approved. Specificity is everything.

Mistake 3: Leaving English to the Last Minute

Start IELTS or PTE preparation at least 6 months before your TRA submission target date. Higher English = more points = faster invitation. This is the highest-return activity in your entire migration plan.

Mistake 4: Not Collecting Financial Records

TRA needs proof you were paid. Bank statements showing consistent salary credits can substitute for missing payslips — but

you need to collect them now, before the bank's archive period expires.

Mistake 5: Submitting a Fabricated or Exaggerated Document

This is not just a TRA rejection risk — it is a PIC 4020 visa ban risk. A reference letter that describes duties the applicant did not perform is a fabricated document. The consequences include a 3-10 year ban on any Australian visa. It is never worth the risk.

Mistake 6: Forgetting Post-Arrival Licensing

Electricians, plumbers, and HVAC mechanics need state licences to legally practice in Australia. Plan 3-6 months for licensing after arrival. Working unlicensed is both illegal and career-ending.

Mistake 7: Submitting an Incomplete Application

TRA does not let you add documents after submission. Incomplete applications are placed on hold — not assessed. Get a complete checklist from a consultant and verify every item before submitting.

Mistake 8: Using Unregistered Migration Agents

Only use OMARA-registered Migration Agents or CICC-registered RCICs. Unregistered agents have no accountability. If they fabricate documents on your behalf, you bear the PIC 4020 consequences.

Mistake 9: Underestimating the Timeline

From decision to arrival in Australia: 18-24 months is realistic. Planning for 6 months leads to financial stress, impulsive decisions, and incomplete applications. Set accurate expectations from day one.

Mistake 10: Giving Up After a Setback

A negative TRA outcome or a failed English test is not the end. In almost every case I have seen, a negative result can be addressed

— through reconsideration with additional evidence, or a different pathway. Persistence wins.

Chapter 18: Settling In — Your First 90 Days

The first 90 days in Australia set the tone for your entire migration experience. People who hit the ground running — getting licensed, registering for work, joining their trade community — almost always succeed.

Week 1: The Non-Negotiables

- Apply for your Tax File Number (TFN) online at ato.gov.au. You cannot be paid without one.
- Open an Australian bank account — Commonwealth Bank or ANZ both allow pre-arrival applications.
- If on a permanent visa, activate your Medicare card at a Services Australia office.
- Buy a SIM card — Telstra for regional coverage, Optus or Vodafone for city cost savings.
- Find temporary accommodation while you search for a longer-term rental.

Month 1: Get Work-Ready

- Complete your White Card (one-day construction safety course, AUD 50-100) — required on all construction sites.
- Begin your state licensing process immediately if you are an electrician, plumber, or HVAC mechanic.
- Register with three trade recruitment agencies: Hays, Skilled Group, Tradestaff.
- Join your trade union for workplace rights protection, insurance, and legal support.

- Convert your overseas driving licence to an Australian licence — you have 3-6 months on your overseas licence.

Understanding Australian Workplace Culture

Custom	What It Means
First-name basis	Call your boss and manager by their first name — formal titles are unusual on sites.
Mateship	Help your workmates. Share knowledge. Look out for each other.
Punctuality	Being late is noticed. 'On time' means 5 minutes early.
Safety compliance	Non-negotiable. PPE always. Report hazards. Never cut corners.
Asking questions	Always respected. Making assumptions that cause mistakes is not.
Smoko	Morning tea break. Social ritual — participate.

Cost of Living — Weekly Budget Guide

Expense	Weekly Cost (AUD)
Rent (3-bedroom house, suburbs)	\$450 – \$700
Groceries (family of 4)	\$200 – \$350
Utilities	\$50 – \$80
Internet and Phone	\$30 – \$50
Transport	\$80 – \$150

Children's Education (public school)	Free
TOTAL APPROXIMATE	\$810 – \$1,330

If You Feel Stuck After This Section

Migration decisions are high-stakes. If you are unsure whether your documents meet TRA standards, whether you are targeting the right visa stream, or whether your points score is optimised — a professional review can prevent months of costly delay.

Consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe at dreamvisas.com. This is entirely optional — the information in this book is designed to help you proceed independently. But a professional set of eyes on your specific situation is often worth many times its cost.

Chapter 19: State-by-State Guide for Tradespersons

Each Australian state runs its own nomination programme with different rules, occupation lists, and invitation schedules. Use this guide alongside the official websites in Appendix D.

New South Wales (NSW)

Home to Sydney. Strong demand for electricians, plumbers, and carpenters. Regional NSW (Newcastle, Wollongong) is more affordable with strong demand. NSW 491 regional stream actively inviting.

Victoria (VIC)

Melbourne's Big Build (\$100+ billion) creates sustained demand across all construction trades. Victoria has a large multicultural community that eases settlement.

Queensland (QLD)

Strong mining (Bowen Basin) and coastal construction (Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Cairns). Very active nomination programme. Tropical/subtropical climate.

Western Australia (WA)

Australia's mining heartland. Highest wages for trades. FIFO roles available for welders, diesel mechanics, electricians, and fabricators.

South Australia (SA)

Most accessible state for new applicants. Adelaide is one of the world's most affordable and liveable capitals. Weekly invitation rounds year-round.

Tasmania (TAS)

Most affordable property in Australia. Weekly rounds. Tourism and construction create steady demand. Best for quality-of-life priority migrants.

Northern Territory (NT)

Darwin pays premium wages. DAMA programme creates additional employer-sponsored pathways.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Government city. Steady demand for electricians, plumbers, and HVAC for government buildings and infrastructure.

Chapter 20: Your 12-Month Action Plan

Months 1-2: Research and Baseline

- Confirm ANZSCO code at ato.gov.au
- Verify TRA is your assessing body and check MSA requirements
- Calculate preliminary points score at homeaffairs.gov.au
- Begin IELTS or PTE preparation — enrol in a preparation course
- Begin collecting payslips, bank statements, and tax documents
- Schedule initial consultation with a registered migration consultant

Months 3-4: Document Preparation

- Obtain detailed reference letters from all employers (use Appendix J templates)
- Get qualifications certified by notary or Justice of the Peace
- Obtain NAATI-certified translations of non-English documents
- Take first English test attempt — note weak bands for improvement
- Research which states are actively nominating your occupation

Months 5-6: Submit TRA Application

- Review complete TRA application with migration consultant
- Submit TRA MSA application with all required documents
- Continue IELTS preparation — rebook immediately if 7.0 not yet achieved
- Research specific employers and begin LinkedIn connections in Australia

Months 7-9: Wait Productively

- TRA takes 4-6 months — use this time strategically
- Improve English score if not yet at Proficient (7.0)
- Study Australian trade standard for your occupation (AS/NZS 3000 etc.)
- Connect with Australian trade communities online
- Research schools and suburbs in your target state
- Build your migration savings fund

Months 10-12: Visa Application

- Receive positive TRA result — validate accuracy
- Submit EOI on SkillSelect immediately — do not wait
- Apply for state nomination for target state (190 or 491)

- Book health examinations — panel physician only
- Obtain police clearances from all countries of residence
- Lodge visa application within 60 days of receiving ITA
- Plan: accommodation, schools, vehicle, job search

Chapter 21: Financial Planning for Your Move

Your Migration Budget

A single applicant should budget AUD 25,000-35,000. A family of four should budget AUD 40,000-55,000.

Item	Cost (AUD)	Notes
TRA Assessment	\$400	Pre-arrival
English Testing (2 attempts)	\$900	Pre-arrival
Migration Agent Fees	\$4,000	Approximate
Document Certification and Translation	\$600	Pre-arrival
Visa Fee (primary applicant)	\$4,640	190/491
Visa Fee (partner + 2 children)	\$6,960	Secondary applicants
Health Examinations (family)	\$2,000	Approximate
Police Clearances	\$400	All countries
Flights (family of 4)	\$5,000 – \$8,000	Economy class
Initial Accommodation (3 months)	\$6,000 – \$9,000	Temporary/shared
Household Setup	\$3,000 – \$6,000	Second-hand initially
Vehicle Purchase	\$8,000 – \$15,000	Essential in Australia
Trade Licensing Fees	\$800 – \$1,500	If applicable
TOTAL (family of 4)	\$42,000 – \$58,000	Including contingency

Superannuation — Don't Leave It Behind

Every employer must contribute 11.5% of your wages into your super fund. Verify at mygov.au. If you permanently leave Australia, claim it back via the Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP) scheme.

Remittances

Use Wise, OFX, or Remitly for international transfers — significantly cheaper than bank wire rates. Always compare before transferring.

If You Feel Stuck After This Section

Migration decisions are high-stakes. If you are unsure whether your documents meet TRA standards, whether you are targeting the right visa stream, or whether your points score is optimised — a professional review can prevent months of costly delay.

Consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe at dreamvisas.com. This is entirely optional — the information in this book is designed to help you proceed independently. But a professional set of eyes on your specific situation is often worth many times its cost.

PART FOUR: AI MASTER PROMPTS

Chapter 22: How to Use AI in Your Migration Journey

AI tools — Claude (Anthropic), ChatGPT (OpenAI), and Google Gemini — can save you hundreds of hours across every step of your migration preparation. Used correctly, they are among the most powerful tools available to a self-prepared tradesperson.

Used incorrectly, they can produce plausible-sounding but legally dangerous content. Read the AI Safety and Confidentiality Note earlier in this book before proceeding. Then use the Master Prompts in Chapter 23 with confidence.

AI Tool	Best Used For
Claude (claude.ai)	Long documents, reference letter drafting, detailed analysis, document review, complex multi-step tasks
ChatGPT (chatgpt.com)	Research, Q&A, shorter tasks, explaining concepts, brainstorming
Google Gemini	Research with recent web data, cross-referencing official sites
Perplexity AI	Research with citations — good for verifying current occupation list status

The 5-Step AI Workflow for Migration Documents

1. Step 1: Fill in the bracketed sections of your chosen Master Prompt with your real (anonymised) details.
2. Step 2: Paste the complete prompt into Claude or ChatGPT.
3. Step 3: Review the output and ask the AI to improve any sections — be specific about what needs to change.

4. Step 4: Check every factual claim in the output against your actual supporting documents.
5. Step 5: Have your migration consultant review the final document before submission.

Chapter 23: 14 AI Master Prompts for Tradespersons

Each prompt below includes: the prompt text (fill in the bracketed sections), how to use it, human checks before submission to TRA/DoHA, and the documents you must already have before the AI output is useful.

MASTER PROMPT 1: TRA Reference Letter Drafting

How to use: Use for each previous employer. Fill in your real duties. Print on actual company letterhead and have signed.

PROMPT:

I need to write a reference letter for a TRA Migration Skills Assessment. Please write a formal reference letter on behalf of an employer for the following applicant:

Applicant Name: [YOUR FULL NAME]

Trade: [YOUR TRADE, e.g., Electrician — General, ANZSCO 341111]

Employer Address: [FULL ADDRESS]

Signatory Name and Position: [NAME, TITLE]

Employment Period: [START DATE] to [END DATE]

Hours per Week: [HOURS]

Key Duties (list at least 8 specific trade tasks): [LIST YOUR ACTUAL DUTIES]

The letter must: be on company letterhead format; use formal Australian business English; include specific technical descriptions of trade duties performed; reference equipment, tools, standards, and materials used; confirm dates, employment type, and hours; end with supervisor name, title, signature block, phone and email.

✓ Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Verify every stated duty against your memory — could you describe it in more detail in an interview?
- Confirm dates exactly match your payslips and bank statements
- Ensure the signatory is still contactable — TRA may phone them
- Check that ANZSCO code matches your actual occupation before submitting

📄 Documents you must already have:

- Actual payslips or bank statements for the employment period
- Company letterhead (physical or digital template from employer)
- Your own notes on the specific duties you performed at that employer

MASTER PROMPT 2: Points Score Maximiser and Strategy

How to use: Run every 3-6 months as your circumstances change. Cross-check at homeaffairs.gov.au points calculator.

PROMPT:

I am a skilled tradesperson planning to migrate to Australia. Please analyse my situation and help me maximise my points score.

Trade/ANZSCO: [YOUR TRADE AND CODE]

Age: [YOUR AGE]

English Scores: L:[X] R:[X] W:[X] S:[X]

Overseas Trade Experience: [YEARS]

Australian Trade Experience: [YEARS or None]

Highest Qualification: [DIPLOMA / DEGREE / TRADE CERT]

Spouse/Partner Qualifications: [DESCRIBE or N/A]

Target Visa: [189 / 190 / 491]

Target State: [STATE]

Please: 1. Calculate my current estimated points total. 2. Identify which factors I can still improve. 3. Recommend the best visa pathway for my score. 4. Tell me whether the 491 regional strategy is worth considering. 5. Estimate invitation wait time at my current score. 6. Give me three specific actions in the next 6 months to increase my points.

✓ Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Verify each points factor against the current Migration Regulations 1994
- Confirm your English score is within 3 years — expired scores are not counted
- Check that your occupation is still on the relevant skilled list before acting on the strategy

📄 Documents you must already have:

- Valid English test score results (IELTS or PTE scorecard)

- TRA positive assessment result letter
- Evidence of all employment periods for experience points

MASTER PROMPT 3: IELTS/PTE 12-Week Study Plan

How to use: Update after each test to adjust the plan based on new scores.

PROMPT:

I need to improve my English score for Australian skilled migration. Please create a personalised 12-week study plan.

Test: [IELTS Academic / IELTS General / PTE Academic]
Current Scores: L:[X] R:[X] W:[X] S:[X]
Target Scores: [e.g., 7.0 all bands]
Study Hours Available Per Week: [HOURS]
Work Schedule: [e.g., 6 days per week, evenings free]
Weakest Band: [BAND]

Please create: a week-by-week 12-week schedule; specific resources for each band; at least one full mock test every 3 weeks; daily habits; specific strategies for my weakest band; test-day performance tips.



Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Verify recommended study resources are current — IELTS/PTE formats change periodically
- Book your test date before starting the plan so the schedule has a real deadline
- Check official IELTS.org or pearsonpte.com for approved practice test sources



Documents you must already have:

- Your most recent IELTS/PTE score report
- Access to a computer and internet for online practice tests

MASTER PROMPT 4: State Nomination Research Assistant

How to use: Verify all outputs on official state migration websites — state programmes change requirements overnight.

PROMPT:

I am a skilled tradesperson planning to apply for Australian state nomination. Research and summarise current state nomination requirements for my situation.

Occupation: [TRADE AND ANZSCO CODE]

Estimated Points: [YOUR SCORE]

Target States (in order): [LIST 2-3]

Family Situation: [Single / Married / with X children]

Willing to live regional: [Yes/No/Flexible]

Current Location: [COUNTRY]

For each target state: 1. Is my occupation on their current nomination list? 2. Minimum points score currently being invited? 3. State-specific requirements beyond federal? 4. Commitment period required? 5. Approximate nomination timeline? 6. Official website URL to monitor?

✓ Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Visit each state's official website to confirm occupation is currently listed before applying
- Check invitation history (homeaffairs.gov.au SkillSelect reports) to verify cut-off scores
- Confirm state nomination commitment matches your genuine intention to live there

📄 Documents you must already have:

- Your valid TRA assessment result
- Your current IELTS/PTE score
- Your calculated EOI points score

MASTER PROMPT 5: Australian Job Application Cover Letter

How to use: Customise for each application. Australian employers prefer direct, confident letters.

PROMPT:

I am a skilled tradesperson applying for an Australian job. Write a professional cover letter.

Position: [JOB TITLE]

Company: [COMPANY NAME]

Job Source: [SEEK / LinkedIn / Direct]

Qualification: [YOUR QUALIFICATION]


Years Experience: [NUMBER]

Key Skills: [LIST 4-5 SPECIFIC SKILLS]


Australian Licence Status: [Obtained / In progress / Not yet started]

Unique Value: [e.g., bilingual, specialist skill, manufacturer cert]

Write a concise letter (under 350 words) that leads with qualification and experience, addresses the role specifically, states Australian work rights clearly, and ends with a clear call to action for an interview.

 **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Confirm all stated skills and licences are accurate — you may be asked to demonstrate them in a test
- Verify Australian work rights are correctly described for your visa type
- Remove any personal details beyond suburb (no full address, no age, no photo)

 **Documents you must already have:**

- Your updated Australian-style CV (2-3 pages)
- Your Australian visa grant letter confirming work rights

MASTER PROMPT 6: TRA Application Document Audit

How to use: Use before submitting TRA application. Get a migration agent to review the result before submission.

PROMPT:

Act as a strict TRA assessor and review my document list for gaps or issues.


Occupation: [TRADE AND ANZSCO CODE]

Qualification: [NAME, INSTITUTION, YEAR]


Employers:

— Employer 1: [NAME], [DATE to DATE], Reference: [Available/Not], Payslips: [Which months?]
— Employer 2: [NAME], [DATE to DATE], Reference: [Available/Not], Payslips: [Which months?]
Employment: [Describe any gaps]
Document Language: [Hindi/English/Mixed]
Translations: [Yes/No/Partial]

Please: 1. Identify document gaps that could cause rejection. 2. Suggest alternative evidence for missing documents. 3. Identify supporting certificates that would strengthen the application. 4. List documents in correct submission order. 5. Flag any red flags a TRA assessor might query.

 **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Cross-check AI-identified gaps against the actual TRA MSA checklist at tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au
- Verify that any alternative evidence suggestions are consistent with TRA's stated policy
- Have your migration agent confirm the document list is complete before lodgement

 **Documents you must already have:**

- All employment reference letters (even drafts)
- Payslips and/or bank statements for all employment periods
- Copies of all qualifications and translations obtained so far

MASTER PROMPT 7: Salary and Living Cost Comparison by City

How to use: Use for financial planning and deciding which state to target. Remember FIFO roles significantly increase earnings.

PROMPT:

I am migrating to Australia as a [TRADE] and want to understand my expected financial situation in different locations.

Current Country: [COUNTRY]

Current Monthly Salary (AUD equiv.): [AMOUNT]

Family Size: [e.g., Self + Spouse + 2 Children]

Current Monthly Expenses (AUD equiv.): [AMOUNT]

Locations to compare: [LIST 2-3 CITIES/REGIONS]

For each location: 1. Typical salary range for [TRADE]. 2. Estimated monthly living costs for my family. 3. Estimated monthly take-home after Australian income tax. 4. Estimated monthly savings potential. 5. Time to save for a 10% house deposit at projected savings rate. 6. Any location-specific financial advantages for my trade.

✓ **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Verify salary ranges against SEEK Salary Insights (seek.com.au/career-advice/salary) for the specific trade and city
- Use the ATO tax withheld calculator (ato.gov.au) to verify take-home pay estimates
- Check current median property prices at realestate.com.au for deposit calculation accuracy

📄 **Documents you must already have:**

- Your current salary documentation for comparison
- Recent SEEK salary data for your trade in each target city

MASTER PROMPT 8: First 90 Days Settlement Plan

How to use: Run 6-8 weeks before arrival. Share with your family.

PROMPT:

I arrive in Australia in approximately [WEEKS] weeks. Create a detailed 90-day settlement plan.

Trade: [YOUR TRADE]

Arriving City/State: [CITY, STATE]

Visa Type: [190 / 491 / 186]

Family: [Self + Spouse + X children aged X and Y]

Licensing Required: [Yes — specify / No / Unsure]

Job Status: [Confirmed / Searching / Agency registered]

Housing: [Arranged / Need to find]

Budget First 3 Months: [AUD AMOUNT]

Create week-by-week plan covering: Week 1 government registrations; Weeks 2-4 housing, schools, vehicle, phone;

Month 2 licensing, job search, professional registration; Month 3 community connections, financial planning review.

✔ **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Verify TFN application process at ato.gov.au — details change
- Confirm school enrolment requirements with the specific school before arrival
- Check that White Card provider is nationally accredited at safeworkaustralia.gov.au

📄 **Documents you must already have:**

- Visa grant letter (for Medicare, TFN applications)
- Children's birth certificates (for school enrolment)
- Your professional qualification certificates (for licensing application)

MASTER PROMPT 9: Statutory Declaration Drafter

How to use: Get it witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or solicitor. Not valid without a qualified witness.

PROMPT:

I need to write a statutory declaration to support my TRA application. The declaration explains: [DESCRIBE THE SITUATION — employment gap, self-employment, lost documents, former employer no longer operating, etc.]
Period Covered: [START DATE] to [END DATE]
Explanation: [DESCRIBE IN PLAIN ENGLISH]
Supporting Evidence I Can Attach: [LIST]
Declarant Name: [FULL LEGAL NAME]
Declarant Occupation: [OCCUPATION]
Declarant Address: [SUBURB AND STATE ONLY]

Draft a formal statutory declaration using appropriate Australian legal language, referencing supporting evidence, including standard oath wording, and providing notes on correct witnessing.

✔ **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Confirm every statement in the declaration is completely accurate — this is a sworn legal document
- Identify a Justice of the Peace in your area before finalising — you

need them to witness the signature

- Verify that TRA accepts statutory declarations for the specific gap you are trying to explain at tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au



Documents you must already have:

- All supporting evidence that will accompany the declaration (bank statements, tax records, etc.)
- Your passport or other ID for the JP witnessing appointment

MASTER PROMPT 10: Job Interview Preparation Script

How to use: Practise your answers out loud. Record yourself. Have your spouse ask you the questions.

PROMPT:

I have a job interview for a [TRADE] position at [COMPANY TYPE] in Australia. Help me prepare.

Position: [JOB TITLE]

Company Type: [e.g., Large construction company / Mining contractor / Electrical contractor]

YEARS, KEY SPECIALISATIONS]

Areas I May Be Questioned About: [e.g., overseas

qualifications, Australian licence status, employment gap]

Provide: 10 likely technical questions with model answers; 5

behavioural/HR questions with STAR-method frameworks;

questions I should ask the interviewer; how to explain overseas

experience confidently; how to address licensing still in

progress; Australian workplace culture tips for this company

type; presentation guidance for a trade interview.



Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Research the company on LinkedIn and their website before using this prep — tailor answers to their specific projects
- Verify your licence status accurately before stating it in interview — 'in process since [DATE]' is better than vague
- Confirm IELTS/PTE scores are current if employer may ask for English evidence



Documents you must already have:

- The job advertisement (to understand specific requirements)
- Your CV/resume

- Your TRA assessment result and any Australian licence documentation

MASTER PROMPT 11: EOI and Visa Timeline Planner

How to use: Review and update every 2-3 months as circumstances change.

PROMPT:

Help me create a realistic project plan for my Australian skilled migration timeline.

Trade: [TRADE AND ANZSCO CODE]

TRA Status: [Not started / Submitted on DATE / Positive result received on DATE]

score: L:X R:X W:X S:X on DATE]

Current Points: [APPROXIMATE]

Target Visa: [189 / 190 / 491]

Target State: [STATE]

Target Arrival in Australia: [APPROXIMATE YEAR]

Family: [e.g., Self + Spouse + 2 children]

Create: a month-by-month timeline; key milestone dates; critical path items; financial milestones; risk flags and mitigations; a one-page summary for family sharing.

✓ Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Verify current TRA processing times at tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au — these fluctuate significantly
- Check current invitation cut-off scores at homeaffairs.gov.au SkillSelect quarterly reports
- Confirm state nomination round schedules at official state migration websites

📄 Documents you must already have:

- Your TRA acknowledgement letter (if already submitted)
- Your IELTS/PTE results (to calculate accurate points)
- Any state nomination invitation history for your target occupation

MASTER PROMPT 12: Australian Trade Community Research

How to use: Run for each of your top 2-3 target cities. Use results to personalise job applications.

PROMPT:

I am a [TRADE] planning to migrate to [TARGET CITY/STATE] in Australia. Help me research the trade community and industry landscape.

Provide: 1. Key industry organisations to join. 2. Trade unions relevant to my occupation. 3. Major employers who regularly hire [TRADE] migrants. 4. Online communities and Facebook groups in [TARGET REGION]. 5. Industry publications and websites to follow. 6. Current issues in the local trade market I should know about. 7. LinkedIn search strategies to find hiring managers.



Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Verify organisation websites are current and contact details are correct
- Check that Facebook groups recommended by AI are still active (groups close or go private)
- Confirm employer names against LinkedIn and ASIC company search before approaching



Documents you must already have:

- No specific documents needed — this is a research-only prompt

MASTER PROMPT 13: Responding to a TRA Negative Outcome

How to use: Submit reconsideration within 90 days of the negative decision. Have a migration agent review before submission.

PROMPT:

I received a negative TRA Migration Skills Assessment outcome. Help me prepare a Reconsideration Request.


Occupation: [TRADE AND ANZSCO CODE]

Negative outcome received: [DATE]


TRA stated reasons (copy exactly): [PASTE TRA REASONS]

Qualification: [NAME, INSTITUTION, YEAR]
Total claimed experience: [YEARS]
Documents submitted: [LIST ALL]
New evidence I can now provide: [LIST ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE]

Please: 1. Analyse TRA's reasons — which are addressable vs. fundamental? 2. Suggest specific additional evidence for each addressable reason. 3. Draft a formal Reconsideration Request cover letter addressed to TRA. 4. Structure the package in the most persuasive sequence. 5. Flag any patterns suggesting I need agent review before resubmitting.

 **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Read TRA's stated reasons extremely carefully — the AI response is only as good as the input you provide
- Have your migration agent confirm that the reconsideration strategy is viable before investing time and fees
- Verify the reconsideration fee and process at tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before lodging

 **Documents you must already have:**

- The TRA negative outcome letter (exact wording of reasons)
- All documents submitted in the original application
- Any new evidence you have obtained since the original submission

MASTER PROMPT 14: Whole-Family Settlement Plan

How to use: Share with your spouse/partner and children (age-appropriately) before departure.

PROMPT:

My family migrates to Australia together. Create a comprehensive family settlement plan.

Spouse/Partner: [Age, occupation, qualifications, English level]

Child 1: [Age, school year, interests, English level]


Child 2: [Age, school year, interests, English level]

Destination: [CITY, STATE]


Arrival Date: [APPROXIMATE DATE]

Budget First 6 Months (AUD): [AMOUNT]

Create a plan covering: school enrolment for each child; partner employment or re-qualification pathway; social integration strategy; family wellbeing plan; 6-month family financial plan; staying connected with family at home; cultural adjustment guide; settlement milestones.

 **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Contact target schools directly to confirm enrolment requirements — school-specific details vary
- Verify partner's overseas qualification assessment requirements at your target state's relevant authority
- Check NAATI language accreditation eligibility for your partner if they speak an in-demand language (+5 pts)

 **Documents you must already have:**

- Children's birth certificates and school reports (for school enrolment)
- Partner's qualification certificates and transcripts (for assessment research)
- Your visa grant letter (for Medicare and school enrolment applications)

PART FIVE: REFERENCE MATERIAL

Appendix A: Complete TRA Document Checklist

Document	Status
Certified copy of current passport (bio page + used pages)	REQUIRED
Certified copy of birth certificate	REQUIRED
Marriage certificate (if name differs from birth cert)	IF APPLICABLE
Trade certificate/diploma — certified copy	REQUIRED
Academic transcripts or mark sheets	REQUIRED if available
NAATI-certified translation of qualification (if non-English)	REQUIRED
Curriculum comparison letter from training institution	STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
Employer 1 — Reference letter on company letterhead, signed	REQUIRED
Employer 1 — Payslips for employment period	REQUIRED
Employer 1 — Bank statements confirming salary (backup)	RECOMMENDED
Employer 2, 3 — Reference letters and payslips (as above)	IF APPLICABLE
Self-employment — Statutory declaration + GST returns + bank statements	IF APPLICABLE
Employment gaps — Statutory declaration explaining any gap	REQUIRED if gaps exist
Manufacturer training certificates	RECOMMENDED
International welding/trade certifications	RECOMMENDED

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Previous trade licences	RECOMMENDED
Project photographs (for fabricators, bricklayers)	RECOMMENDED
Completed TRA MSA application form	REQUIRED
Application fee payment receipt	REQUIRED
Cover letter summarising the application	STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Appendix B: Points Calculator Worksheet

Factor and Criteria	Your Points
AGE: 18-24=25 25-32=30 33-39=25 40-44=15 45+=0	
ENGLISH — Competent (IELTS 6.0 all bands) = eligible, 0 extra pts	
ENGLISH — Proficient (IELTS 7.0 all bands) = +10 pts	
ENGLISH — Superior (IELTS 8.0 all bands) = +20 pts	
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT — 3 to <5 yrs = 5 pts	
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT — 5 to <8 yrs = 10 pts	
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT — 8+ yrs = 15 pts	
AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT — 1 to <3 yrs = 5 pts	
AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT — 3 to <5 yrs = 10 pts	
AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT — 5 to <8 yrs = 15 pts	
AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT — 8+ yrs = 20 pts	
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION — PhD = 20 Bachelor/Masters = 15 Diploma/Trade = 10	
PARTNER SKILLS — Assessed qualification = 10 pts English only = 5 pts	
STATE NOMINATION — Subclass 190 = 5 pts Subclass 491 = 15 pts	

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE (NAATI) = 5 pts	
PROFESSIONAL YEAR in Australia = 5 pts	
AUSTRALIAN STUDY REQUIREMENT = 5 pts	
TOTAL SCORE	
Minimum Required (all streams)	65 pts

Appendix C: Australian Immigration Glossary

ANZSCO — Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations — the numerical code for your occupation in migration applications.

ATO — Australian Taxation Office — register for your TFN here. ato.gov.au

DAMA — Designated Area Migration Agreement — regional employer sponsorship outside standard visa caps.

EOI — Expression of Interest — submitted via SkillSelect. The starting point for skilled migration.

FIFO — Fly-in Fly-out — work arrangement at remote mine/resource sites, usually 2 weeks on, 1 week off.

GSM — General Skilled Migration — the programme covering Subclass 189, 190, and 491 visas.

ITA — Invitation to Apply — issued after EOI. You have 60 days to lodge your visa application.

Medicare — Australia's public health insurance. Permanent residents eligible immediately on arrival.

MSA — Migration Skills Assessment — TRA's assessment pathway for offshore skilled migration applicants.

NAATI — National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters — certifies translators for immigration documents.

OMARA — Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority — verifies Australian migration agent registration at mara.gov.au.

PIC 4020 — Public Interest Criterion 4020 — the provision that triggers visa refusal and 3-10 year bans for misrepresentation or bogus documents. Extremely serious.

PTE — Pearson Test of English Academic — computer-based English test accepted for migration.

RCIC — Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant — licensed by the CICC. Verify at college-ic.ca.

SkillSelect — Online platform for submitting and managing EOIs for skilled migration.

Subclass 189 — Skilled Independent Visa — permanent. No sponsor required. Usually 85+ pts needed.

Subclass 190 — Skilled Nominated Visa — permanent. State nomination adds 5 pts. Commit to state for 2 years.

Subclass 491 — Skilled Work Regional Visa — 5-year temporary. Nomination adds 15 pts. PR via 191 after 3 yrs regional.

Subclass 482 — Temporary Skill Shortage Visa — employer sponsored. Leads to 186 PR.

Superannuation — Mandatory employer-funded retirement savings (11.5% of wages). Can be claimed on permanent departure.

TFN — Tax File Number — mandatory before you can be paid in Australia. Apply at ato.gov.au.

TRA — Trades Recognition Australia — assesses trade qualifications for skilled migration. tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au

White Card — Construction Induction Training certificate. Required on all Australian construction sites.

Appendix D: Key Contacts and Official Websites

Organisation	Website
Department of Home Affairs	homeaffairs.gov.au
SkillSelect (EOI submission)	immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/skills
Trades Recognition Australia	tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au
Australian Taxation Office	ato.gov.au
Medicare (Services Australia)	servicesaustralia.gov.au
OMARA (verify migration agent)	mara.gov.au
IELTS (IDP)	ielts.com.au
PTE Academic	pearsonpte.com
NAATI (certified translators)	naati.com.au
Fair Work Ombudsman	fairwork.gov.au 13 13 94
NSW Migration	migration.nsw.gov.au
Victoria Migration	liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au
Queensland Migration	migration.qld.gov.au
WA Migration	migration.wa.gov.au
SA Migration	migration.sa.gov.au
Tasmania Migration	migration.tas.gov.au
NT Migration	migration.nt.gov.au
ACT Migration	canberrayourfuture.com.au
SEEK (jobs)	seek.com.au
Hipages (trade leads)	hipages.com.au
Wise (remittances)	wise.com

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Dreamvisas PER	dreamvisas.com
Dreamvisas YouTube	youtube.com/@dreamvisas

Appendix E: Sample Reference Letter Templates

Electrician Reference Letter Template

[COMPANY LETTERHEAD — Name, Address, Phone, Email, ABN]
[DATE]

To Whom It May Concern

EMPLOYMENT REFERENCE — [APPLICANT FULL NAME]

I, [SUPERVISOR NAME], [TITLE] at [COMPANY NAME], confirm that [APPLICANT NAME] was employed as an Electrician from [START DATE] to [END DATE], full-time, working approximately [HOURS] hours per week.

During employment, [APPLICANT NAME] regularly performed the following duties:

- Installed and terminated LT distribution switchboards rated up to 415V including MCBs, ACBs, contactors, and motor starters
- Laid and terminated PVC conduit, steel conduit, and cable tray systems for LT power and control cables on industrial plant
- Installed and commissioned 3-phase induction motors up to 75kW including star-delta and DOL starters
- Read and interpreted single-line diagrams, electrical schematics, and cable schedules
- Diagnosed and repaired faults on AC and DC control circuits using multimeters and insulation testers
- [ADD 3-4 MORE SPECIFIC DUTIES FROM YOUR ACTUAL WORK]

[APPLICANT NAME] consistently maintained high standards of workmanship and safety.

[SUPERVISOR NAME], [TITLE] | [COMPANY] | [PHONE] | [EMAIL]

Welder Reference Letter Template

[COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Employment Reference for [APPLICANT FULL NAME]

[APPLICANT NAME] was employed as a Welder at [COMPANY NAME] from [START DATE] to [END DATE], full-time, [HOURS] hours per week.

[APPLICANT NAME] regularly performed the following duties:

- Performed MIG (GMAW) welding on mild steel and stainless steel in flat and horizontal positions
- Performed MMAW (stick) welding on structural steel members in 1G through 3G positions
- Performed TIG (GTAW) welding on stainless steel pipe and sheet metal assemblies
- Read and interpreted weld symbols on fabrication drawings and WPS documents
- Operated plasma cutter and oxy-acetylene torch for metal preparation
- Performed visual inspection of welds and prepared inspection documentation
- [ADD MORE DUTIES]

[APPLICANT NAME] consistently met production standards and maintained an excellent safety record.

[NAME], [TITLE] | [COMPANY] | [PHONE] | [EMAIL]

Appendix F: ANZSCO Code Quick Reference

ANZSCO Code	Occupation
321211	Motor Mechanic (General)
321212	Diesel Motor Mechanic
322311	Metal Fabricator
322313	Welder (First Class)
323211	Fitter (General)
323212	Fitter and Turner
331111	Bricklayer
331212	Carpenter
331213	Carpenter and Joiner
332211	Painter (Buildings)
334111	Plumber (General)
334114	Gasfitter
341111	Electrician (General)
342111	Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic
342211	Electrical Linesworker

Appendix G: State Nomination Calendar and 3-State Strategy Examples

State programmes do not operate year-round at the same pace. Understanding the annual rhythm helps you time your EOI and nomination applications strategically.

Annual Nomination Calendar

Period	What Typically Happens
July-August (Q1)	All state allocations reset. Maximum nominations issued. Best time to have your EOI active.
September-December (Q2)	Steady nominations. Good window for most trades.
January (holiday slow-down)	Fewer rounds, fewer invitations. Use this time to improve English and prepare documents.
February-March (Q3)	Programme resumes at full pace. Good window.
April-June (Q4 — end of financial year)	Many states exhaust their annual allocation. Rounds may slow or stop. Being already in the pool is critical.

3-State Strategy Examples

Rather than targeting one state and waiting, experienced applicants identify a primary state and two backups, monitoring all three simultaneously. Here are three tested combinations:

Trade	Primary State
Welder	WA (491)

Electrician	VIC (190)
Diesel Mechanic	QLD (491)
Plumber	NSW (190)
Carpenter	QLD (491)

3-State Strategy Action Steps

Step 1: Identify your primary state (best match for your points score and trade).

Step 2: Identify two backup states with different round schedules from your primary.

Step 3: Monitor all three official state websites weekly — set a calendar reminder every Monday.

Step 4: Apply to whichever state opens nominations for your trade first.

Step 5: If unsure which combination is right for your specific points score and trade, get a professional review before lodging multiple EOIs. A PER from dreamvisas.com can map this out for your exact situation.

Bonus Chapter: Your Rights as a Worker in Australia

Australia has some of the strongest worker protections in the world. Understanding your rights before you arrive is one of the most important things you can do. Many newly arrived tradespersons are exploited because they do not know what they are legally entitled to. This chapter changes that.

The National Employment Standards (NES)

The National Employment Standards are 11 minimum entitlements that apply to every employee in Australia. No employment contract can remove these — they are the legal floor below which no employer can go.

NES Entitlement	What It Means for You
Maximum weekly hours	38 hours ordinary time. Reasonable additional overtime by agreement only.
Flexible working	Right to request flexible hours after 12 months with an employer.
Parental leave	Up to 12 months unpaid parental leave. Option to request 12 more months.
Annual leave	4 weeks paid annual leave per year (5 weeks for continuous shift workers).
Personal/carer's leave	10 days paid sick and carer's leave per year.

Compassionate leave	2 days paid leave per occasion for serious illness or death in the family.
Community service leave	Unpaid leave for jury duty and voluntary emergency management.
Long service leave	After 7-10 years with one employer, you earn an extended paid leave entitlement.
Public holidays	Paid day off on all Australian public holidays (typically 10-12 per year).
Notice of termination	Minimum notice periods of 1-5 weeks depending on length of service.
Fair Work Information Statement	Your employer must give you this document when you start employment.

Minimum Wages and Award Rates

Australia's minimum wage is one of the highest in the world. But for trades workers, the relevant rate is set by an industry Award. Awards specify minimum hourly rates, overtime penalty rates, and allowances for tools, travel, and difficult working conditions.

For construction trades, the relevant award is typically the Building and Construction General On-site Award. For manufacturing trades, it is the Manufacturing and Associated Industries and Occupations Award. These are searchable at fairwork.gov.au.

Pay Element	What It Means for You
Base hourly rate	Set by your Award classification level. Higher for more experienced workers.
Tool allowance	Extra payment if you supply your own tools — common in construction trades.
Meal allowance	Payment if you work overtime past a set time without a meal being provided.
Travel allowance	Payment for travel time and costs to and from remote job sites.
Industry allowance	Extra payment for working in construction. Applies to all construction workers.
Overtime — first 2 hours	1.5x normal hourly rate.
Overtime — beyond 2 hours	2x normal hourly rate.
Saturday work	1.5x normal rate for the first 2 hours, 2x after that.
Sunday work	2x normal rate for all hours.
Public holiday work	2.5x normal rate for all hours worked.
Superannuation	11.5% of ordinary earnings paid by employer into your super fund — not deducted from your pay.

The Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Commission is Australia's national workplace relations tribunal. It sets minimum wages, resolves unfair dismissal claims, and approves enterprise agreements between employers and workers.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) enforces workplace laws. If your employer underpays you, fails to pay superannuation, or treats you unfairly, you can make a formal complaint at fairwork.gov.au. The FWO takes underpayment of migrant workers extremely seriously. There have been multi-million dollar prosecutions of companies that exploited migrant tradespersons.

Importantly: you will NOT lose your visa for making a complaint about workplace exploitation. The Department of Home Affairs has explicit protections for visa holders who report labour abuse. Never be afraid to speak up.

Union Membership — Your Choice

Trade unions play an active role in Australian workplaces, especially on large construction sites. Union membership is not compulsory, but it brings real benefits: free legal advice on workplace matters, dispute resolution support, additional personal accident insurance, and collective bargaining for higher wages. Annual membership is typically AUD 300-700 per year.

- CFMEU — Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union: covers carpentry, bricklaying, painting, construction
- ETU — Electrical Trades Union: covers electricians and HVAC mechanics
- AMWU — Australian Manufacturing Workers Union: covers welders, fitters, metal fabricators, motor mechanics

- AWU — Australian Workers Union: covers plumbers, gas fitters, and regional workers

Superannuation — Don't Leave It Behind

Every Australian employer must contribute 11.5% of your wages into a superannuation (retirement savings) account. This is a legal entitlement, not a bonus, and is paid in addition to your wages. Make sure your employer is actually paying it — you can verify this at mygov.au after linking to the ATO.

If you eventually leave Australia permanently, you can claim your accumulated superannuation through the Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP) scheme after your visa has expired. This can amount to tens of thousands of dollars for long-term workers — do not forget it.

Bonus Chapter: Healthcare in Australia

Australia has one of the best public healthcare systems in the world. The Medicare scheme provides significant protection against medical costs. Understanding how the system works helps you access the right care quickly and avoid unexpected expenses.

Medicare — Activate It in Week One

As a permanent resident, you are eligible for Medicare immediately upon arrival. To activate, visit a Services Australia office with your passport and visa grant letter. Your Medicare card arrives by mail within 2-3 weeks. Until it arrives, you can still use Medicare — save your application receipt as proof of eligibility.

With a Medicare card you can see a bulk-billing GP (general practitioner) for free. Bulk-billing clinics charge Medicare directly — you pay nothing. You also receive free treatment in public hospitals, and subsidised medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Private Health Insurance — Is It Worth It?

While Medicare covers a lot, private health insurance adds coverage for: dental treatment, optical (glasses and contacts), physiotherapy and remedial massage, and private hospital rooms. For a family of four, private health insurance costs approximately AUD 250-400 per month.

The Medicare Levy Surcharge (1-1.5% of income) applies to individuals earning over AUD 93,000 who do not have private hospital cover. For most tradespersons, getting at least hospital cover makes financial sense.

Workers Compensation — Know Your Rights

If you are injured at work, you are entitled to workers compensation. This covers medical treatment, rehabilitation, and a proportion of lost wages. Every state has its own scheme, but the protections are consistent. Your employer's insurance pays — not you.

Critical rule: report any workplace injury to your employer immediately and in writing. Do not wait to see if it 'gets better.' Delaying reporting can jeopardise your compensation claim. Seek medical treatment the same day. Do not sign any documents from the insurer without taking legal advice.

Mental Health Support for Migrants

Migration is one of life's most stressful experiences. Culture shock, loneliness, financial pressure, and separation from extended family are real challenges. Australia has excellent mental health services. Every Australian can access 10 free sessions with a psychologist annually through a Medicare Mental Health Care Plan — ask your GP for a referral.

Key services: Beyond Blue (beyondblue.org.au), Lifeline (13 11 14 — 24/7 crisis support), SANE Australia (sane.org). There is no shame in seeking support — many of the most successful migrants I have worked with went through difficult periods before finding their footing in Australia.

Bonus Chapter: Starting Your Own Trade Business in Australia

One of the greatest long-term opportunities Australia offers skilled tradespersons is the realistic path to business ownership. The tradespersons I most admire have not just migrated to Australia — they have built businesses, employed other people, and created genuine wealth. This chapter gives you the foundations.

Why Trade Business Ownership Works in Australia

- Australia has severe, structural shortages of qualified tradespersons — meaning consistent work for good operators.
- Australians pay premium rates for quality trade work without negotiating aggressively.
- Starting costs are low for most trades — tools, a vehicle, and insurance.
- Government construction programmes create long-term project work for small contractors.
- Self-employment in Australia is mainstream and socially respected.
- The pathway from employee to subcontractor to sole trader to registered company is well-documented and straightforward.

Getting Started: ABN and Business Registration

To operate any business in Australia — even casual subcontracting — you need an Australian Business Number (ABN). It is free and takes 5 minutes at abr.business.gov.au. You cannot issue a legal tax invoice without one.

If your revenue exceeds AUD 75,000 per year, you must also register for GST (Goods and Services Tax — 10%). Once

registered, you add 10% to your invoices and pay the net amount to the ATO quarterly. Your accountant manages this process.

Finding Your First Clients as a Sole Trader

- Subcontract to established companies first — build your Australian references before going direct to home or business owners.
- Register on hipages.com.au, serviceseeking.com.au, and Oneflare — Australia's major trade lead platforms.
- Create a Google My Business profile (free) — local search visibility is your most powerful marketing tool.
- Join your industry association — Master Builders, NECA (electrical), Master Plumbers. Referral networks within these associations are extremely valuable.
- Request Google reviews from every satisfied client — five-star Google reviews are your most valuable business asset.
- LinkedIn presence — particularly valuable for commercial work and government contracts.

Pricing Your Trade Services

Many newly arrived tradespersons undercharge, comparing Australian prices to their home country. This is a serious mistake. Australian clients associate low prices with low quality. The correct strategy is to find out the current market rate for your trade in your city and charge that rate confidently from day one.

Trade	Typical Rate (AUD, 2026 — employee basis)
Electrician	\$120 – \$200 per hour + materials
Plumber	\$120 – \$200 per hour + materials
HVAC Mechanic (service)	\$100 – \$180 per hour +

	parts
Carpenter (residential)	\$70 – \$130 per hour
Painter	\$50 – \$90 per hour (day rates also common)
Welder (contract)	\$80 – \$160 per hour + consumables
Motor Mechanic (workshop)	\$150 – \$250 per hour labour charge
Diesel Mechanic (mine site)	\$50 – \$80+ per hour (often on salary)

As a business owner, your charge-out rate needs to cover: your own labour, tools and equipment, vehicle costs, insurance, accountant, marketing, and a profit margin. A good benchmark: your charge-out rate should be at least 3x your desired hourly take-home rate.

Bonus Chapter: Preparing for Australia Before You Leave Home

The tradespersons who establish themselves fastest in Australia are invariably those who prepared most thoroughly before departure. The investment in pre-arrival preparation pays dividends for years. Here is a comprehensive pre-departure guide.

Technical Preparation — 6 Months Before Departure

- Download and study the Australian standard for your trade: AS/NZS 3000 (electricians), AS/NZS 3500 (plumbers), AS 1665 (welding), AS 4600 (cold-formed steel). Available at standards.org.au — some are free online.
- Watch TAFE NSW and TAFE Queensland trade training videos on YouTube to hear Australian instructors explain your trade in local terminology.
- Begin studying for your state licensing exam now, using Australian study materials from the relevant licensing authority.
- Learn Australian trade terminology differences from the glossary in Appendix G.

English Language — 6 Months Before Departure

- Continue IELTS/PTE preparation intensively — every band improvement adds significant points.
- Subscribe to ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) podcast or YouTube — standard Australian English.
- Watch The Block and Grand Designs Australia on YouTube — excellent for Australian construction terminology and culture.
- Practice describing trade procedures in English — you will need to do this in job interviews.

- Find an IELTS speaking partner on iTalki or Tandem — practice with native Australian speakers.

Financial Preparation — 3-6 Months Before Departure

- Build your migration fund to the recommended minimum: AUD 25,000 (individual) or AUD 40,000-55,000 (family of four).
- Open a Wise (wise.com) or OFX account for international transfers — significantly cheaper than bank wire transfers.
- Apply for an Australian bank account before departure — Commonwealth Bank and ANZ accept overseas applications.
- Cancel unnecessary subscriptions and recurring payments in India/home country.
- Get your credit history documented from your home country's credit bureau — useful when renting in Australia.

One Month Before Departure — Final Checklist

Pre-Departure Final Checklist

Certified copies of passport (all pages), qualifications, marriage and birth certificates

Children's school reports and vaccination records (certified copies)

All medical records and vaccination certificates for family

TRA assessment result letter — print and certify a copy

Visa grant letter — print and carry in hand luggage

AUD 2,000-5,000 cash accessible on arrival day (before bank card works)

Australian SIM card ordered online for airport collection, or local SIM day 1

Medicare registration planned for week 1

School enrolment paperwork prepared — contact schools before departure

Rental inspection scheduled (even virtual) for arrival week

Tools appraised — decide what to ship vs. purchase new

International roaming enabled on current phone for first 3 days

Family briefed: what to expect in the first week, month, and 3 months

Bonus Chapter: Frequently Asked Questions

Based on 25 years of immigration consulting, these are the questions I am asked most frequently by tradespersons considering Australian migration. Each answer reflects real-world experience, not just official guidance.

Q: Can I migrate to Australia without a formal trade certificate?

A: Yes, in some cases. TRA can assess skills based on work experience even without a formal qualification, particularly if you have 7-10+ years of relevant experience. This is called a Skills Assessment based on work experience. The documentary bar is higher — your reference letters and financial evidence must be extremely detailed. Consult a migration agent to assess your specific situation before committing to this pathway.

Q: My trade is not on my target state's nomination list. What can I do?

A: First, confirm you have the correct ANZSCO code — many tradespersons are on slightly different codes than they expect. Second, check other states — occupation lists vary between states and change frequently (sometimes monthly). Third, consider whether the employer-sponsored Subclass 482 pathway applies to your situation. Fourth, investigate the DAMA programme in regional areas, which provides access to occupations not on standard national lists.

Q: Can my family come with me on the same visa?

A: Yes. Subclass 189, 190, and 491 visas include your spouse/de facto partner and all dependent children. They are included in the one visa application, with additional government fees for each person. Your partner and children will have full work and study rights in Australia on your visa.

Q: My English score is only 6.0 — should I wait for a better score before submitting my EOI?

A: No — submit your EOI at 6.0 immediately. You are eligible, and your time in the SkillSelect system starts counting from your EOI submission date. Time in system is a tiebreaker when two applicants have equal points. Simultaneously, keep working to improve your score to 7.0 (Proficient) for the 10-point boost. You can update your EOI with a better score at any time without losing your submission date.

Q: How long from TRA approval to actually landing in Australia?

A: The realistic timeline is 18-24 months from TRA application lodgement to arrival. Breakdown: TRA assessment 4-6 months, EOI waiting period 2-12 months (varies enormously by occupation and score), visa processing after invitation 6-10 months. The 491 regional visa typically moves fastest — invitation times can be as low as 1-2 months after EOI submission for in-demand occupations.

Q: Is it better to migrate alone first and bring the family later?

A: Many tradespersons do arrive alone first — to establish work, find suitable housing, and understand the local area before committing the family to the move. The advantages are financial flexibility and lower initial stress. The disadvantages are family separation and the emotional difficulty of settling alone. If your visa allows all family members to come together and you have sufficient savings, bringing the family immediately generally leads to better settlement outcomes for everyone, especially children.

Q: What is the realistic income I can expect in the first year?

A: As an employee tradesperson in your first year in Australia, expect AUD 65,000-90,000 depending on trade and location. After obtaining your Australian licence and building 12-24 months of local experience, this typically rises to AUD 80,000-120,000. FIFO roles in mining regions pay AUD 100,000-140,000 but require extended time away from family. Electricians and plumbers who establish their own businesses within 3-5 years commonly earn AUD 130,000-200,000+ as owner-operators.

Q: What should I do if my TRA application is rejected?

A: Do not panic and do not give up. First, request the written reasons from TRA — you are entitled to them. Share those reasons with a qualified migration agent. In most cases, a rejection can be reversed through a Reconsideration Request with additional evidence. If the rejection cannot be overturned, there may be other visa pathways — employer sponsorship (482/186), DAMA, or alternative occupation codes — that still provide a route to Australia. A rejection is a setback, not a permanent barrier. I have seen applicants with three negative results eventually obtain positive outcomes.

Q: How do I handle the Australian accent in the workplace?

A: The Australian accent is distinct and takes getting used to, especially regional accents (Queensland, rural Victoria, Western Australia). Strategies: watch Australian TV and YouTube before you arrive; ask people to repeat themselves without embarrassment; carry a small notebook to write down unfamiliar words and look them up later; and give yourself permission to laugh about misunderstandings — Australians generally appreciate a sense of humour about language barriers. Within 6-12 months, most non-English speaking migrants find the accent becomes natural to understand.

Appendix F: Trade Migration Readiness Worksheet

Use this worksheet to honestly assess your current readiness for Australian migration. For each item, mark your status, then use the gaps as inputs into your preparation action plan.

Readiness Item	Done	In Progress	Not Started
Confirmed correct ANZSCO occupation code for my trade			
Confirmed TRA is my assessing body			
Calculated preliminary points score using official calculator			
Have IELTS/PTE score of 6.0+ in all four bands			
Have IELTS/PTE score of 7.0+ in all four bands (Proficient English)			
Collected payslips/bank statements for all employment periods			
Obtained detailed reference letters from all employers			
Got trade qualification certified and translated (if non-English)			
Have all identity documents certified (passport, birth certificate)			
Consulted a registered migration agent about my specific case			
Identified target state(s) and researched their nomination programmes			

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Built migration fund to recommended minimum (AUD 25,000+)			
Researched suburbs, schools, and rental prices in target city			
Set up or applied for Australian bank account			
Understand TRA MSA application process completely			
Understand SkillSelect EOI submission process			
Have a written 12-month action plan			
Researched post-arrival licensing requirements for my trade			
Begun studying Australian trade standards for my occupation			
Discussed and aligned migration plan with entire family			

Appendix G: Australian Trade Terminology Guide

Australian tradespersons use many terms that differ from Indian, UK, or American usage. Learning these before your interviews and your first days on site will prevent misunderstandings and mark you as well-prepared.

General Site Culture and Terms

Term	Meaning
Chippie	Carpenter (very common informal name)
Sparky	Electrician
Plumber	Note: in Australia, plumbing and gas fitting are often separate licences
Boilermaker	Metal fabricator — cuts, shapes, welds structural steel and pressure vessels
Smoko	Morning tea break — approximately 10 minutes, a social ritual on Australian sites
Arvo	Afternoon ('I'll finish the fit-out arvo')
Knockoff	End of the working day ('knockoff time is 3:30')
Leading Hand	A senior tradesperson supervising a small team on site

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Site Foreman / Foreperson	Oversees an entire trade crew across a project
Builder	The licensed construction manager for the whole project
Resi	Residential work — houses and apartment units
Comms / Commercial	Commercial work — offices, shops, factories
Fit-out	Interior finishing work inside a commercial building shell
Rough-in	First trade work stage — pipes, cables installed before walls are closed
Lockup stage	When the building is externally weatherproof — walls, windows, roof complete
Practical Completion (PC)	Project officially complete and handed to client
SWMS	Safe Work Method Statement — written safety plan for high-risk work
White Card	Construction Induction Training card — required for ALL construction sites
Hi-vis	High-visibility safety vest or shirt — mandatory on all construction sites
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment (hard hat, safety boots, eye and ear protection, gloves)

Electrical Trade Terms

Term	Meaning
GPO	General Power Outlet (standard 240V power socket — what Indians call a 'plug point')
RCD	Residual Current Device — mandatory safety switch in all Australian homes
MSB	Main Switchboard
DB / Sub-board	Distribution Board (sub-switchboard for individual floors or areas)
Resi wiring	Domestic house wiring (240V single phase)
3-phase	Three-phase 415V power supply — for large motors and commercial equipment
Conduit	Pipe through which electrical cables are run — rigid PVC or steel conduit
Trunking / Duct	Cable management channel mounted on walls or ceilings
ELV	Extra Low Voltage — telecommunications, data, 24V control wiring
LOTO	Lock Out Tag Out — mandatory energy isolation procedure before maintenance work

Building and Construction Terms

Term	Meaning
Timber frame	Australian standard residential construction method —

	structural timber frame with brick veneer
Brick veneer	Non-structural brick outer skin attached to a timber frame — standard Australian housing
Colorbond	Brand name used generically for steel sheet roofing, fencing, and walling
CFC / Fibre cement	Compressed fibre cement sheet (e.g., James Hardie products) for wet area lining
F-Grade timber	Structural timber graded by strength: F5 (lightest) through F27 (heaviest)
Nogging	Short horizontal timber between wall studs — prevents rotation, not structural
Bracing	Diagonal structural element in wall frame that provides lateral stability
Slab down	Concrete floor slab has been poured
Frame up	Structural wall framing complete
Batten	Small timber section used for roofing, wall cladding, or fencing
DPC	Damp Proof Course — horizontal moisture barrier in masonry walls at ground level
Gal / Galv	Galvanised (hot-dipped zinc coating for corrosion protection)

Appendix H: Two Additional AI Master Prompts

These prompts address two specific situations that many tradespersons encounter but that are rarely covered in migration guides: responding to a TRA rejection, and planning for the entire family's settlement — not just the primary applicant's job setup.

MASTER PROMPT 13: Responding to a TRA Negative Outcome

How to use: Submit within 90 days of the negative decision. Have a migration agent review before submission.

PROMPT:

I have received a negative outcome on my TRA Migration Skills Assessment. I need help preparing a formal Reconsideration Request.

Background:

Occupation: [YOUR TRADE AND ANZSCO CODE]

Negative outcome received: [DATE]

TRA's stated reason(s) for the negative outcome (copy exactly):
[PASTE TRA REASONS]

INSTITUTION, YEAR]

Documents submitted: [LIST EVERYTHING YOU SUBMITTED]

New evidence I can now provide: [LIST ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE]

Please:

1. Analyse TRA's stated reasons
2. Suggest specific additional evidence for each addressable reason


addressed to TRA

the most persuasive sequence

suggesting I need agent review before resubmitting

✓ Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:

- Read TRA's stated reasons carefully — the AI is only as good as the input you provide
- Have your migration agent confirm the reconsideration strategy is viable
- Verify the reconsideration fee and process at tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au

 **Documents you must already have:**

- The TRA negative outcome letter with exact stated reasons
- All documents submitted in the original application
- Any new evidence obtained since original submission

MASTER PROMPT 14: Whole-Family Settlement Plan

How to use: Share with your spouse/partner and children (age-appropriately) before departure.

PROMPT:

My family migrates to Australia together. Create a comprehensive family settlement plan.


Family: Spouse/Partner: [Age, occupation, qualifications, English level]

Destination: [CITY, STATE]


Arrival: [DATE]

Budget First 6 Months: [AUD AMOUNT]

Create a plan covering: school enrolment for each child; partner employment or re-qualification pathway; social integration strategy; family wellbeing plan; 6-month financial plan; staying connected with family at home; cultural adjustment guide.

 **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Contact target schools directly to confirm enrolment requirements
- Verify partner qualification assessment requirements at the relevant authority
- Check NAATI accreditation eligibility for partner languages (+5 pts)

 **Documents you must already have:**

- Children's birth certificates and school reports
- Partner's qualification certificates and transcripts
- Visa grant letter for Medicare and school enrolment applications

Bonus Chapter: Your Rights as a Worker in Australia

Australia has some of the strongest worker protections in the world. Many newly arrived tradespersons are exploited because they do not know their legal entitlements. This chapter fixes that.

The National Employment Standards (NES)

The NES are 11 minimum entitlements that apply to every employee in Australia. No employment contract can remove them — they are the legal floor.

NES Entitlement	What It Means for You
Maximum 38 weekly hours	Reasonable overtime by agreement only.
Annual leave	4 weeks paid leave per year (5 for shift workers).
Personal/carer's leave	10 days paid sick and carer's leave per year.
Parental leave	Up to 12 months unpaid parental leave.
Public holidays	Paid day off on all Australian public holidays.
Notice of termination	1-5 weeks minimum depending on length of service.
Superannuation	11.5% of ordinary earnings paid by employer into your super fund.

Compassionate leave	2 days paid per occasion — serious illness or death in family.
Community service leave	Unpaid — jury duty, voluntary emergency management.
Long service leave	After 7-10 years with one employer — extended paid leave.
Fair Work Statement	Your employer must provide this document when you start.

Award Rates — What You Are Entitled to Be Paid

For construction trades, the relevant award is the Building and Construction General On-site Award. For manufacturing, it is the Manufacturing and Associated Industries Award. Both are searchable free at fairwork.gov.au.

Pay Element	What It Means
Base hourly rate	Set by your Award classification. Higher for more experienced workers.
Tool allowance	Extra payment if you supply your own tools — standard in construction.
Travel allowance	Payment for travel to and from remote sites.
Industry allowance	Extra payment for working in construction — applies to all construction workers.
Overtime first 2 hours	1.5x normal rate.

Overtime beyond 2 hours	2x normal rate.
Saturday work	1.5x for first 2 hours, 2x after that.
Sunday work	2x normal rate for all hours.
Public holiday work	2.5x normal rate for all hours.

If You Are Being Exploited

Signs that something is wrong: paid below award rates, no payslips, asked to sign documents you do not understand, deductions from pay not explained, threatened with visa cancellation for complaining.

- Keep records — save payslips, bank transfers, text messages, and rosters.
- Contact the Fair Work Ombudsman at fairwork.gov.au or 13 13 94.
- You will NOT lose your visa for reporting workplace exploitation — the Department of Home Affairs has explicit protections for visa holders who report labour abuse.
- Contact your trade union if you are a member.

Superannuation — Don't Leave It Behind

Every employer must contribute 11.5% of your wages into a superannuation (retirement savings) account. This is paid in addition to your wages — not deducted from them.

Verify your employer is actually paying it at mygov.au after linking to the ATO.

If you permanently leave Australia, claim it back via the Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP) scheme. For long-term workers, this can amount to tens of thousands of dollars.

Bonus Chapter: Healthcare in Australia

Australia has one of the best public healthcare systems in the world. Understanding how it works helps you access care quickly and avoid unexpected costs.

Medicare — Activate in Week One

As a permanent resident, you are eligible for Medicare immediately on arrival. Visit a Services Australia office with your passport and visa grant letter. Your Medicare card arrives by post within 2-3 weeks.

With Medicare: bulk-billing GPs are free, public hospitals are free, and medicines are subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Workers Compensation

If you are injured at work, you are entitled to workers compensation — covering medical treatment, rehabilitation, and a proportion of lost wages. Your employer's insurance pays, not you. Report any workplace injury to your employer immediately and in writing. Do not sign any documents from the insurer without taking legal advice first.

Mental Health

Migration is stressful. Isolation, financial pressure, and separation from extended family are real challenges. Every Australian can access 10 free psychologist sessions annually through a Medicare Mental Health Care Plan — ask your GP for a referral. Key services: Beyond Blue (beyondblue.org.au), Lifeline (13 11 14 — 24/7 crisis support).

Bonus Chapter: Starting Your Own Trade Business in Australia

One of the greatest long-term opportunities Australia offers skilled tradespersons is the realistic path to business ownership. The tradespersons I most admire have not just migrated — they have built businesses, employed other people, and created genuine wealth.

Why It Works in Australia

- Australia has severe, structural trade shortages — meaning consistent work for good operators.
- Australians pay premium rates for quality work without negotiating aggressively.
- Starting costs are low — tools, a vehicle, and insurance.
- Government construction programmes create long-term contract work for small contractors.
- Self-employment in Australia is mainstream and socially respected.

Getting Started: ABN and GST

To operate any business — even casual subcontracting — you need an Australian Business Number (ABN). It is free at abr.business.gov.au. If revenue exceeds AUD 75,000 per year, register for GST (Goods and Services Tax — 10%). Add 10% to invoices and pay the net amount to the ATO quarterly. Your accountant manages this.

Finding Your First Clients

- Subcontract to established companies first — build Australian references before going direct to homeowners.
- Register on hipages.com.au, serviceseeking.com.au, and Oneflare — Australia's major trade lead platforms.
- Create a Google My Business profile (free) — local search visibility is your most powerful marketing tool.
- Join your industry association — referral networks within associations are extremely valuable.
- Request Google reviews from every satisfied client — five-star reviews are your most important business asset.

Market Rates — Charge What You Are Worth

Trade	Typical Call-Out Rate (AUD, 2026)
Electrician	\$120 – \$200 per hour + materials
Plumber	\$120 – \$200 per hour + materials
HVAC Mechanic	\$100 – \$180 per hour + parts
Carpenter (residential)	\$70 – \$130 per hour
Painter	\$50 – \$90 per hour
Welder (contract)	\$80 – \$160 per hour + consumables
Motor Mechanic (workshop)	\$150 – \$250 per hour labour rate

Many newly arrived tradespersons undercharge because they compare Australian prices to their home country. This is a serious mistake. Australian clients associate low prices with low quality. Research the market rate and charge it confidently from day one.

Bonus Chapter: Preparing for Australia Before You Leave Home

The tradespersons who establish themselves fastest in Australia are invariably those who prepared most thoroughly before departure. Pre-arrival preparation pays dividends for years.

Technical Preparation — 6 Months Before

- Download and study the Australian standard for your trade: AS/NZS 3000 (electricians), AS/NZS 3500 (plumbers), AS 1665 (welding). Available at standards.org.au.
- Watch TAFE NSW and TAFE Queensland trade training videos on YouTube — hear Australian instructors explain your trade in local terminology.
- Begin studying for your state licensing exam now using Australian study materials.
- Learn Australian trade terminology from the glossary in this book — Appendix G.

English Language — 6 Months Before

- Continue IELTS/PTE preparation intensively — every band improvement adds significant points.
- Subscribe to ABC News (abc.net.au) podcast or YouTube — standard Australian English.
- Watch The Block and Grand Designs Australia on YouTube — excellent for construction terminology and culture.
- Practice explaining trade procedures in English — you will need to do this in job interviews.
- Find an IELTS speaking partner on iTalki or Tandem.

Financial Preparation — 3-6 Months Before

- Build your migration fund to the recommended minimum: AUD 25,000 (individual) or AUD 40,000-55,000 (family of four).
- Open a Wise (wise.com) or OFX account for international transfers — significantly cheaper than bank wire transfers.

- Apply for an Australian bank account before departure — Commonwealth Bank and ANZ accept overseas applications.
- Cancel unnecessary subscriptions and recurring payments in your home country.

Pre-Departure Final Checklist — Carry in Hand Luggage

Passport (bio page + all used pages) — certified copy in checked luggage separately

Visa grant letter — print physical copy

Certified copies of TRA assessment, qualifications, and marriage/birth certificates

Medical records and vaccination certificates for all family members

AUD 2,000-5,000 cash for immediate expenses before bank card activates

Australian bank account details and transfer information

Contact details for your migration consultant, accommodation, and job contacts

Children's school reports (for enrolment)

Bonus Chapter: Frequently Asked Questions

These are the questions I am asked most frequently by tradespersons considering Australian migration. Each answer reflects real-world experience.

Q: Can I migrate to Australia without a formal trade certificate?

A: Yes, in some cases. TRA can assess skills based on work experience alone, typically if you have 7-10+ years of relevant experience. The documentary bar is higher — your reference letters and financial evidence must be extremely detailed. Consult a migration agent to assess your specific situation before committing to this pathway.

Q: My trade is not on my target state's nomination list. What can I do?

A: First, confirm you have the correct ANZSCO code — many tradespersons are on slightly different codes than they expect. Second, check other states — occupation lists vary between states and change frequently. Third, consider the employer-sponsored Subclass 482 pathway. Fourth, investigate the DAMA programme in regional areas, which provides access to occupations not on standard lists.

Q: Can my family come with me on the same visa?

A: Yes. Subclass 189, 190, and 491 visas include your spouse/de facto partner and all dependent children. They are included in the one visa application (with additional fees for each person), and have full work and study rights in Australia.

Q: My English score is 6.0 — should I wait for a better score before submitting my EOI?

A: No — submit your EOI at 6.0 immediately. You are eligible, and your time-in-system starts counting. Time in the pool is a tiebreaker when two applicants have equal points. Simultaneously, keep working to improve your score to 7.0 for the 10-point bonus. You can update your EOI with a better score at any time without losing your submission date.

Q: How long from TRA approval to arriving in Australia?

A: Realistic total timeline: 18-24 months from TRA application to arrival. Breakdown: TRA assessment 4-6 months, EOI waiting period 2-12 months (varies by occupation and score), visa processing after invitation 6-10 months. The 491 regional visa typically moves fastest.

Q: Is it better to migrate alone first and bring the family later?

A: Many tradespersons arrive alone first — to establish work and housing — then bring the family 3-6 months later. The advantages are financial flexibility. The disadvantages are family separation. If you have sufficient savings, bringing the family immediately generally leads to better settlement outcomes, especially for children.

Q: What is the realistic income in the first year?

A: As an employee tradesperson in your first year: AUD 65,000-90,000 depending on trade and location. After obtaining your Australian licence and building 12-24 months of local experience, this typically rises to AUD 80,000-120,000. FIFO roles in mining pay AUD 100,000-140,000 but require extended time away from family.

Q: What should I do if my TRA application is rejected?

A: Do not panic. Request the written reasons from TRA — you are entitled to them. Share those reasons with a qualified migration agent. In most cases, a rejection can be reversed through a Reconsideration Request with additional evidence. A rejection is a setback, not a permanent barrier. I have seen applicants with three negative results eventually obtain positive outcomes.

Q: Will my overseas experience be valued by Australian employers?

A: Yes — but you need to present it well. Most Australian employers care about two things: can you do the work safely and competently, and do you have a positive attitude. Your years of international experience are an asset, not a liability. In mining equipment, industrial welding, and large-scale electrical projects, overseas experience is highly valued.

Worked Example: A Complete TRA Application Walk-Through

The best way to understand how to prepare your own TRA application is to walk through a complete example. Every document, decision, and challenge in this example is typical of what you will encounter.

The Applicant: Rajesh Kumar (Composite Example)

Trade: Electrician — General (ANZSCO 341111)

Country: India

Qualification: Diploma in Electrical Engineering, Government Polytechnic Nashik (2009)

Trade Licence: Maharashtra State Electrical Workers Licence (2010)

Total Work Experience: 13 years

Employer 1: Industrial Electronics Pvt Ltd, Nashik (2010-2015) — 5 years

Employer 2: Technocraft Engineering, Pune (2015-2020) — 5 years

Self-employed contractor (2020-2023) — 3 years

English Score: IELTS 6.0 (Competent English)

Target: Subclass 491, South Australia

Step 1: Confirming ANZSCO Code and Qualification Equivalency

Rajesh confirms ANZSCO 341111 at the TRA website. His consultant flags an immediate issue: his qualification is a Diploma in Electrical Engineering, not a trade certificate. TRA will need a curriculum comparison letter mapping his academic diploma to the Australian Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician.

Step 2: The Missing Payslip Problem

Rajesh has payslips for 2013-2015 from Employer 1, but 2010-2012 payslips were lost in an office move. His consultant's solution:

- Contact his bank (Punjab National Bank) for a certified letter confirming monthly salary credits from 2010-2012.
- Obtain Form 16 (annual salary certificate) from Industrial Electronics for 2010-2012 — retained by HR even when individual payslips are lost.
- Get a statutory declaration from his 2010-2012 supervisor confirming employment and salary rate.

Result: The bank letter combined with the statutory declaration and Form 16 adequately covers the gap. TRA accepts this combination as standard alternative evidence.

Step 3: The BEFORE and AFTER Reference Letter

BEFORE — Vague Letter (Will Be Rejected)

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to certify that Mr Rajesh Kumar worked as an Electrician at Industrial Electronics Pvt Ltd from June 2010 to March 2015. He was a diligent and hardworking employee who performed electrical work to the satisfaction of our clients.

We wish him all the best.

HR Manager, Industrial Electronics Pvt Ltd

AFTER — Specific Letter (Will Be Accepted)

I, Suresh Patil, Site Manager, confirm that Mr Rajesh Kumar was employed as a Qualified Electrician at Industrial Electronics Pvt Ltd from 01 June 2010 to 31 March 2015, full-time, 48 hours per week.

Mr Kumar regularly performed the following duties:

- Installed and terminated LT distribution switchboards rated up to 415V including MCBs, ACBs, and motor starters
- Laid and terminated PVC conduit, steel conduit, and cable tray for LT power and control cables
- Installed and commissioned 3-phase induction motors up to 75kW including star-delta starters
- Read and interpreted single-line diagrams, schematics, and cable schedules
- Diagnosed and repaired faults on AC and DC circuits using multimeters and insulation testers

Suresh Patil, Site Manager | Industrial Electronics Pvt Ltd | [Phone] | [Email]

Step 4: Outcome and Key Lesson

Rajesh submits a complete application in April 2026. TRA returns a positive MSA result in August 2026. He immediately submits his EOI. South Australia nominates him within 3 weeks at his score of 80 points.

The Missed Opportunity in This Story

While waiting 4 months for his TRA result, Rajesh did not improve his English.

He arrived with IELTS 6.0 (Competent — 0 bonus points) when he could have reached IELTS 7.0 (Proficient — +10 points).

Those 10 points would have given him 90 points total, making him one of the most competitive applicants in any 491 round.

Do not make this mistake. Use every month of your TRA waiting period to improve your English score.

Extended Case Studies: Five More Migration Journeys

These case studies cover the challenging situations that standard migration guides never address — the complications, the setbacks, and the creative solutions that made success possible.

Case Study 1: The Employer Who Disappeared

Vikram was a plumber in Chennai with 8 years of experience. His primary employer (2014-2019) had gone bankrupt — the company no longer existed. No reference letter, no payslips, no contact details for former management. Only bank statements showing monthly salary credits and tax returns showing income.

His consultant's strategy: locate his former supervisor through LinkedIn and request a personal statutory declaration (even without company letterhead); obtain a business registration search confirming the company's former existence; gather Form 16 from the Income Tax department; and prepare a comprehensive statutory declaration by Vikram himself attesting to his employment history, duties, and reasons why formal documentation was unavailable.

Result: Positive MSA result. The combination of bank evidence, tax records, supervisor declaration, and Vikram's own statutory declaration was sufficient.

Key lesson: Never assume a missing reference letter means the application must fail. Secondary and tertiary evidence can substitute.

Case Study 2: The Wrong ANZSCO Code

Paramjit was a fabricator and welder in Punjab who submitted a TRA application under ANZSCO 322313 (Welder First Class). His application was rejected — TRA found his experience was primarily fabrication, fitting, and assembly rather than welding-focused. The correct code was 322311 (Metal Fabricator).

A new application was submitted under 322311 with reference letters specifically revised to emphasise fabrication duties (plasma cutting, assembly, drilling, forming). The new application was successful.

The wrong code cost Paramjit 6 months and AUD 400 in additional fees.

Key lesson: Get professional code advice before submission, not after rejection.

Case Study 3: The Self-Employed Carpenter Who Thought He Had No Chance

Dinesh had been self-employed as a carpenter in Ahmedabad for 12 years. No employer reference letters. He thought TRA would reject him immediately.

Over 12 years, Dinesh had: GST registration and 12 years of quarterly returns; income tax returns showing construction income each year; bank statements with consistent project deposits; his business registration and trade licence; invoices he had issued to builders (kept paper copies of hundreds); and 8 willing client references from builders and developers who described his work in detail.

The consultant built a self-employment package from all of the above plus a detailed statutory declaration by Dinesh describing his project types, tools used, and specific carpentry operations.

Result: Positive MSA result. Key lesson: 12 years of well-organised self-employment evidence is often more compelling than 12 years of employee payslips.

Case Study 4: The Age Factor — Acting at 44

Surendran was 44 years old — the last age group to receive any points (15 pts for 40-44). He was a diesel mechanic with 20 years of experience. His consultant ran the numbers: age 15 + employment 15 + English 0 + Diploma 10 = 40 base points. He needed 65

minimum — a 25-point gap impossible to close through normal points accumulation.

Strategy: the points test was not viable. The best pathway was employer sponsorship (Subclass 482). A mining contractor in Queensland was actively seeking experienced diesel mechanics with Caterpillar certification. Surendran's consultant helped prepare a compelling CV highlighting his Cat and Komatsu experience.

Result: The Queensland contractor offered a Subclass 482 sponsorship. He is now working at a mine site near Rockhampton, with a clear pathway to permanent residence (Subclass 186) after 2 years.

Key lesson: When the points test is not viable, employer sponsorship is a powerful alternative pathway.

Case Study 5: The Career-Changer With Limited Trade Experience

Deepika had worked as an HVAC technician for 4 years, but before that had spent 6 years as an administrative assistant. The administrative years were completely irrelevant to TRA. Her 4 years of HVAC experience — while meeting the minimum — needed to be presented very strongly.

Her consultant's strategy: focus intensely on demonstrating the breadth of her 4 years of HVAC experience. Reference letters described every system type she had worked on — split, ducted, VRV/VRF, refrigeration, BMS interfaces. Manufacturer training certificates from Daikin, Carrier, and Midea were included. References described her as competent to independently commission and maintain all systems.

Result: Positive MSA result based on 4 years of well-documented, comprehensive HVAC experience.

Key lesson: Quality and breadth of documented experience matters as much as quantity of years.

Reference: Australian Occupation Demand and Salary Data by Trade (2026)

All figures are approximate based on Australian Government Labour Market Insights and SEEK salary surveys as of 2026. Rates for newly arrived migrants may be 10-20% lower initially.

Trade	Employee (AUD/yr)	FIFO/Mining	Self-Employed	Demand Level
Electrician	\$75,000 – \$110,000	\$100,000 – \$140,000	\$120,000 – \$200,000+	CRITICAL SHORTAGE
Plumber	\$70,000 – \$105,000	\$95,000 – \$130,000	\$120,000 – \$200,000+	CRITICAL SHORTAGE
HVAC Mechanic	\$70,000 – \$110,000	\$90,000 – \$130,000	\$100,000 – \$180,000	VERY HIGH
Welder	\$70,000 – \$105,000	\$100,000 – \$140,000	\$90,000 – \$150,000	VERY HIGH
Motor Mechanic	\$60,000 – \$95,000	\$85,000 – \$120,000	\$90,000 – \$160,000	HIGH
Diesel Mechanic	\$75,000 – \$110,000	\$100,000 – \$140,000	\$95,000 – \$140,000	VERY HIGH
Carpenter	\$60,000 – \$95,000	N/A	\$80,000 – \$140,000	VERY HIGH
Metal Fabricator	\$70,000 – \$105,000	\$95,000 – \$135,000	\$85,000 – \$140,000	HIGH
Fitter and Turner	\$65,000 – \$100,000	\$90,000 – \$130,000	\$80,000 – \$130,000	HIGH
Bricklayer	\$60,000 – \$90,000	N/A	\$80,000 – \$130,000	HIGH
Painter	\$55,000 – \$85,000	N/A	\$70,000 – \$120,000	MODERATE

Reference: Complete 24-Month Migration Timeline (Worked Example)

A realistic month-by-month timeline for a tradesperson migrating from India to Australia. Based on the median experience across hundreds of successful cases.

Month 1: Initial consultation with migration agent. ANZSCO code confirmed. Points score calculated (estimated 70 pts). Decision: target Subclass 491, South Australia. Begin IELTS preparation. Begin document collection.

Month 2: Collect payslips and bank statements for all employers. Draft reference letters with consultant guidance. First IELTS attempt: L:6.5, R:7.0, W:6.0, S:6.0 — Competent English but Writing and Speaking need improvement.

Month 3: Submit reference letters to employers for signing. Obtain curriculum comparison from training institute. Get qualifications certified. Source NAATI translator for non-English documents.

Month 4: Receive all certified and translated documents. Continue IELTS preparation. Second IELTS attempt: L:7.0, R:7.5, W:7.0, S:7.0 — Proficient English achieved. +10 points. New total: 80 points.

Month 5: Submit TRA MSA application. Receive TRA acknowledgement. Research South Australia's current 491 requirements. Begin researching suburbs and schools in Adelaide.

Months 6-9: TRA application under assessment. Continue English improvement. Study Australian electrical standards (AS/NZS 3000). Build LinkedIn connections with Adelaide employers.

Month 10: Receive positive TRA MSA result. Submit EOI on SkillSelect immediately at 80 points. Apply for SA 491 nomination simultaneously.

Month 11: SA nomination approved (+15 points = 95 total). Receive Invitation to Apply (ITA) within 3 weeks at 95 points.

Month 12: Book health examinations. Apply for police clearances from India. Begin collecting all visa application documents.

Month 13: Lodge Subclass 491 visa application. Receive Department acknowledgement. Start planning: accommodation, schools, vehicle, job search in Adelaide.

Months 14-16: Visa under assessment. Apply for initial jobs via LinkedIn and Seek. Confirm temporary accommodation in Adelaide.

Month 17: Subclass 491 visa granted. Book flights for family (spouse + 2 children). Transfer AUD 45,000 to Australian bank account.

Month 18: Arrive in Adelaide. Week 1: TFN applications, Medicare activation. Week 2: school enrolments, SIM cards. Month 1: White Card, begin Electrical Workers Licence study, job interviews.

Months 19-20: Start employment with Adelaide electrical contractor at AUD 82,000/year. Sit Electrical Workers Licence exam — pass first attempt. Find permanent rental in Salisbury at AUD 480/week.

Months 21-24: Settled. Children thriving at school. Salary increased to AUD 92,000. Planning to transition to subcontracting within 18 months. Will apply for Subclass 191 (permanent residence) at the 3-year mark.

Key Takeaways from This Timeline

Total journey from Month 1 to arrival: 18 months — at the faster end of the typical 18-24 month range.

The second IELTS attempt in Month 4 was the turning point — 10 extra points transformed the entire strategy.

The applicant arrived with job leads already established and licensing study begun. This is the difference between 1 month to first paycheck vs. 3-4 months.

A migration consultant throughout reduced errors, delays, and stress significantly.

Advanced Job Search Strategies for Migrant Tradespersons

Most migration guides tell you to search on Seek and Indeed. This is not wrong — but it is incomplete. The tradespersons who find the best jobs fastest use a multi-layered strategy.

Channel 1: Direct Employer Approach (Highest Quality)

The best jobs — the ones with the best employers, best pay, and most security — are rarely posted on job boards. They are filled before anyone has a chance to post them.

- Identify the 20 companies in your trade sector in your target city that you most want to work for.
- Find the site manager or hiring manager on LinkedIn — not HR.
- Call or email directly: 'I am a qualified [TRADE] with [X] years of experience, recently arrived with a [VISA] visa. I am interested in working for your company. Would you be available for a brief call?'
- 90% of approaches will be ignored. 10% will lead to conversations. 2-3% will lead to job offers. This is normal — keep going.
- The tone must be confident, not desperate. You have skills. They have a shortage. You are a solution.

Channel 2: Trade Recruitment Agencies (Fastest)

Trade recruitment agencies place tradespersons as labour-hire workers. Pay is typically 10-20% lower than direct employment, but placement is far faster. Register with at least 3 agencies before you arrive.

- Hays Construction and Property — national, strong in commercial and industrial
- Skilled Group (now Programmed) — national, strong in mining and resources
- Tradestaff — specialist trade recruitment, particularly strong in regional areas
- Chandler Macleod — strong in government and large infrastructure projects

Your Australian CV — Key Differences From Indian CVs

Include	Do NOT Include
Full name, phone, email, suburb (not full address)	Photograph
3-sentence professional summary: trade + years + specialty	Date of birth or age
Current visa status and work rights	Religion, caste, or marital status
TRA assessment result and ANZSCO code	Full home address
State licence number (once obtained)	References (say 'Available on request')
Key technical skills: specific equipment, standards	Long personal objectives paragraphs
Work history reverse chronological: employer, dates, duties	Irrelevant early career history

The Long View: Permanent Residence, Citizenship, and Building Wealth

The best migration journeys are not measured by the arrival — they are measured by what you build over 10, 20, 30 years. This chapter gives you the long view.

From 491 to Permanent Residence — Subclass 191

If you arrived on a Subclass 491 regional visa, you can apply for Subclass 191 (permanent residence) after 3 years of living and working in a designated regional area. The income requirement: at least AUD 53,900 per year in skilled employment in at least 2 of the 3 years.

For most skilled tradespersons earning AUD 70,000-100,000+, this threshold is straightforward to meet. The key is maintaining your regional residence and employment records carefully for all 3 years.

Australian Citizenship

Citizenship is available to permanent residents who have lived in Australia for 4 years, including at least 1 year as a permanent resident. Requirements: pass a citizenship test, demonstrate English language proficiency, and meet character requirements.

For most skilled migrant tradesperson families, citizenship becomes available approximately 5-6 years after arriving on a 491 visa (3 yrs to PR + 1 yr as PR + processing). An Australian passport provides visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 180+ countries.

Building Long-Term Wealth — The Three Pillars

Wealth Pillar	How to Build It
Superannuation	Choose a low-fee industry super fund (AustralianSuper, REST, Hostplus). Select a high-growth investment option if under 50. Consider voluntary additional contributions — tax-deductible.
Property	Buy your first home as soon as financially feasible. Target areas with population growth and trade employment. Regional cities often offer better yields than major cities.
Business	Progress from employee to subcontractor to business owner as your licence and client base allow. Even a small trade business operated for 10+ years creates significant wealth.

Tax Deductions for Tradespersons

Lodge your tax return by 31 October each year. Use a registered tax accountant for your first two years in Australia. Key deductions available to tradespersons:

- Tools and equipment (under AUD 300 can be immediately deducted; over AUD 300 depreciated)
- Safety clothing and PPE (boots, hi-vis, hard hat, ear and eye protection)
- Work-related vehicle expenses (logbook method: keep a logbook for 12 weeks)
- Union fees and professional membership fees (fully deductible)
- Self-education costs directly related to your trade
- Home office expenses if you do administrative work from home

Self-Assessment Worksheet: Are You Ready?

Use this worksheet to honestly assess your current readiness. Mark each item — then use the gaps as your preparation action list.

Readiness Item	Done ✓	In Progress	Not Started
Confirmed correct ANZSCO occupation code			
Confirmed TRA is my assessing body			
Calculated preliminary points score			
Have IELTS/PTE score of 6.0+ (all bands)			
Have IELTS/PTE score of 7.0+ (Proficient English)			
Collected payslips/bank statements for all employment			
Obtained detailed reference letters from all employers			
Qualifications certified and translated (if non-English)			
Identity documents certified (passport, birth cert)			
Consulted a registered migration consultant			
Identified target state(s) for nomination			
Built migration fund to recommended minimum			

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Researched suburbs, schools, and rental prices in target city			
Set up or applied for Australian bank account			
Understand TRA MSA application process			
Understand SkillSelect EOI process			
Have a written 12-month action plan			
Researched post-arrival licensing requirements			
Begun studying Australian trade standards			
Discussed and aligned migration plan with entire family			

A Letter from the Author

You have now worked through a comprehensive guide to Australian trade migration. I want to leave you with something simpler than strategy, timelines, or checklists. I want to leave you with the truth as I have witnessed it.

In twenty-five years of doing this work, I have helped thousands of families change their lives. The ones who succeeded were not necessarily the most qualified. They were not always the ones with the best English scores. They were not always the ones with the highest points totals.

The ones who succeeded were the ones who decided — truly decided — that they were going to make this happen. They gathered their documents with patience. They studied for their English tests at 5am before work. They wrote and rewrote their reference letters until every duty description was specific and compelling. And when they were rejected or delayed, they stood back up and kept going.

The motor mechanic from Pune who now runs his own EV workshop in Perth. The welder from Ludhiana whose children are at university in Brisbane. The electrician from Chennai who just hired his tenth employee. The plumber from Mumbai who sent me a photo of the keys to his first Australian home.

Your trade is real. Your experience is real. The demand for your skills in Australia is real.

Australia is waiting for you. Start your preparation today.

Manoj Palwe, RCIC (R422575)

Toronto, Canada — 2026

www.dreamvisas.com

Deep Dive: Australian Trade Licencing — State by State

Licencing is one of the most consequential post-arrival tasks for trades requiring a state licence. Getting licensed quickly determines how fast you can work independently and how much you earn. This chapter goes beyond the brief mentions in the trade chapters and gives you a detailed, state-by-state breakdown.

Why Australian Licencing Is Different From Your Home Country

In most countries, a trade qualification is sufficient to practice your trade. In Australia, many trades require a state-issued licence — separate from and in addition to any TRA skills assessment or trade certificate. The licence is what legally permits you to work in Australia.

The important distinction: your TRA assessment is what gets you the visa. The state licence is what gets you the job. You cannot legally work as an electrician or plumber in Australia without a state licence, regardless of how qualified you are overseas.

Trades That Require State Licencing

Trade	Licence Required?
Electrician (General)	YES — state Electrical Workers Licence mandatory in all states
Plumber (General)	YES — state Plumbing Licence mandatory in all states

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Plumber (Gas Fitting)	YES — separate Gas Work Licence required in addition to Plumbing Licence
HVAC Mechanic	YES — Refrigerant Handling Licence mandatory. Restricted Electrical Licence in most states.
Welder	NO licence required — but coded weld test may be required by employer for specific procedures
Motor Mechanic	NO general licence — but Vehicle Examiner Licence required for roadworthy inspections
Diesel Mechanic	NO general licence required
Carpenter	NO general licence — but Builder's Licence required if managing projects over a threshold value
Fitter and Turner	NO general licence required
Bricklayer	NO general licence — Builder's Licence required for project management roles
Painter and Decorator	NO general licence — Painter's Licence required in QLD only
Metal Fabricator	NO general licence required

Electrician — State Licencing Details

The electrical workers licence in Australia is issued at the state and territory level. While the name and process varies, the competency standard is consistent: you must demonstrate knowledge of AS/NZS 3000 (the Australian Wiring Rules) and relevant state-specific regulations.

State	Licence Name
NSW	Electrical Worker Licence
VIC	Electrical Work Licence
QLD	Electrical Work Licence (Unrestricted)
WA	Electrician's Licence
SA	Electrical Worker's Licence
TAS	Electrical Practitioner Licence
NT	Electrical Contractor Licence
ACT	Electrical Workers Licence

Plumber — State Licencing Details

Plumbing licences follow a similar state-by-state structure. Most states require a written theory examination based on the Plumbing Code of Australia (NCC Volume 3) and relevant state amendments.

Critical distinction: in most states, you need a Plumbing Licence and a separate Gasfitting Licence to do gas work. These are two separate exams and two separate fees. If you want to do both — which significantly increases your earning potential — plan for both from day one.

State	Plumbing Licence Issuing Body
NSW	NSW Fair Trading
VIC	Victorian Building Authority (VBA)
QLD	QBCC (Queensland Building and Construction Commission)
WA	Building and Energy WA
SA	Consumer and Business Services SA
TAS	Occupational Licensing (CBOS Tasmania)
NT	NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
ACT	Access Canberra

How to Prepare for Your Licensing Exam Before Arrival

The single most effective thing you can do to reduce the time between arrival and being fully licensed is to study for your licensing exam before you leave home. This is completely feasible — all the study materials are available online.

For Electricians: Study these documents

- AS/NZS 3000:2018 — Wiring Rules (the foundation of all Australian electrical work)
- AS/NZS 3008.1 — Electrical Installations (cable selection)
- AS/NZS 3017 — Testing and Verification of Electrical Installations
- Your target state's specific electrical safety regulations (available free on state government websites)

- Previous exam papers — TAFE colleges in your target state often publish sample questions online

For Plumbers: Study these documents

- National Construction Code (NCC) Volume 3 — Plumbing Code of Australia (free download at abcb.gov.au)
- AS/NZS 3500 — Plumbing and Drainage series (4 parts: Water services, Sanitary plumbing, Stormwater, Heated water)
- Your target state's plumbing regulations and local variations
- The Gas Installation Code (AG 601) if you plan to do gasfitting work

Strategic Advice: Sit the Exam in Month 1

The fastest path to full independent earning capacity is to sit your licensing exam in your very first month in Australia.

If you study for 3-4 months before departure, you should be able to walk into your exam shortly after arrival and pass.

Every week you are working under supervision (as an unlicensed assistant) rather than independently costs you money. An independent electrician earns 20-40% more than an unlicensed assistant.

Book your exam slot before you arrive. Most states allow online booking. Pick a date 3-4 weeks after your arrival date.

If you fail, you can resit. Failing once is not catastrophic. Failing because you did not study is preventable.

Advanced Job Search Strategies for Migrant Tradespersons

Most migration guides tell you to 'search on Seek and Indeed.' This advice is not wrong — but it is incomplete. The tradespersons who find the best jobs, fastest, use a multi-layered strategy that goes well beyond job boards. This chapter gives you that strategy.

The Three Channels That Actually Work

Channel 1: Direct Employer Approach (Highest Quality)

The highest quality jobs — the ones with the best employers, best pay, and most secure tenure — are never posted on job boards. They are filled by referral or direct approach before anyone has a chance to post them publicly.

- Identify the 20 companies in your trade sector in your target city that you most want to work for.
- Find the name of the hiring manager or site manager on LinkedIn — not HR, not the receptionist.
- Call or email directly: 'I am a qualified [TRADE] with [X] years of experience, recently arrived from [COUNTRY] with a [VISA TYPE] visa. I am interested in working for your company. Would you be available for a brief call?'
- 90% of calls and emails will be ignored. 10% will lead to conversations. 2-3% will lead to job offers. This is normal and expected — do not be discouraged.
- The tone must be confident, not desperate. You have skills. They have a shortage. You are a solution to their problem.

Channel 2: Trade Recruitment Agencies (Fastest)

Trade recruitment agencies place tradespersons with employers as labour-hire workers. You work at the employer's site but are technically employed by the agency. The pay is typically 10-20% lower than direct employment, but the speed of placement is far faster.

- Hays Construction and Property — national, strong in commercial and industrial
- Skilled Group (now part of Programmed) — national, strong in mining and resources
- Tradestaff — specialist trade recruitment, particularly strong in regional areas
- Adecco Australia — broad coverage, trades division
- Chandler Macleod — particularly strong in government and large infrastructure projects
- Michael Page Engineering — for supervisory and project management roles in trades

Register with at least 3 agencies before you arrive. Send your CV, visa documentation, TRA assessment result, and English score. A good agency consultant will maintain your profile and contact you when a suitable role appears.

Channel 3: Community Networks (Most Sustainable)

The most sustainable source of work for a tradesperson in Australia is word-of-mouth referral. Australian builders, construction managers, and homeowners heavily favour tradespeople they have been personally recommended. Building this referral network takes 12-18 months — but once it is established, you will rarely need to advertise for work again.

- Join your state's professional trade association and attend every local chapter event.
- Connect with other Indian/South Asian tradespersons in your city — they often have more referrals than they can handle and will pass work to trusted contacts.

- Attend migrant community events — other migrants become clients, and clients become referrers.
- Be the tradesperson who always calls back, always turns up on time, and always does clean work. Word travels fast in tight-knit Australian trade communities.

Your Australian CV — What Is Different

Australian CVs are different from Indian CVs in important ways. A good Australian CV for a tradesperson is typically 2-3 pages maximum. It does not include a photograph. It does not list age, marital status, or religion. It opens with a brief professional summary.

Include in Your Australian Trade CV	Do NOT Include
Full name, phone, email, suburb (not full address)	Photograph
Brief 3-sentence professional summary: trade + years + specialty	Date of birth or age
Current visa status and work rights	Religion or caste
TRA assessment result and occupation code	Marital status or family details
State licence number (once obtained)	Full home address
Key technical skills: specific equipment, standards, systems	References (say 'available on request')
Work history in reverse chronological order: employer, dates, key duties	Irrelevant work history (e.g. early career in a different field)
Qualifications with institution and year	Copies of certificates (attach separately when requested)

Manufacturer training and certifications	Long personal descriptions or objectives paragraphs
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Interview Preparation: Australian Style

Australian job interviews for trades positions are typically informal compared to corporate interviews, but they cover specific ground that you must be ready for.

Standard Questions for Trades Interviews

- Tell me about yourself — prepare a 90-second summary: trade, years, specialty, why Australia, what you bring.
- What's your experience with [specific system/equipment]? — be ready to give specifics, not generalities.
- Have you worked to Australian standards before? — answer honestly. If no, explain how you are studying them and how quickly you adapted to new standards previously.
- What's your current visa situation and work rights? — be clear and factual. Most employers are comfortable with permanent resident or 491 visas.
- When can you start? — have a real answer ready.
- Do you have your licence/White Card? — be clear on the status of your licensing.

Behavioural Questions (STAR Method)

Australian employers increasingly ask behavioural questions — 'Tell me about a time when...' These require structured answers. Use the STAR method: Situation (what was the context), Task (what was required), Action (what YOU did), Result (what happened).

Example: 'Tell me about a time you dealt with a safety issue on site.'

STAR Answer: 'On a commercial fitout in Pune in 2022 (Situation), I was the leading hand responsible for 8 workers (Task). I noticed a colleague using a non-insulated screwdriver near a live panel. I

stopped work immediately, isolated the circuit, and conducted an on-the-spot safety debrief with the team (Action). No injury occurred, and we introduced a daily tool inspection checklist which my supervisor adopted across all their sites (Result).'

The First 90 Days on an Australian Worksite

Your first 90 days working as a tradesperson in Australia set the foundation for your entire Australian career. These are the habits and attitudes that distinguish the migrants who rise quickly from those who stay stuck at entry level.

- Arrive 10 minutes early every day. This is noticed and remembered.
- Ask questions, especially about Australian standards and local practices that differ from your home country.
- Never assume — confirm instructions before starting a significant task.
- Learn every colleague's name by the end of Week 1.
- Volunteer for extra tasks and difficult jobs. Being willing demonstrates character.
- Maintain your tools immaculately. In Australia, how you care for your tools signals how you work.
- Document everything on paper: site diaries, material orders, issues encountered. This protects you legally.
- Never complain about the work, the conditions, or your colleagues — at least not in your first 3 months.
- If you see a safety hazard, report it immediately and in writing. Safety culture is non-negotiable.
- After 90 days, ask your supervisor for feedback. Most Australian supervisors appreciate the directness.

Digital Tools and Apps for Your Australian Migration Journey

The right digital tools can save you hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars throughout your migration and settlement process. This chapter curates the most useful apps, websites, and online platforms across every stage of your journey.

Immigration and Visa Management

Tool / App	What It Does
ImmiAccount (homeaffairs.gov.au)	The official Australian immigration portal — where you submit your visa application, upload documents, and track your application status.
SkillSelect (immi.homeaffairs.gov.au)	Where you submit and manage your Expression of Interest (EOI).
VEVO (Visa Entitlement Verification Online)	Confirms your visa conditions and work rights — you can share this link with employers.
myGov (my.gov.au)	Links your Medicare, ATO, Centrelink, and other government services in one account.

Job Search and Career

Tool / App	What It Does
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AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Seek (seek.com.au)	Australia's largest job board. Set up job alerts for your trade immediately.
LinkedIn	Professional networking. Essential for connecting with Australian employers before and after arrival.
Indeed (indeed.com.au)	Aggregates jobs from multiple sources. Good for finding smaller companies.
Hipages (hipages.com.au)	Australia's largest trade lead platform for self-employed tradespersons.
Airtasker (airtasker.com)	Smaller jobs and one-off tasks. Good for building initial Australian reviews when self-employed.

Financial Management

Tool / App	What It Does
Wise (wise.com)	International money transfers at near-interbank rates. Far cheaper than banks for sending money to India.
Remitly (remitly.com)	Another excellent transfer service for India remittances.
ATO app (Australian Taxation Office)	Track your tax return, check superannuation contributions, manage TFN.
Xero or MYOB	Accounting software for sole traders and small businesses — used by most Australian trade businesses.

Sorted (sorted.org.nz/tools)	Free money management tool — helps with budgeting in Australian context.
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Housing and Living

Tool / App	What It Does
realestate.com.au	Australia's largest property site — for both renting and buying.
domain.com.au	Second largest property site — use both when searching for rentals.
1form (1form.com.au)	Online rental application system used by most Australian real estate agents.
Near Map / Google Maps	Research suburbs, commute times, school proximity before committing to a rental area.
Numbeo (numbeo.com)	Cost of living comparison tool — useful for comparing different Australian cities.

Trade-Specific Digital Tools

Tool / App	What It Does
ServiceM8	Job management app widely used by Australian electrical, plumbing, and HVAC contractors — invoicing, scheduling, quoting.
Tradify	Another popular trade job management app — simpler and lower cost than ServiceM8.

AUSTRALIA CALLING — FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADESPERSONS (OFFSHORE & ONSHORE)

Electrical CAD tools (e.g., Elecworks)	Drawing and specification software — useful to learn before arrival.
Groundplan	Takeoff and estimating app for construction tradespeople.
ATO Tax Withheld Calculator	Instantly calculate how much tax should be withheld from your pay — verify your employer is doing this correctly.

Building Your Australian Network: Community and Professional Connections

Migration is not just about getting a visa and finding a job. Long-term success in Australia depends heavily on the networks you build — professionally and personally. This chapter gives you a practical guide to building those connections.

The Indian-Australian Community

Australia has one of the world's largest and most established Indian diaspora communities. In Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Perth, there are strong, active communities of Indian professionals and tradespersons who have been through exactly the experience you are about to face.

The Indian community in Australia is enormously diverse — by state of origin, religion, language, and profession. Within that diversity, there are specific trade and professional groups that are directly relevant to you.

- Search Facebook for 'Indians in [YOUR TARGET CITY]', 'Punjabis in Melbourne', 'Maharashtrians in Sydney' — these groups have hundreds of thousands of members.
- Search for trade-specific groups: 'Indian Electricians in Australia', 'Indian Plumbers Australia', 'Skilled Migrants Australia Trades'.
- The Overseas Indian Community in Australia regularly organises events — good for professional networking.
- Local Indian temples, mosques, churches, and cultural organisations are genuine community anchors — and their members are often the first people who will tell you about job openings.

- The Indian Association in major cities (Indian Association of NSW, Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria, etc.) runs events and can connect you with established community members.

Professional Industry Associations

Joining your industry association is one of the most effective investments you can make in your Australian career. Associations run networking events, publish industry news, provide legal support, and maintain directories that clients use to find qualified tradespeople.

Trade	Relevant Industry Association
Electrician	NECA (National Electrical and Communications Association) — neca.asn.au
Plumber	Master Plumbers Australia — masterplumbers.com.au
HVAC Mechanic	AIRAH (Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating) — airah.org.au
Carpenter / Builder	Master Builders Australia — masterbuilders.com.au
Welder / Fabricator	Weld Australia — weldaustralia.com.au
Motor Mechanic	MTA (Motor Trades Association) — mta.com.au
Diesel Mechanic	ATA (Australian Trucking Association) — truck.net.au
Painter	Master Painters Australia — masterpainters.com.au

Fitter and Turner	SEMMA (Specialist Engineering and Manufacturing Manufacturers' Association)
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Online Communities for Migrant Tradespersons

- Reddit r/australia and r/AusFinance — practical community advice on all aspects of Australian life
- Reddit r/ImmigrationAustralia — specific migration questions and experiences
- Expat Forum Australia (expatforum.com) — long-established English-language community
- Facebook group 'Skilled Migration to Australia' — active community of applicants and settled migrants
- Facebook group 'Tradespeople in Australia' — trade-specific employment and professional discussions
- LinkedIn groups for your specific trade in Australia — excellent for direct employer connections

Volunteering — The Underestimated Settlement Strategy

Volunteering with community organisations is one of the most underrated strategies for new migrants. It achieves multiple goals simultaneously: it builds your Australian network, it builds your English confidence in a low-pressure environment, it generates Australian references for job applications, and it counters the isolation that many new migrants experience.

- Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Australia — skilled tradespersons build homes for disadvantaged families. Directly relevant to your trade skills.
- Volunteer with St Vincent de Paul or Salvation Army — they often need tradespersons for property maintenance.

- Many local councils run community garden and public space improvement programmes that welcome skilled volunteers.
- Surf Life Saving Australia — one of Australia's most iconic volunteer organisations. Excellent for meeting locals and building community connections.

The Long View: Permanent Residence, Citizenship, and Building Wealth

This book has focused primarily on getting to Australia. But the best migration journeys are not measured by the arrival — they are measured by what you build over 10, 20, 30 years. This final strategic chapter gives you the long view.

From 491 to Permanent Residence (Subclass 191)

If you arrived on a Subclass 491 regional visa, you will be eligible to apply for the Subclass 191 permanent visa after living and working in a regional area for 3 years. The 191 visa has specific income requirements — you must have earned at least AUD 53,900 per year (in at least 2 of the 3 years) from skilled employment.

For most skilled tradespersons, meeting this income threshold is straightforward — the typical trade income of AUD 70,000-100,000 is well above the requirement. The key is maintaining your regional residence and employment records carefully for all 3 years.

Subclass 191 Requirement	Notes
3 years residence in a regional area	Your place of residence must be in a designated regional area for all 3 years
Income threshold — AUD 53,900+/year	Must be met in at least 2 of the 3 years (not necessarily the most recent)
Skilled employment throughout	Employment must be in your nominated skilled occupation or a closely related skilled occupation

Valid 491 visa for full 3 years	The 491 visa must not have been cancelled or breached
No character or health issues	Standard migration health and character requirements apply at 191 application stage

Australian Citizenship — The Ultimate Goal for Many Families

Australian citizenship is available to permanent residents who have lived in Australia for 4 years (including at least 1 year as a permanent resident). The citizenship application requires: passing a citizenship test, demonstrating English language proficiency, and meeting character requirements.

For most skilled migrant tradesperson families, citizenship becomes available approximately 5-6 years after arriving on a 491 visa (3 years to PR + 1 year minimum as PR + processing time). For those who arrived directly on a 190 permanent visa, citizenship is available after 4 years from the date of arrival as a permanent resident.

Australian citizenship provides: an Australian passport (visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 180+ countries), full voting rights, access to all government employment, and the ability to sponsor family members to migrate.

Building Long-Term Wealth in Australia

One of the most powerful aspects of the Australian economic system for skilled migrants is the combination of high wages, low taxation on investments, and a well-structured superannuation system. Used strategically, a tradesperson who arrives in Australia at 35 can retire comfortably by 65 with far greater financial security than was possible in their home country.

The Three-Pillar Wealth Strategy for Australian Tradespersons

Wealth Pillar	How to Optimise It
Pillar 1: Superannuation	Choose a low-fee industry super fund (UniSuper, REST, AustralianSuper, HESTA). Consider voluntary additional contributions — they are tax-deductible. Review your fund's investment option and choose a high-growth option if you are under 50.
Pillar 2: Property	Buy your first home as soon as financially feasible. Property ownership in Australia builds wealth through capital appreciation and forced savings. Target areas with population growth, infrastructure investment, and trade employment. Regional cities often offer better yields than major cities.
Pillar 3: Business/Income Growth	Progress from employee to subcontractor to business owner as rapidly as your licence and client base allow. Business owners build equity, tax advantages, and assets that employees cannot. Even a small trade business operated efficiently for 10+ years creates significant wealth.

Tax Minimisation for Tradespersons — Legitimate Strategies

Australian tax law provides numerous legitimate deductions for tradespersons that can significantly reduce your annual tax bill. Using these correctly is not tax evasion — it is your legal entitlement.

- Tools and equipment (under AUD 300 can be immediately deducted; over AUD 300 depreciated)

- Safety clothing and protective equipment (boots, hi-vis, hard hat, ear and eye protection)
- Work-related vehicle expenses (logbook method allows you to claim a proportion of all vehicle costs)
- Union fees and professional membership fees (fully deductible)
- Work-related telephone and internet costs (proportion used for work)
- Self-education costs directly related to your trade (courses, textbooks, exam fees)
- Home office expenses if you do any administrative work from home
- Tools and equipment repairs and maintenance

A qualified tax accountant (not a generic tax agent app) is worth their fee many times over for a tradesperson. The average tradesperson who uses a professional accountant gets a higher refund and avoids costly mistakes that can trigger ATO audits. Budget AUD 300-500 per year for a professional accountant — treat it as an investment.

Sending Money Home — Tax and Legal Considerations

Many Australian tradespersons support family in India through regular remittances. From a legal standpoint, there is no restriction on how much money you send from Australia. However, there are reporting requirements and potential tax implications you should understand.

- Transfers over AUD 10,000 are automatically reported to AUSTRAC (Australia's financial intelligence agency). This is routine and does not create tax problems — it is simply a regulatory reporting requirement.

- The money you send home is money you have already paid Australian income tax on — so there is no additional Australian tax on remittances.
- In India, recipients of foreign remittances may have declaration requirements. Recipients should consult an Indian CA about this.
- Use Wise, OFX, or Remitly for all international transfers — these services provide transaction records that are useful for both Australian and Indian tax purposes.

Appendix I: Complete ANZSCO Code Reference for Trade Occupations

The ANZSCO code is the numerical identifier for your occupation in the Australian immigration system. Using the correct code is critical — the wrong code means assessment against the wrong qualification standard and potential ineligibility for some visa streams. This appendix lists the ANZSCO codes for all trade occupations commonly migrated to Australia.

Code	Occupation Title	Assessing Body	Equiv. Australian Qual.
321111	Agricultural Engineer	Engineers Australia	Bachelor of Engineering
321211	Motor Mechanic (General)	TRA	Cert III Auto Light Vehicle Tech
321212	Diesel Motor Mechanic	TRA	Cert III Heavy Commercial Vehicle
321213	Motorcycle Mechanic	TRA	Cert III Motorcycle Mechanical Tech
321214	Small Engine Mechanic	TRA	Cert III Small Engine Technology
322311	Metal Fabricator	TRA	Cert III Engineering – Fabrication
322313	Welder (First Class)	TRA	Cert III Engineering – Fabrication
323211	Fitter (General)	TRA	Cert III Engineering – Mechanical
323212	Fitter and Turner	TRA	Cert III Engineering – Mechanical
323213	Fitter-Welder	TRA	Cert III Engineering – Mechanical
323214	Metal Machinist	TRA	Cert III Engineering –

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	(First Class)		Mechanical
331111	Bricklayer	TRA	Cert III Bricklaying/Blocklaying
331211	Stonemason	TRA	Cert III Bricklaying/Blocklaying
331212	Carpenter	TRA	Cert III Carpentry
331213	Carpenter and Joiner	TRA	Cert III Carpentry and Joinery
332211	Painter (Buildings)	TRA	Cert III Painting and Decorating
333111	Glazier	TRA	Cert III Glass and Glazing
333211	Plasterer	TRA	Cert III Painting and Decorating
333311	Roof Tiler	TRA	Cert III Roofing (Roof Tiling)
334111	Plumber (General)	TRA	Cert III Plumbing
334112	Airconditioning and Mechanical Services Plumber	TRA	Cert III Plumbing
334113	Drainer	TRA	Cert III Plumbing
334114	Gasfitter	TRA	Cert III Plumbing
334115	Roof Plumber	TRA	Cert III Plumbing
341111	Electrician (General)	TRA	Cert III Electrotechnology Electrician
341112	Electrician (Special Class)	TRA	Cert III Electrotechnology Electrician
341113	Lift Mechanic	TRA	Cert III Electrotechnology Electrician
342111	Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic	TRA	Cert III Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

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342211	Electrical Linesworker	TRA	Cert III Electrotechnology Electrician
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Note: Always verify occupation lists at homeaffairs.gov.au as skilled occupation lists are updated regularly. The assessing body and qualification equivalency information is current as of 2026. Some occupations may also be assessed by state-based assessing bodies in specific circumstances — confirm with your migration agent.

Appendix J: The Complete Reference Letter Writing Guide

The reference letter is the single most important document in your TRA application. This appendix provides a comprehensive guide to writing, obtaining, and verifying reference letters across all 11 trade types covered in this book.

The Seven Elements of an Effective TRA Reference Letter

Element	What Must Be Included
1. Letterhead	Company name, address, phone, email, website, company logo. Without letterhead, TRA treats the letter with suspicion.
2. Date	The date the letter was written. Should be within the last 12 months.
3. Employment identification	Your full legal name, your job title, employment dates (DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY), full-time or part-time, hours per week.
4. Duty descriptions	Minimum 6-8 specific trade duties. Each must name specific equipment, standards, materials, or procedures. Vague statements like 'performed electrical work' are rejected.

5. Competency confirmation	A statement that you performed the work competently and without supervision (or, if you were supervised, describe the level of supervision).
6. Signatory identification	Full name, job title, direct phone number, and direct email address of the person signing. TRA may contact them to verify.
7. Signature and date	Original handwritten signature (not printed). Some countries may require a company seal — check TRA's country-specific requirements.

Trade-Specific Duty Keywords for Reference Letters

The following keywords and phrases are what TRA assessors look for in reference letters for each trade. Make sure every reference letter includes multiple items from the relevant list.

Electrician — Key Terms

- install and terminate
- commission
- AS/NZS 3000 Wiring Rules
- distribution boards
- switchboards
- RCDs and MCBs
- cable termination
- single-line diagrams
- fault diagnosis
- control systems
- 3-phase power

- high voltage
- testing and verification

Plumber — Key Terms

- install and commission
- pressure test
- NCC Plumbing Code
- AS/NZS 3500
- copper and PVC pipe
- press-fit and solder joints
- drainage and stormwater
- gas installation
- hot water systems
- pump installation
- hydraulic drawings
- fault diagnosis

Welder — Key Terms

- MIG (GMAW)
- TIG (GTAW)
- MMAW (stick/SMAW)
- flat, horizontal, vertical, overhead positions
- weld procedure specification (WPS)
- weld symbols
- plasma cutting
- oxy-acetylene cutting
- visual inspection
- AS/NZS 1665
- AWS D1.1
- mild steel
- stainless steel
- aluminium

Motor Mechanic — Key Terms

- diagnose and repair
- engine overhaul
- scan tool diagnostics
- wiring diagrams
- logbook service
- brake systems
- transmission
- fuel injection
- hybrid/EV systems
- manufacturer service manual
- wheel alignment and balancing

Carpenter — Key Terms

- set out and erect
- wall framing
- roof trusses
- floor systems
- door and window frames
- architectural drawings
- timber grades
- formwork
- interior joinery
- skirting and architrave
- decking
- structural calculations

HVAC Mechanic — Key Terms

- install and commission
- split system
- ducted system

- VRV/VRF
- refrigerant charging
- leak detection
- refrigerant recovery
- electrical connections
- BMS interface
- compressor replacement
- cool room and freezer
- AS/NZS 5149
- Refrigerant Handling Licence

Handling Difficult Reference Letter Situations

Situation: Your supervisor has retired and is unavailable

Contact the company's HR department and request a letter from the current HR manager, citing records on file. If HR cannot help, contact your former supervisor's personal contact through LinkedIn or mutual colleagues. A statutory declaration from the supervisor — even without company letterhead — can supplement an HR letter.

Situation: The company policy prohibits detailed reference letters

Some large companies have a policy of only confirming dates of employment and job title. In this case, obtain the minimal official letter from HR, and supplement it with: a statutory declaration from your direct supervisor providing the detailed duty descriptions, and a formal memo from the company confirming that their policy restricts reference letter detail (this actually helps your case with TRA by explaining the gap).

Situation: You worked for a small family business that has no letterhead

Ask the employer to: create a simple letterhead using Microsoft Word (name, address, phone, email), get the letter printed on that letterhead, and sign it. Alternatively, have the employer's signature witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or notary and add a note explaining that the company operates as a sole trader with no formal letterhead. TRA is accustomed to small business documentation being less formal.

Situation: You cannot get a reference letter in English

Obtain the letter in whatever language the employer writes, then get a NAATI-certified translation. Do not attempt to translate reference letters yourself — only NAATI-certified translations are accepted by TRA.

Appendix M: State Nomination Calendar and Strategic Tips

State nomination programmes do not operate year-round at the same pace. Understanding the annual rhythm of each state's programme helps you time your EOI submission strategically.

How State Nomination Rounds Work

Each Australian state receives an annual allocation of nomination places from the federal government. Once those places are filled, the state stops accepting new nominations until the next financial year (July 1 to June 30).

Invitation rounds typically occur weekly or monthly depending on the state. Some states (Tasmania, SA) issue invitations almost every week. Others (NSW, VIC) batch them monthly or quarterly.

Critical Timing Insights

Timing Principle	What It Means
Start of financial year (July-August)	All state allocation quotas reset. This is the best time to have your EOI active — states issue the most nominations in Q1 of the financial year.
End of financial year (April-June)	Many states exhaust their nomination allocation. Invitation rounds may slow or stop entirely. Having an EOI submitted already is critical — you are in the queue.

January 'holiday slow-down'	January is typically quiet — fewer rounds, fewer invitations. Use this time for English improvement and document preparation.
Budget announcements (May)	The federal budget in May often announces changes to migration programme sizes. These changes take effect July 1 — monitor carefully.
State occupation list updates	States update their occupation lists 2-4 times per year. An occupation not on the list today may be added in the next update — and vice versa.

State-Specific Timing Tips

Western Australia

WA issues invitations every 2-3 weeks. WA is particularly active in Q1 (July-September) for construction and mining trades. The WA Skilled Migration programme often fills its construction trade allocation within the first 3 months of the financial year. If you miss the Q1 window, you may wait until July of the following year.

South Australia

SA has been the most consistently active state for trade occupation nominations. Weekly rounds, year-round availability, and proactive international outreach make SA the most accessible state nomination for new applicants. SA is the recommended starting point for applicants who have not yet monitored multiple state programmes.

Queensland

QLD operates fortnightly invitation rounds. Trade occupations are consistently strong — particularly diesel mechanics, electricians, and HVAC technicians. QLD also has a specialist regional pathway

for applicants willing to commit to regional Queensland (Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Toowoomba).

New South Wales

NSW has a competitive, quarterly nomination process. The minimum points score invited by NSW is typically higher than other states due to demand. However, NSW has an active regional stream (Newcastle, Wollongong, Central Coast) with lower cut-off scores.

Victoria

Victoria's nomination programme includes an offshore skilled worker stream that is particularly relevant for applicants outside Australia. Victoria tends to nominate in batches — check liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au for opening dates and act quickly when rounds open.

The Monitoring Routine — What to Do Every Week

- Every Monday: check each of your target state migration websites for nomination updates or new round announcements.
- Subscribe to email newsletters from each state migration programme — they send alerts when rounds open.
- Join Facebook groups for your target states — members often post nominations in real-time.
- Check homeaffairs.gov.au SkillSelect quarterly reports (released monthly) for invitation cut-off score trends.
- Set Google Alerts for '[STATE] skilled migration 2026 invitation' — Google will email you new articles.

What to Do While You Wait for an Invitation

The period between submitting your EOI and receiving an invitation can feel frustrating. But it is actually valuable preparation time.

Tradespersons who use this time well arrive in Australia already ahead.

Productive Activity	Why It Helps
Improve your English score	Every additional point reduces your wait time and improves your earning potential in Australia.
Study your Australian trade standard (AS/NZS 3000 etc.)	Prepares you for your licensing exam — potentially saving 3-6 months post-arrival.
Connect with Australian employers on LinkedIn	Warm connections become job offers faster than cold applications.
Research and save for specific Australian suburb/school	Concrete planning reduces settlement stress and speeds integration.
Learn Australian tax system basics	Enables you to set up your finances correctly from day one.
Study Australian workplace safety laws (WHS Act)	Australian safety culture will surprise you — pre-learning prevents workplace incidents.
Take a short business English course	Trade-specific English (report writing, quoting, email) opens supervisory and self-employment doors faster.
Watch Australian trade reality TV (The Block, Grand Designs)	Genuinely useful for terminology, culture, and understanding what Australian clients expect.

Quick Reference: Your Entire Migration Journey at a Glance

This one-page summary condenses everything in this book into a single reference. Pin it somewhere you can see it every day.

Phase	Key Actions	Success Criteria
Months 1-2: Foundation	Confirm ANZSCO code. Calculate points. Begin IELTS. Consult migration agent.	Points score calculated. IELTS enrolment confirmed. Agent engaged.
Months 3-4: Documents	Reference letters obtained. Qualifications certified and translated. Financial evidence gathered.	Complete document package ready for TRA review.
Months 5-6: TRA Application	Submit TRA MSA application. Continue English preparation. Research target state.	TRA application submitted — reference number received.
Months 7-9: Wait Productively	Improve English to 7.0+. Study Australian trade standard. Connect with Australian employers on LinkedIn.	IELTS 7.0+ achieved. Australian professional network begun.
Month 10: Positive TRA Result	Submit EOI on SkillSelect immediately. Apply for state nomination. Update English score in EOI.	EOI submitted. State nomination application lodged.
Months 11-12: Invitation	Receive ITA. Begin visa application. Book health exams. Get police clearances.	Visa application lodged within 60 days of ITA.

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Months 13-16: Visa Processing	Department assesses application. Respond to any requests promptly. Plan Australia move.	Visa granted. Practical planning underway.
Month 17-18: Departure	Book flights. Transfer funds. Arrange accommodation. Plan first week actions.	Flights booked. AUD 25,000-55,000 accessible on arrival.
Months 18-20: Arrival	Week 1: TFN, Medicare, bank. Month 1: White Card, licensing study, job search.	Employed within 8 weeks. Licensing study begun.
Months 21-36: Establish	Obtain state licence. Build Australian experience and network. Consider self-employment.	Licensed to practice. Salary AUD 80,000+. Network growing.
Year 4+: Flourish	Apply for Subclass 191 PR (if on 491). Build business. Plan citizenship.	Permanent residency secured. Wealth-building strategy active.

Remember These Three Rules

Rule 1: Submit your EOI the day you get your TRA result. Time in pool is your tiebreaker.

Rule 2: Invest in English before everything else. One extra band (6.0 to 7.0) is worth more than any other action you can take.

Rule 3: The reference letter wins or loses your TRA application. Specific trade duties — not vague statements — are what TRA assessors need to see.

Appendix N: Salary Negotiation Guide for Newly Arrived Tradespersons

One of the most common mistakes newly arrived tradespersons make is accepting the first salary offer without negotiation. In Australia, salary negotiation is expected and respected. This appendix gives you the language and strategy to negotiate effectively.

Know Your Market Rate

Before any negotiation, research current market rates using: SEEK Salary Insights (seek.com.au/salary), PayScale (payscale.com), the Fair Work Commission's Pay and Conditions Tool (calculate.fairwork.gov.au), and direct conversations with other tradespersons in your target city.

The Negotiation Framework

Stage	What to Say / Do
When asked your expectation	'Based on my X years of experience and the current market rates I have researched, I am looking for AUD [AMOUNT]. Is that in line with your budget for this role?'
If they offer below your target	'Thank you for the offer. I was expecting something closer to AUD [HIGHER AMOUNT] based on my [specific skill / manufacturer certification / years of experience]. Is there flexibility there?'

If they say the budget is fixed	'I understand. Could we revisit the salary after 3 months once I have demonstrated my capabilities on your site?' — this gives them a graceful path forward.
On non-salary benefits	If salary is truly fixed, negotiate other terms: tool allowance, professional development budget, additional leave, flexible hours, or a faster salary review date.
When to stop negotiating	Once they have said no twice, accept or decline. Excessive negotiation damages the relationship before it starts.

Salary Negotiation for Newly Arrived Migrants — Special Considerations

As a newly arrived migrant, you may feel pressure to accept any offer. Resist this. Your TRA assessment and your years of overseas experience are genuine qualifications. You are not asking for charity — you are negotiating the fair market value of your skills.

However, be realistic about the first role: a 10-15% discount from peak market rate is often reasonable for your first Australian job, in exchange for an employer who is willing to give you a chance without Australian experience on your CV. Once you have 6-12 months of Australian experience, you can negotiate from a much stronger position — or move to a higher-paying employer.

Annual Salary Review Strategy

Do not wait for your employer to offer a raise. In Australian workplaces, the expectation is that you will ask for a review. A good practice: 3 months after starting, request a brief meeting with your

supervisor. Come with: documented evidence of your contributions, specific projects you have completed, any additional skills or licences you have obtained, and a specific number — the salary you are seeking.

Timeline After Arrival	Reasonable Salary Expectation
Months 1-6 (establishment phase)	5-15% below market rate — acceptable to build Australian references
Months 6-12 (first review)	At or slightly below market rate — you now have Australian experience
Year 2 (full market rate)	Full market rate — you are an established Australian tradesperson
Year 3+ (premium rate)	10-20% above market rate possible if you have specialist skills, supervisor role, or self-employment

Quick Reference Card: The 25 Most Important Numbers and Websites

Cut out or photograph this page. These are the contacts and websites you will use most often in your Australian migration journey and your first year in Australia.

Organisation	Website / Contact	What You Use It For
Department of Home Affairs	homeaffairs.gov.au	Visa application, EOI, VEVO checks
Trades Recognition Australia	tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au	Skills assessment (MSA)
ATO — Tax File Number	ato.gov.au 13 28 61	TFN registration, tax returns
Medicare / Services Australia	servicesaustralia.gov.au 132 011	Medicare card activation
Fair Work Ombudsman	fairwork.gov.au 13 13 94	Worker rights, underpayment complaints
OMARA (verify agent)	mara.gov.au	Check your migration agent is registered
Australian Skills Quality Authority	asqa.gov.au	Verify training providers
SEEK Jobs	seek.com.au	Australian job search
realestate.com.au	realestate.com.au	Find rental accommodation
Commonwealth Bank	commbank.com.au 13 2221	Australian bank account
Telstra (best regional coverage)	telstra.com.au 13 2200	Mobile phone SIM card

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Wise International Transfers	wise.com	Send money to India cheaply
IELTS (IDP)	ielts.com.au	English test booking
PTE Academic	pearsonpte.com	Alternative English test
NAATI Translators	naati.com.au	Certified translation services
NSW Migration	migration.nsw.gov.au	NSW state nomination
Victoria Migration	liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au	VIC state nomination
Queensland Migration	migration.qld.gov.au	QLD state nomination
WA Migration	migration.wa.gov.au	WA state nomination
SA Migration	migration.sa.gov.au	SA state nomination
Beyond Blue	beyondblue.org.au 1300 224 636	Mental health support
Lifeline (crisis support)	lifeline.org.au 13 11 14	24/7 crisis support
Hipages	hipages.com.au	Trade leads for self-employed
Dreamvisas YouTube	youtube.com/@dreamvisas	Free immigration guidance videos
Dreamvisas PER	dreamvisas.com	Personal Evaluation Report

Final Chapter: A Letter from the Author

You have now read — or at least skimmed — more than 150 pages of guidance on Australian trade migration. I want to leave you with something simpler than strategy, timelines, or checklists. I want to leave you with the truth as I have witnessed it.

In twenty-five years of doing this work, I have helped thousands of families change their lives. The ones who succeeded were not necessarily the most qualified. They were not always the ones with the best English. They were not always the ones with the highest points scores.

The ones who succeeded were the ones who decided — truly decided — that they were going to make this happen. They gathered their documents with patience. They studied for their English tests at 5am before work. They wrote and rewrote their reference letters until the duty descriptions were specific and compelling. They called their employers to explain what a TRA reference letter needs to include. They saved their money. They asked for help when they needed it. And when they were rejected or delayed, they stood back up and kept going.

The motor mechanic from Pune who is now running his own EV workshop in Perth. The welder from Ludhiana whose children are at university in Brisbane. The electrician from Chennai who just hired his tenth employee. The plumber from Mumbai who sent me a photo of the keys to his first Australian home. These are the stories that make this work meaningful.

Your trade is real. Your experience is real. The demand for your skills in Australia is real. The only variable is you — and you are reading this book, which tells me you are serious.

Australia is waiting for you. Start your preparation today.

Manoj Palwe, RCIC (R422575)

Toronto, Canada — 2026

www.dreamvisas.com

Important Notice

This book is for education and information. It is not a substitute for professional migration advice for your specific situation. Immigration laws change often. Always check current information on official Australian government websites.

All fees, processing times, and program details are current as of the 2026 publication date. Verify all information at homeaffairs.gov.au and tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au before making any application decision.

Thank you for reading. Your trade is your ticket. Make it count.

Bonus Chapter: Your Rights as a Worker in Australia

Australia has some of the strongest worker protections in the world. Understanding your rights before you arrive is one of the most important things you can do. Many newly arrived tradespersons are exploited because they do not know what they are legally entitled to. This chapter changes that.

The National Employment Standards (NES)

The National Employment Standards are 11 minimum entitlements that apply to every employee in Australia. No employment contract can remove these — they are the legal floor below which no employer can go.

NES Entitlement	What It Means for You
Maximum weekly hours	38 hours ordinary time. Reasonable additional overtime by agreement only.
Flexible working	Right to request flexible hours after 12 months with an employer.
Parental leave	Up to 12 months unpaid parental leave. Option to request 12 more months.
Annual leave	4 weeks paid annual leave per year (5 weeks for continuous shift workers).
Personal/carer's leave	10 days paid sick and carer's leave per year.

Compassionate leave	2 days paid leave per occasion for serious illness or death in the family.
Community service leave	Unpaid leave for jury duty and voluntary emergency management.
Long service leave	After 7-10 years with one employer, you earn an extended paid leave entitlement.
Public holidays	Paid day off on all Australian public holidays (typically 10-12 per year).
Notice of termination	Minimum notice periods of 1-5 weeks depending on length of service.
Fair Work Information Statement	Your employer must give you this document when you start employment.

Minimum Wages and Award Rates

Australia's minimum wage is one of the highest in the world. But for trades workers, the relevant rate is set by an industry Award. Awards specify minimum hourly rates, overtime penalty rates, and allowances for tools, travel, and difficult working conditions.

For construction trades, the relevant award is typically the Building and Construction General On-site Award. For manufacturing trades, it is the Manufacturing and Associated Industries and Occupations Award. These are searchable at fairwork.gov.au.

Pay Element	What It Means for You
Base hourly rate	Set by your Award classification level. Higher for more experienced workers.
Tool allowance	Extra payment if you supply your own tools — common in construction trades.
Meal allowance	Payment if you work overtime past a set time without a meal being provided.
Travel allowance	Payment for travel time and costs to and from remote job sites.
Industry allowance	Extra payment for working in construction. Applies to all construction workers.
Overtime — first 2 hours	1.5x normal hourly rate.
Overtime — beyond 2 hours	2x normal hourly rate.
Saturday work	1.5x normal rate for the first 2 hours, 2x after that.
Sunday work	2x normal rate for all hours.
Public holiday work	2.5x normal rate for all hours worked.
Superannuation	11.5% of ordinary earnings paid by employer into your super fund — not deducted from your pay.

The Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Commission is Australia's national workplace relations tribunal. It sets minimum wages, resolves unfair dismissal claims, and approves enterprise agreements between employers and workers.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) enforces workplace laws. If your employer underpays you, fails to pay superannuation, or treats you unfairly, you can make a formal complaint at fairwork.gov.au. The FWO takes underpayment of migrant workers extremely seriously. There have been multi-million dollar prosecutions of companies that exploited migrant tradespersons.

Importantly: you will NOT lose your visa for making a complaint about workplace exploitation. The Department of Home Affairs has explicit protections for visa holders who report labour abuse. Never be afraid to speak up.

Union Membership — Your Choice

Trade unions play an active role in Australian workplaces, especially on large construction sites. Union membership is not compulsory, but it brings real benefits: free legal advice on workplace matters, dispute resolution support, additional personal accident insurance, and collective bargaining for higher wages. Annual membership is typically AUD 300-700 per year.

- CFMEU — Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union: covers carpentry, bricklaying, painting, construction
- ETU — Electrical Trades Union: covers electricians and HVAC mechanics
- AMWU — Australian Manufacturing Workers Union: covers welders, fitters, metal fabricators, motor mechanics
- AWU — Australian Workers Union: covers plumbers, gas fitters, and regional workers

Superannuation — Don't Leave It Behind

Every Australian employer must contribute 11.5% of your wages into a superannuation (retirement savings) account. This is a legal entitlement, not a bonus, and is paid in addition to your wages. Make sure your employer is actually paying it — you can verify this at mygov.au after linking to the ATO.

If you eventually leave Australia permanently, you can claim your accumulated superannuation through the Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP) scheme after your visa has expired. This can amount to tens of thousands of dollars for long-term workers — do not forget it.

Bonus Chapter: Healthcare in Australia

Australia has one of the best public healthcare systems in the world. The Medicare scheme provides significant protection against medical costs. Understanding how the system works helps you access the right care quickly and avoid unexpected expenses.

Medicare — Activate It in Week One

As a permanent resident, you are eligible for Medicare immediately upon arrival. To activate, visit a Services Australia office with your passport and visa grant letter. Your Medicare card arrives by mail within 2-3 weeks. Until it arrives, you can still use Medicare — save your application receipt as proof of eligibility.

With a Medicare card you can see a bulk-billing GP (general practitioner) for free. Bulk-billing clinics charge Medicare directly — you pay nothing. You also receive free treatment in public hospitals, and subsidised medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Private Health Insurance — Is It Worth It?

While Medicare covers a lot, private health insurance adds coverage for: dental treatment, optical (glasses and contacts), physiotherapy and remedial massage, and private hospital rooms. For a family of four, private health insurance costs approximately AUD 250-400 per month.

The Medicare Levy Surcharge (1-1.5% of income) applies to individuals earning over AUD 93,000 who do not have private hospital cover. For most tradespersons, getting at least hospital cover makes financial sense.

Workers Compensation — Know Your Rights

If you are injured at work, you are entitled to workers compensation. This covers medical treatment, rehabilitation, and a proportion of lost wages. Every state has its own scheme, but the protections are consistent. Your employer's insurance pays — not you.

Critical rule: report any workplace injury to your employer immediately and in writing. Do not wait to see if it 'gets better.' Delaying reporting can jeopardise your compensation claim. Seek medical treatment the same day. Do not sign any documents from the insurer without taking legal advice.

Mental Health Support for Migrants

Migration is one of life's most stressful experiences. Culture shock, loneliness, financial pressure, and separation from extended family are real challenges. Australia has excellent mental health services. Every Australian can access 10 free sessions with a psychologist annually through a Medicare Mental Health Care Plan — ask your GP for a referral.

Key services: Beyond Blue (beyondblue.org.au), Lifeline (13 11 14 — 24/7 crisis support), SANE Australia (sane.org). There is no shame in seeking support — many of the most successful migrants I have worked with went through difficult periods before finding their footing in Australia.

Bonus Chapter: Starting Your Own Trade Business in Australia

One of the greatest long-term opportunities Australia offers skilled tradespersons is the realistic path to business ownership. The tradespersons I most admire have not just migrated to Australia — they have built businesses, employed other people, and created genuine wealth. This chapter gives you the foundations.

Why Trade Business Ownership Works in Australia

- Australia has severe, structural shortages of qualified tradespersons — meaning consistent work for good operators.
- Australians pay premium rates for quality trade work without negotiating aggressively.
- Starting costs are low for most trades — tools, a vehicle, and insurance.
- Government construction programmes create long-term project work for small contractors.
- Self-employment in Australia is mainstream and socially respected.
- The pathway from employee to subcontractor to sole trader to registered company is well-documented and straightforward.

Getting Started: ABN and Business Registration

To operate any business in Australia — even casual subcontracting — you need an Australian Business Number (ABN). It is free and takes 5 minutes at abr.business.gov.au. You cannot issue a legal tax invoice without one.

If your revenue exceeds AUD 75,000 per year, you must also register for GST (Goods and Services Tax — 10%). Once registered, you add 10% to your invoices and pay the net amount to the ATO quarterly. Your accountant manages this process.

Finding Your First Clients as a Sole Trader

- Subcontract to established companies first — build your Australian references before going direct to home or business owners.
- Register on hipages.com.au, serviceseeking.com.au, and Oneflare — Australia's major trade lead platforms.
- Create a Google My Business profile (free) — local search visibility is your most powerful marketing tool.
- Join your industry association — Master Builders, NECA (electrical), Master Plumbers. Referral networks within these associations are extremely valuable.
- Request Google reviews from every satisfied client — five-star Google reviews are your most valuable business asset.
- LinkedIn presence — particularly valuable for commercial work and government contracts.

Pricing Your Trade Services

Many newly arrived tradespersons undercharge, comparing Australian prices to their home country. This is a serious mistake. Australian clients associate low prices with low quality. The correct strategy is to find out the current market rate for your trade in your city and charge that rate confidently from day one.

Trade	Typical Rate (AUD, 2026 — employee basis)
Electrician	\$120 – \$200 per hour + materials
Plumber	\$120 – \$200 per hour +

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	materials
HVAC Mechanic (service)	\$100 – \$180 per hour + parts
Carpenter (residential)	\$70 – \$130 per hour
Painter	\$50 – \$90 per hour (day rates also common)
Welder (contract)	\$80 – \$160 per hour + consumables
Motor Mechanic (workshop)	\$150 – \$250 per hour labour charge
Diesel Mechanic (mine site)	\$50 – \$80+ per hour (often on salary)

As a business owner, your charge-out rate needs to cover: your own labour, tools and equipment, vehicle costs, insurance, accountant, marketing, and a profit margin. A good benchmark: your charge-out rate should be at least 3x your desired hourly take-home rate.

Bonus Chapter: Preparing for Australia Before You Leave Home

The tradespersons who establish themselves fastest in Australia are invariably those who prepared most thoroughly before departure. The investment in pre-arrival preparation pays dividends for years. Here is a comprehensive pre-departure guide.

Technical Preparation — 6 Months Before Departure

- Download and study the Australian standard for your trade: AS/NZS 3000 (electricians), AS/NZS 3500 (plumbers), AS 1665 (welding), AS 4600 (cold-formed steel). Available at standards.org.au — some are free online.
- Watch TAFE NSW and TAFE Queensland trade training videos on YouTube to hear Australian instructors explain your trade in local terminology.
- Begin studying for your state licensing exam now, using Australian study materials from the relevant licensing authority.
- Learn Australian trade terminology differences from the glossary in Appendix G.

English Language — 6 Months Before Departure

- Continue IELTS/PTE preparation intensively — every band improvement adds significant points.
- Subscribe to ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) podcast or YouTube — standard Australian English.
- Watch The Block and Grand Designs Australia on YouTube — excellent for Australian construction terminology and culture.
- Practice describing trade procedures in English — you will need to do this in job interviews.

- Find an IELTS speaking partner on iTalki or Tandem — practice with native Australian speakers.

Financial Preparation — 3-6 Months Before Departure

- Build your migration fund to the recommended minimum: AUD 25,000 (individual) or AUD 40,000-55,000 (family of four).
- Open a Wise (wise.com) or OFX account for international transfers — significantly cheaper than bank wire transfers.
- Apply for an Australian bank account before departure — Commonwealth Bank and ANZ accept overseas applications.
- Cancel unnecessary subscriptions and recurring payments in India/home country.
- Get your credit history documented from your home country's credit bureau — useful when renting in Australia.

One Month Before Departure — Final Checklist

Pre-Departure Final Checklist

Certified copies of passport (all pages), qualifications, marriage and birth certificates

Children's school reports and vaccination records (certified copies)

All medical records and vaccination certificates for family

TRA assessment result letter — print and certify a copy

Visa grant letter — print and carry in hand luggage

AUD 2,000-5,000 cash accessible on arrival day (before bank card works)

Australian SIM card ordered online for airport collection, or local SIM day 1

Medicare registration planned for week 1

School enrolment paperwork prepared — contact schools before departure

Rental inspection scheduled (even virtual) for arrival week

Tools appraised — decide what to ship vs. purchase new

International roaming enabled on current phone for first 3 days
Family briefed: what to expect in the first week, month, and 3 months

Bonus Chapter: Frequently Asked Questions

Based on 25 years of immigration consulting, these are the questions I am asked most frequently by tradespersons considering Australian migration. Each answer reflects real-world experience, not just official guidance.

Q: Can I migrate to Australia without a formal trade certificate?

A: Yes, in some cases. TRA can assess skills based on work experience even without a formal qualification, particularly if you have 7-10+ years of relevant experience. This is called a Skills Assessment based on work experience. The documentary bar is higher — your reference letters and financial evidence must be extremely detailed. Consult a migration agent to assess your specific situation before committing to this pathway.

Q: My trade is not on my target state's nomination list. What can I do?

A: First, confirm you have the correct ANZSCO code — many tradespersons are on slightly different codes than they expect. Second, check other states — occupation lists vary between states and change frequently (sometimes monthly). Third, consider whether the employer-sponsored Subclass 482 pathway applies to your situation. Fourth, investigate the DAMA programme in regional areas, which provides access to occupations not on standard national lists.

Q: Can my family come with me on the same visa?

A: Yes. Subclass 189, 190, and 491 visas include your spouse/de facto partner and all dependent children. They are included in the one visa application, with additional government fees for each person. Your partner and children will have full work and study rights in Australia on your visa.

Q: My English score is only 6.0 — should I wait for a better score before submitting my EOI?

A: No — submit your EOI at 6.0 immediately. You are eligible, and your time in the SkillSelect system starts counting from your EOI submission date. Time in system is a tiebreaker when two applicants have equal points. Simultaneously, keep working to improve your score to 7.0 (Proficient) for the 10-point boost. You can update your EOI with a better score at any time without losing your submission date.

Q: How long from TRA approval to actually landing in Australia?

A: The realistic timeline is 18-24 months from TRA application lodgement to arrival. Breakdown: TRA assessment 4-6 months, EOI waiting period 2-12 months (varies enormously by occupation and score), visa processing after invitation 6-10 months. The 491 regional visa typically moves fastest — invitation times can be as low as 1-2 months after EOI submission for in-demand occupations.

Q: Is it better to migrate alone first and bring the family later?

A: Many tradespersons do arrive alone first — to establish work, find suitable housing, and understand the local area before committing the family to the move. The advantages are financial flexibility and lower initial stress. The disadvantages are family separation and the emotional difficulty of settling alone. If your visa allows all family members to come together and you have sufficient savings, bringing the family immediately generally leads to better settlement outcomes for everyone, especially children.

Q: What is the realistic income I can expect in the first year?

A: As an employee tradesperson in your first year in Australia, expect AUD 65,000-90,000 depending on trade and location. After obtaining your Australian licence and building 12-24 months of local experience, this typically rises to AUD 80,000-120,000. FIFO roles in mining regions pay AUD 100,000-140,000 but require extended time away from family. Electricians and plumbers who establish their own businesses within 3-5 years commonly earn AUD 130,000-200,000+ as owner-operators.

Q: What should I do if my TRA application is rejected?

A: Do not panic and do not give up. First, request the written reasons from TRA — you are entitled to them. Share those reasons with a qualified migration agent. In most cases, a rejection can be reversed through a Reconsideration Request with additional evidence. If the rejection cannot be overturned, there may be other visa pathways — employer sponsorship (482/186), DAMA, or alternative occupation codes — that still provide a route to Australia. A rejection is a setback, not a permanent barrier. I have seen applicants with three negative results eventually obtain positive outcomes.

Q: How do I handle the Australian accent in the workplace?

A: The Australian accent is distinct and takes getting used to, especially regional accents (Queensland, rural Victoria, Western Australia). Strategies: watch Australian TV and YouTube before you arrive; ask people to repeat themselves without embarrassment; carry a small notebook to write down unfamiliar words and look them up later; and give yourself permission to laugh about misunderstandings — Australians generally appreciate a sense of humour about language barriers. Within 6-12 months, most non-English speaking migrants find the accent becomes natural to understand.

Appendix F: Trade Migration Readiness Worksheet

Use this worksheet to honestly assess your current readiness for Australian migration. For each item, mark your status, then use the gaps as inputs into your preparation action plan.

Readiness Item	Done	In Progress	Not Started
Confirmed correct ANZSCO occupation code for my trade			
Confirmed TRA is my assessing body			
Calculated preliminary points score using official calculator			
Have IELTS/PTE score of 6.0+ in all four bands			
Have IELTS/PTE score of 7.0+ in all four bands (Proficient English)			
Collected payslips/bank statements for all employment periods			
Obtained detailed reference letters from all employers			
Got trade qualification certified and translated (if non-English)			
Have all identity documents certified (passport, birth certificate)			
Consulted a registered migration agent about my specific case			

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Identified target state(s) and researched their nomination programmes			
Built migration fund to recommended minimum (AUD 25,000+)			
Researched suburbs, schools, and rental prices in target city			
Set up or applied for Australian bank account			
Understand TRA MSA application process completely			
Understand SkillSelect EOI submission process			
Have a written 12-month action plan			
Researched post-arrival licensing requirements for my trade			
Begun studying Australian trade standards for my occupation			
Discussed and aligned migration plan with entire family			

Appendix G: Australian Trade Terminology Guide

Australian tradespersons use many terms that differ from Indian, UK, or American usage. Learning these before your interviews and your first days on site will prevent misunderstandings and mark you as well-prepared.

General Site Culture and Terms

Term	Meaning
Chippie	Carpenter (very common informal name)
Sparky	Electrician
Plumber	Note: in Australia, plumbing and gas fitting are often separate licences
Boilermaker	Metal fabricator — cuts, shapes, welds structural steel and pressure vessels
Smoko	Morning tea break — approximately 10 minutes, a social ritual on Australian sites
Arvo	Afternoon ('I'll finish the fit-out arvo')
Knockoff	End of the working day ('knockoff time is 3:30')
Leading Hand	A senior tradesperson supervising a small team on site

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Site Foreman / Foreperson	Oversees an entire trade crew across a project
Builder	The licensed construction manager for the whole project
Resi	Residential work — houses and apartment units
Comms / Commercial	Commercial work — offices, shops, factories
Fit-out	Interior finishing work inside a commercial building shell
Rough-in	First trade work stage — pipes, cables installed before walls are closed
Lockup stage	When the building is externally weatherproof — walls, windows, roof complete
Practical Completion (PC)	Project officially complete and handed to client
SWMS	Safe Work Method Statement — written safety plan for high-risk work
White Card	Construction Induction Training card — required for ALL construction sites
Hi-vis	High-visibility safety vest or shirt — mandatory on all construction sites
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment (hard hat, safety boots, eye and ear protection, gloves)

Electrical Trade Terms

Term	Meaning
GPO	General Power Outlet (standard 240V power socket — what Indians call a 'plug point')
RCD	Residual Current Device — mandatory safety switch in all Australian homes
MSB	Main Switchboard
DB / Sub-board	Distribution Board (sub-switchboard for individual floors or areas)
Resi wiring	Domestic house wiring (240V single phase)
3-phase	Three-phase 415V power supply — for large motors and commercial equipment
Conduit	Pipe through which electrical cables are run — rigid PVC or steel conduit
Trunking / Duct	Cable management channel mounted on walls or ceilings
ELV	Extra Low Voltage — telecommunications, data, 24V control wiring
LOTO	Lock Out Tag Out — mandatory energy isolation procedure before maintenance work

Building and Construction Terms

Term	Meaning
Timber frame	Australian standard residential construction method — structural timber frame with brick veneer
Brick veneer	Non-structural brick outer skin attached to a timber frame — standard Australian housing
Colorbond	Brand name used generically for steel sheet roofing, fencing, and walling

CFC / Fibre cement	Compressed fibre cement sheet (e.g., James Hardie products) for wet area lining
F-Grade timber	Structural timber graded by strength: F5 (lightest) through F27 (heaviest)
Nogging	Short horizontal timber between wall studs — prevents rotation, not structural
Bracing	Diagonal structural element in wall frame that provides lateral stability
Slab down	Concrete floor slab has been poured
Frame up	Structural wall framing complete
Batten	Small timber section used for roofing, wall cladding, or fencing
DPC	Damp Proof Course — horizontal moisture barrier in masonry walls at ground level
Gal / Galv	Galvanised (hot-dipped zinc coating for corrosion protection)

Appendix H: Two Additional AI Master Prompts

These prompts address two specific situations that many tradespersons encounter but that are rarely covered in migration guides: responding to a TRA rejection, and planning for the entire family's settlement — not just the primary applicant's job setup.

MASTER PROMPT 13: Responding to a TRA Negative Outcome

How to use: Submit your reconsideration within 90 days of the negative decision. Have a qualified RCIC or MARA agent review the complete package before submission — this is too important for DIY.

PROMPT:

I have received a negative outcome on my TRA Migration Skills Assessment. I need help preparing a formal Reconsideration Request.

Background:

Occupation: [YOUR TRADE AND ANZSCO CODE]

Negative outcome received: [DATE]

TRA's stated reason(s) for the negative outcome (copy exactly):

[PASTE TRA REASONS]

YEAR]

Documents submitted: [LIST EVERYTHING YOU SUBMITTED]

New evidence I can now provide: [LIST ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE]

Please:

1. Analyse TRA's stated reasons — identify which are addressable with additional evidence vs. fundamental eligibility issues

specific additional evidence for each addressable reason

formal cover letter for my Reconsideration Request, addressed to TRA

persuasive sequence

suggest I need a migration agent's review before resubmitting

reconsideration appears unlikely to succeed, suggest alternative

migration pathways I should explore

✓ **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Verify all facts against your supporting documents before submission

📄 **Documents you must already have:**

- Your employment documents and qualifications for this application

MASTER PROMPT 14: Whole-Family Settlement Plan

How to use: Share the output of this prompt with your spouse/partner and children (age appropriately) before departure. When everyone understands what to expect, settlement is significantly smoother.

PROMPT:

My family will be migrating to Australia together. Please create a comprehensive family settlement plan covering every family member — not just my work setup.

Family Details:

Spouse/Partner: [Age, occupation, qualifications, English level]

Child 1: [Age, current school year, interests, English level]

Child 2: [Age, current school year, interests, English level]

Additional family: [Any elderly parents or other dependants]

Destination City/Region: [CITY, STATE]

Arrival Date: [APPROXIMATE DATE]


Savings Budget — First 6 Months (AUD): [AMOUNT]

Please create a comprehensive plan covering:

1. School enrolment plan for each child (documents, what to expect in first weeks, EAL support)
 2. Qualification pathway — how can they use their skills in Australia?
 3. Social integration strategy — community groups, religious/cultural organisations in [CITY]
- wellbeing plan for the entire family
(income, expenses, savings targets)
connected with extended family in home country
adjustment guide — major differences in family and social culture between [HOME COUNTRY] and Australia
celebration points — when to know your settlement is succeeding

✓ **Human checks before sending to TRA/DoHA:**

- Verify all facts against your supporting documents before submission

 **Documents you must already have:**

- Your employment documents and qualifications for this application

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If you are planning to work abroad and would like a professional evaluation of your specific eligibility, pathway options, and risk factors, consider a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) with Manoj Palwe.

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Best wishes for your journey

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