



## Using migration agents

Some producers may choose to use a migration agent when applying to the Department of Immigration for a Pork Industry Labour Agreement or lodging 457 visa applications. If so you should choose one who is qualified and registered on the Register of Migration Agents, which lists all agents registered with the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA).

Registered migration agents are allowed to provide immigration advice and assistance, including help lodging visa applications. It is against the law for someone in Australia who is not registered with the OMARA to provide you with immigration assistance.

Should you decide to use an agent a few things worth considering when choosing an agent and entering into a contract with them.

- What kind of help do you need?
- How much will it cost?
- Do you need an agent who is also a lawyer (legally qualified)?
- Does the agent have the right skills and experience to help you?
- Do you understand how much the agent will charge you (fees)?
- Has the agent given you a contract to read?

It is important to note that a registered migration agent cannot influence nor predetermine the outcome of an application or arrange for the application to receive priority processing.

More information on choosing an agent and what to expect from them can be found at:

<https://www.mara.gov.au/using-an-agent/>

Under the Code of Conduct for registered migration agents, the fees agents charge must be fair and reasonable and provided annually to OMARA. Indicative agent fees for particular services can be found at <https://www.mara.gov.au/using-an-agent/working-with-your-agent/agent-fees/>

While this table does not include fees for standard industry agreements the Department of Immigration suggests that the cost should be towards the lower end of the fee structure for a Temporary Work Skilled (457). This may provide a starting point for negotiation.

More information on labour agreements can be found on the APL website at

<http://australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/trade-labour-and-training/> or by contacting John McGoverne on 02 6270 8846.