



Quarter 2, 2025

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second quarterly BIRO newsletter for 2025. For stakeholders who are working with us for the first time, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce our network and explain how we can assist your business or sector.

The Business, Industry and Regional Outreach (BIRO) team is the Department of Home Affairs' business, industry, union and regional engagement network. We provide support to business and industry stakeholders to:

- educate employers on skilled migration options to fill critical workforce shortages where Australians may be unavailable
- promote and disseminate information regarding visa and migration reforms
- collect sentiment and feedback on skilled and workforce visas programs.

If you would like to learn more about how we can assist your business, region or industry, please get in touch via email from our contact list, located on page 3.

FREE WEBINARS FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES

The BIRO network will be running free webinars for international students in August. The webinars are open to any international student nearing graduation who is seeking to remain in Australia and pursue graduate, or employer sponsored visa pathways.

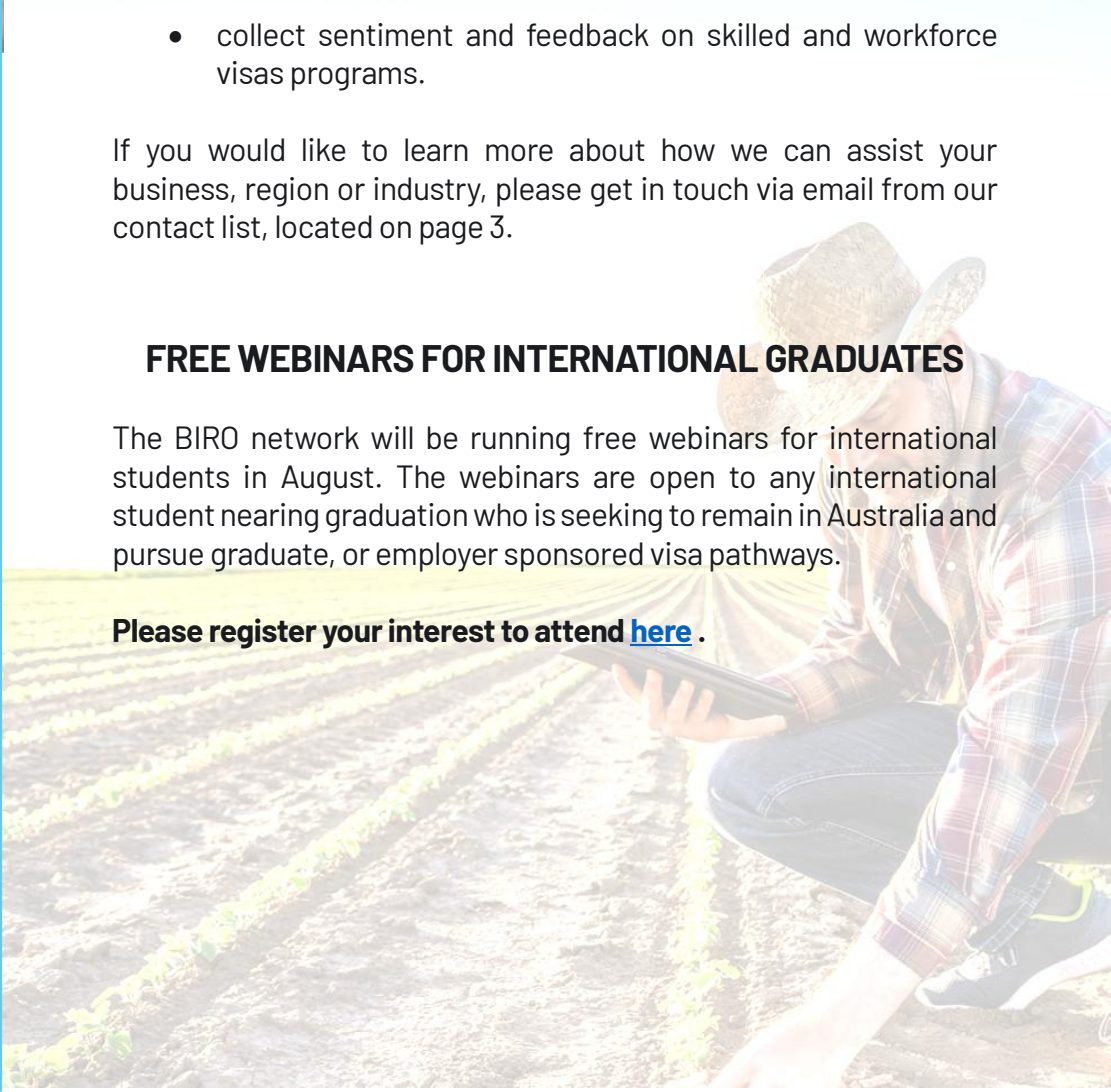
Please register your interest to attend [here](#).

CHECK TWICE, SUBMIT ONCE

Did you know that visa application processing can take longer if an application contains missing or incorrect information, or if documents are incomplete?

There are things you can do to make sure that when you submit your application it is 'decision ready'. This will help the Department process your application faster.

To learn more about decision ready applications visit: [Check twice, submit once](#)



MORE THAN \$3M IN FINES FOR BUSINESSES EXPLOITING MIGRANT WORKERS

Laws addressing migrant worker exploitation were introduced on 1 July 2024, including tougher penalties for employers or labour hire intermediaries (LHIs) using a person's immigration status to exploit them in the workplace.

Since then, employers and LHIs have been fined more than \$3 million for exploiting migrant workers. Australian Border Force officers have visited more than 1,000 businesses in various industries including agriculture, hospitality and transport. They conducted education visits to help employers understand their obligations. Some employers had their sponsor status cancelled or were given compliance notices.

To learn about the rules, visit [migrant worker protections](#).

Check prospective employees' work rights by using Home Affairs' [Visa Entitlement Verification Online](#) system.

If you know about migrant worker exploitation, report it. Make an anonymous report at [Border Watch](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT HIRING PACIFIC ENGAGEMENT VISA (PEV) HOLDERS



Has your business considered hiring a Pacific Engagement stream Visa (PEV) holder? The PEV is not an employer sponsored visa, but applicants do need an offer of ongoing employment for a genuine position in Australia to be granted the visa. To learn more, read the attached PEV fact sheet for employers.

Registrations for the next PEV ballot are now open, closing on 25 August 2025. Nationals from eligible Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste will then be randomly selected from the ballot pool and invited to apply for a PEV. The PEV is open to eligible nationals with different skill levels from a range of occupations.

The [PEV Employment Support Service](#) helps guide employers through the PEV process, ensuring that job offers meet Australian labour standards. Businesses can share job opportunities with the service, which will promote roles to PEV applicants with relevant skills. Contact the service to discuss job vacancies at employment@pevsupport.com.au.

The BIRO network will be running an employer PEV information webinar in September, register to attend [here](#).

OFFICIAL

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How can I find out if I'm eligible for a Protection visa?

To find out if you or someone you know may be eligible for a Protection visa, use our online tool at homeaffairs.gov.au/pv-info-guide

Change the conversation on Protection visas

Australian Government

FREE PROTECTION VISA LEGAL ADVICE FOR PALM WORKERS

If you employ PALM scheme workers or engage with them in your business, you can help make them aware of some of the misconceptions about Protection visas.

A Protection visa is not a work visa. It is for people who genuinely need Australia's protection.

Information about Protection visas is now available in Tetum and 9 Pacific languages on the [Protection visas are for asylum seekers](#) page of the Department of Home Affairs website.

To help people make better decisions about applying for a Protection visa, they can access **free, confidential legal advice** in all states and territories. Details of the providers can be found at: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/protection

BIRO UPCOMING KEY ENGAGEMENTS AND EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
2-5 Aug	Sheepvention - Rural Expo	Hamilton, VIC
5 Aug	Visa information session for international students	Virtual
6 Aug	Australian Constructors Association - Foundation and Frontiers Conference	Brisbane
6-8 Aug	Banana Growers Council Congress	Gold Coast, QLD
7-8 Aug	SmallBiz Week 2025	Sydney
11-14 Aug	National Allied Health Conference	Adelaide
11-15 Aug	North-West Tasmania Roadshow	Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, Smithton, Stanley, Devonport, TAS
12 Aug	International student Temporary Graduate visa (TGV) webinar	Virtual
14 Aug	International student TGV webinar	Virtual
18-21 Aug	Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Forum	St George and wider Darling Downs, QLD
19-20 Aug	Bendigo roadshow - visa information session	Bendigo, VIC
19-20 Aug	Council Of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA) National Small Business Summit 2025	Melbourne
27-28 Aug	Dowerin Field Days	Dowerin, WA
28-29 Aug	National Education Summit Australia (NESA)	Melbourne
29 Aug	Migration Institute of Australia- WA State Conference	Perth
2 Sep	NT Resources Week	Darwin
2-Sep	International students presentation - Adelaide University	Adelaide
2-5 Sep	Newdegate Field Days	Newdegate, WA
3-5 Sep	CEDA State of the Nation 2025	Canberra
5-Sep	2025 Regional Development South Australia Summit	Adelaide
9-10 Sep	Construction Workforce Summit	Sydney
18-Sep	Green Horizons Renewable Energy Forum	Broome, WA
22-26 Sep	Small Business Week 2025	Adelaide
23-24 Sep	TAS Major Projects Conference	Hobart
23-Sep	CEDA - Addressing the Housing Crisis	Sydney
24-25 Sep	National Farmers Federation (NFF) National Summit AgXchange	Gold Coast, QLD

SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE

For the latest updates and information regarding Department of Home Affairs planned system maintenance and technical issues, please visit: [System maintenance](#)



VISA PROCESSING TIMES

The Department of Home Affairs is processing a high volume of visa applications. The Department's visa processing time guide gives you an indication of how long your visa application may take to process.

The visa processing tool can be accessed at:

[Global visa processing times](#)

CONTACT US

[BIRO NSW](#)

[BIRO VIC/TAS](#)

[BIRO QLD](#)

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