



# Core Skills Occupation List 2025

## Austrade Submission

### Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on occupations under the consultation for the 2025 Core Skills Occupation List. Austrade is responsible for tourism policy for the Australian Government, including the development and implementation of the national strategy for the visitor economy's long-term sustainable growth ([THRIVE 2030](#)). We also deliver tourism programs, lead the nation's international promotion of Australian education and produce Australia's official statistics on tourism, supported by the ABS.

The visitor economy (comprising tourism and international education) was worth \$214 billion in 2024, and supports 360,000 businesses and 702,800 jobs. THRIVE 2030, the national visitor economy strategy, identifies growing a secure and resilient visitor economy workforce as a policy priority.

Skilled migration is a critical component of the visitor economy workforce mix. The visitor economy continues to face persistent shortages in key occupations, and access to skilled migration enables employers to fill these roles in the absence of sufficient domestic workers.

There were a number of visitor economy occupations on the 2025 Targeted for Consultation list. Austrade has focused on managerial-level occupations that are likely to meet the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold of \$76,515.

### Recommendation

Austrade recommends the below occupations that are on the 2025 Targeted for Consultation list are included on the 2025 CSOL:

- 161131 Accommodation Service Manager
- 161232 Catering Manager
- 161631 Senior Chef
- 161999 Hospitality, Tourism and Venue Managers nec.

The current migration and training data shows that these roles are not being filled by domestic workers, warranting their inclusion on the 2025 CSOL.

The 2024 CSOL includes 18 visitor economy or related occupations, including Hotel or Motel Manager, Travel Agency Manager, Chef, Cook, Tour Guide and Travel Consultant. Austrade supports JSA's approach to retain all 2024 CSOL occupations on the 2025 list.

## Supporting Evidence

### 2024 CSOL

We note that the 2025 Targeted for Consultation occupations are in the OSCA code, but the 2024 CSOL is in the ANZSCO code. Some of the 2025 Targeted for Consultation occupations correspond or partially correspond to ANZSCO occupations that are currently on the 2024 CSOL:

2024 CSOL Occupation (ANZSCO Code)	Corresponding 2025 Targeted for Consultation Occupation (OSCA Code)
149999 Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers nec	161999 Hospitality, Tourism and Venue Managers nec. (partial correspondence)
351311 Chef	161631 Senior Chef

JSA is retaining all occupations on the 2024 CSOL for the 2025 CSOL. As such, Austrade believes that this approach supports the above 2025 Targeted for Consultation occupations that code to ANZSCO occupations on the 2024 CSOL, to be included on the 2025 CSOL.

Including both 351311 Chef and 161631 Senior Chef on the 2025 CSOL will enable data to be collected to better understand how many temporary migrants being employed under the occupation 351311 Chef are actually filling 161631 Senior Chef roles, and allow for a more nuanced CSOL in future years.

### Migration Data

Data for the temporary skilled visa program for 2024-25<sup>1</sup> demonstrates the critical role that the program plays in filling visitor economy occupation shortages, particularly in hospitality, and that employers are increasingly needing to utilise the program to find workers.

- The Accommodation and Food Services industry **sponsored the highest number of temporary skilled visa applications** in FY2024-25. The industry accounted for 16,910 applications, or 19.6 per cent.
  - This was a **111.5 per cent increase** on the previous year.
- The industry had the **second-highest number of temporary skilled visas granted** at 10,770, only 90 applications fewer than the highest industry (Health Care and Social Assistance, 10,860 visas granted).

<sup>1</sup> Department of Home Affairs, [BR0008 Temporary resident \(skilled\) report as at 30 June 2025](#)

- This was 15.8 per cent of all visas granted, and a **125 per cent increase** on the previous year.
- **Chef was the top occupation** for temporary skilled visas granted, at 6,360.
  - This was a **179.2 per cent increase** on the previous year.
- Other visitor economy occupations were also in the top 15 occupations for visas granted, including:
  - **Café or Restaurant Manager (1,680, a 79.4 per cent increase)**
  - **Cook (1560, a 132.1 per cent increase).**

## National Centre for Vocational Education Research Data

Course completion data for 2024 indicates that domestic graduates alone will not be able to meet the gaps that are currently being filled by employing temporary skilled visa holders.

The below table outlines the number of course completions in 2024 from visitor economy VET courses at Skill Level 2<sup>2</sup>, where the potential occupation for the course<sup>3</sup> aligns with occupations on the 2025 Targeted for Consultation list. Utilising VET National Data Asset data on employment rates for graduates, a potential number of graduates that could take up a role being filled by a temporary migrant worker is listed.

Program name	Course completions	Alignment with 2025 Targeted for Consultation Occupation	Graduate employment rate	Potential available graduates to fill roles
SIT50416 - Diploma of Hospitality Management	1,800	<b>161131 Accommodation Service Manager</b> (Front Office Manager, Executive Housekeeper) <b>161232 Catering Manager</b> (Banquet Manager)	90 per cent	Potentially 180 graduates from 2024 not yet employed.
SIT50422 - Diploma of Hospitality Management	15,760	<b>161131 Accommodation Service Manager</b> (Front Office Manager, Executive Housekeeper) <b>161232 Catering Manager</b> (Banquet Manager)	90 per cent	Potentially 1,576 graduates from 2024 not yet employed.
SIT60316 - Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management	305	<b>161131 Accommodation Service Manager</b> (Executive Housekeeper) <b>161631 Senior Chef</b> (Executive Sous Chef, Head Chef)	92 per cent	Potentially 24 graduates from 2024 not yet employed
SIT60322 - Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management	2,195	<b>161131 Accommodation Service Manager</b> (Executive Housekeeper)	92 per cent	Potentially 175 graduates not yet employed.

<sup>2</sup> [National Centre for Vocational Education Research](#), *Total VET students and courses 2024: program completions data*, downloaded 23 September 2025

<sup>3</sup> [National Training Register](#)

		<b>161631 Senior Chef</b> (Executive Sous Chef, Head Chef)		
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There are potentially 199 graduates who could be eligible for a Senior Chef role. This is not enough to fill the gap of the 6,360 temporary migrant workers currently filling the Chef role. The 199 graduates are also eligible to undertake 9 other occupations after graduating from the Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management, as listed on the National Training Register.

The Home Affairs data does not provide further detail on other 6-digit occupations that are filled using the temporary skilled migration program than what has been detailed above. After removing the number of Chef, Café and Restaurant Manager, and Cook roles filled by temporary migrants, there were 1,170 Accommodation and Food Services occupations being filled by temporary skilled migrants in FY2024-25.

While there are potentially 1,756 graduates that could fill these roles after completing the Diploma of Hospitality Management, the two occupations of Accommodation Service Manager and Catering Manager listed above are not the only occupations that graduates could undertake. The National Training Register lists 14 occupations in total that graduates could be eligible for.