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Skilled Migrant Review
Immigration Policy (Skills and Residence) team
Employment, Skills and Immigration Policy
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
PO Box 1473
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

To Whom It May Concern

The EMA would like to put our support behind the BusinessNZ Submission on the Future of the Skilled Migrant Category and echo all their points made.

The EMA strongly oppose applying the stand-down period as it will only compound issues with workforce availability along with reducing incentives for firms to invest in their international workforce and fully utilise their skills.

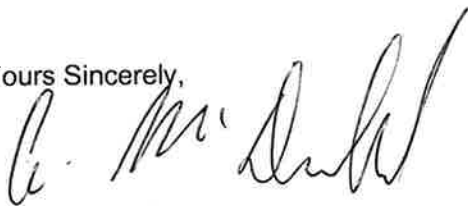
If the right settings are landed on, the EMA supports the SMC being the main channel for skilled migrants to gain residency and negating the need for the Green List Residency pathway.

There are significant skills shortages in New Zealand at the vocational level and there needs to be a signal of the value of vocational occupations in immigration settings as well as in education. The EMA supports BusinessNZ's recommendation that qualifications from level 4-10 NZ equivalency can obtain points for residency.

Immigration is vital to New Zealand and there is a significant shortage of skills and talent at all levels. Education and training alongside active labour market programmes should be part of the puzzle that addresses how New Zealand firms get the talent they need in the future, however these need to work alongside a simple and permissive immigration system that can flex to labour market demand.

The EMA has heard strong feedback from members that migrants play a vital role in their businesses and communities, and government needs to be sending the same message that New Zealand welcomes international talent at all levels and values the contribution migrants make to the country.

Yours Sincerely,



Alan McDonald
GM Advocacy and Strategy
Employers and Manufacturers Association (Northern) Inc.

