

# Recognition of Overseas Skills and Qualifications

## Top Tips for Supporting Newly Arrived Australians



Lack of recognition of overseas skills and qualifications is one of many barriers that refugees and migrants face when looking for work. Many new arrivals work in jobs well below their level of skill and qualifications. This has a significant cost to individuals, families and communities, as well as to the Australian economy and society.

Employment is one of nine priority areas identified in the government's National Settlement Framework, and in SCoA's National Settlement Services Outcomes Standards (NSSOS). Supporting people into meaningful employment is essential for helping newly arrived individuals and families to settle well in Australia. To address these issues, SCoA recommends the following:

### Settlement Service Providers:



Provide opportunities for newly arrived people to develop formal and informal networks with potential employers through job fairs, volunteering, and by developing partnerships with employer groups such as Business Councils



Support newly arrived people to develop an understanding of Australian workplace culture and laws by running orientation sessions, providing practical information and developing opportunities for people to experience Australian workplaces first hand



Help new arrivals to prepare for Australian workplaces by offering "hands on" support with resumes, cover letters, job applications, interview skills etc



Support new arrivals to understand and navigate the complex system of employment services, and the professional bodies responsible for recognising qualifications

### The Federal Government:



Create an online portal to provide clear, easily accessible and accurate information about the skills recognition process in Australia. This should be able to be accessed by all, including potential migrants



Create an independent body with necessary powers to ensure that recognition of overseas qualifications is fair, reasonable and affordable



Fund a specialist employment service specifically to support newly arrived refugees and vulnerable migrants



Urgently invest in further funding for settlement support services to assist new Australians to overcome barriers to employment; together with a cross-portfolio commitment to ensuring adequate settlement support is provided to all new refugees and migrants that require it.