



30 May 2024

Jobs and Skills Australia

Re: Draft Core Skills Occupation List

We are writing to provide feedback on the draft Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL) in the context of the overall Migration Strategy and its application to professional sport.

Background.

The Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports (COMPPS) consists of the following national sporting organisations:

- Australian Football League (**AFL**);
- Cricket Australia (**CA**);
- Football Australia (**FA**);
- National Rugby League (**NRL**);
- Netball Australia (**NA**)
- Rugby Australia (**RA**); and
- Tennis Australia (**TA**)

As a coalition, we represent more than nine million participants and 16,000 sporting clubs across Australia. Each member of the coalition plays a vital role in developing, promoting and facilitating sport in Australia from the grassroots through to the international level. Our members are not-for-profit bodies responsible for the long-term development and sustainability of Australia's most prominent sports.

In general, the COMPPS members provide a wide range of public benefits through a self-funding business model. A large portion of their revenue is devoted to enhancing, promoting and developing sport for all Australians both at the national and 'grassroots' level.

One of COMPPS' roles is to provide a collective response on behalf of its member sports where their interests are aligned.

Submission

The COMPPS members are custodians of their respective sports and work to safeguard the role sport plays in shaping Australia's national identity. This has been built over decades of public and private investment in sport and delivered Australia results and a reputation on the world stage, belying our population base. Fostering this national pride through outstanding performance on the global stage while delivering to the community the economic, social and health benefits derived from participation in sport at all tiers is a key objective of COMPPS members.



The COMPPS member sports develop and draw from domestic talent pools, whether that be for players, administrators, officials, coaches and other related occupations, in the sports sector. The development of these domestic talent pools is critical in maintaining and building Australia's high standard of sport and esteemed position within the international sporting landscape.

In combination with the development of domestic talent pools, the appropriate injection of skills and expertise from international talent is a key element of growing and maintaining the highest standards in Australian sport. This injection, modest in quantitative terms, delivers significant benefit to sport in qualitative terms. The importation of overseas talent, knowledge and experience serves multiple purposes including:

- Ensuring Australian sport maintains international best practices;
- Providing opportunities for local talent to be mentored and developed by international counterparts;
- Elevating the standards, profile and sustainability of local national leagues which underpin the production of Australian representative players and ensure the highest economic and social outcomes of domestic sporting leagues are realised;
- Aiding the retention of Australian-born talent in the country;
- Supporting Australia's multicultural society and engaging local communities in sport through bringing in talent from their countries of origin;
- Strengthening Australia's foreign diplomacy strategy by fostering good relations and supporting neighboring countries through sport, particularly in the Pacific Region,
- Attracting major international events to Australia, along with their associated tourism and economic benefits; and
- Supplementing skills shortages, often within the context of major events.

Australia's recognised position as a world leader in sport is a critical foundation of the Australian Government's commitment to the "Green and Gold Decade". This involves hosting major international sporting events culminating in the Olympics and Paralympics in 2032 and is a feature of the National Sports Plan currently being developed by the Australian Government.

The ability to import appropriate overseas talent is key to supporting these national sporting goals and maintaining and growing our world-leading status to ensure the success of the Green and Gold Decade applies both on and off the field. COMPPS is concerned at the removal of the Temporary Skills Shortage Subclass 482 visa category and the position that key sporting occupations currently hold in Jobs and Skills Australia's draft CSOL. To that end, the COMPPS members advocate for:

- the professions of Sportspersons nec, Other Sports Official which includes Tennis Coach 452316 and Other Sport Coach and Instructor 453217 which encompasses football and cricket coach, Sports Umpire, and Sports Administrator currently on the 'confident off list' to be moved to the 'confident on list'.
- the profession of Sports Development Officer, which is currently on the 'targeted for consultation list', to move to the 'confident on list'.

The COMPPS members also note the professions of Sports Turf Manager and Sports Turf Trades Worker are currently on the targeted for consultation list. These professions are critical to grassroots sport in Australia ensuring playing surfaces are safe, well-maintained, and conducive to player development. High-quality playing surfaces enhance performance, reduce injury risks, and support the longevity and sustainability of sports facilities, fostering greater community participation and engagement.

A shortage of appropriately skilled Sports Turf Managers and Sports Turf Trades Workers in Australia would likely lead to decreased participation in grassroots sports, lower performance standards, and a negative impact on community engagement and the overall growth of sports at the foundational level. Accordingly, COMPPS members advocate for:

- the professions of Sports Turf Manager and Sports Turf Trades Worker, which are currently on the 'targeted for consultation list', to move to the 'confident on list'.

Should the above professions not be included on the CSOL confident on list, COMPPS would strongly advocate for an adjustment to other visa categories, such as the Subclass 408 Sporting Activities Visa or the Subclass 858 Global Talent Visa, to support and facilitate the appropriate recruitment of international talent with a pathway to permanent residency for the aforementioned occupations.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

COMPPS