



# New Migration pathways for North Queensland

Townsville Enterprise has recently secured a DAMA (Designated Area Migration Agreement) for the region. Covering Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hinchinbrook, and the Northwest corridor to Mount Isa. The TNQ DAMA provides a fast-tracked, flexible, and new migration pathway for North Queensland to help address our regions workforce shortages.

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN



**195**  
OCCUPATION  
TYPES



**IMPROVED  
MIGRATION  
FLEXIBILITY**



**PATHWAYS  
TO PERMANENT  
RESIDENCY**



**AGE, LANGUAGE  
& EXPERIENCE  
CONCESSIONS**

## Process for accessing overseas workers through the TNQ DAMA

The first stage of applying for the DAMA is to receive endorsement for the nominated position through the DAR (Designated Area Representative), which is Townsville Enterprise. Townsville Enterprise will assess the nominated position based on regional market demands and labour market testing.

There is a small fee associated with this process, this fee is scaled based on the size of business and the number of positions requested. You will be required to prepare documentation to apply through the DAMA including:

- A signed Business Declaration Document (template provided)
- A cover letter/submission including supporting evidence of attempts to fill the position within Australia
- Job/position descriptions for each position requested
- An organisational chart showing where the positions are located and who they report to
- Images of your business that can demonstrate the scale and capacity of your business
- Evidence to ensure your business is lawfully operating

The three visa options available through the TNQ DAMA are:

- **TSS VISA** (Temporary Skills Shortage Visa)
- **SESR VISA** (Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional)
- **ENS VISA** (Employee Nomination Scheme)
- Townsville Enterprise's endorsement review process takes approximately seven business days.
- Upon completion of endorsement, you will then need to undertake additional processes and timeframes as guided by the Department of Home Affairs.

*For more details on the requirements for this endorsement visit [skillstownsville.com.au](http://skillstownsville.com.au)*

## Frequently asked questions?

### 1. Will Townsville Enterprise find me staff?

Townsville Enterprise does not match individuals with prospective employers and vice versa. If support is required to source international workers, businesses may, at their discretion, use a migration agent.

### 2. What are my obligations as a sponsored employer?

There might be changes to your, or the sponsored persons circumstances that you inform the Department of Home Affairs about in writing. Businesses that apply for the DAMA should consider and discuss accommodation and housing options for overseas workers as part of the onboarding process.

### 3. Do I have to have an employee ready prior to applying?

A business can seek endorsement to access the DAMA and be approved for a Townsville DAMA Labour Agreement without having identified any prospective worker/s in advance. This is because the endorsement and Labour Agreement are about the business need to address skills shortages. Nominating individuals comes next once a Labour Agreement with pre-approved occupation/s and position/s are in place.

### 4. What if I have an existing employee on a VISA – can I apply for the DAMA for them?

There is an opportunity for businesses to utilise the DAMA to retain existing employees. Depending on the current employee's visa type, there may be Labour Market Testing (LMT) required to ensure that the business has made efforts to hire an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident before an overseas worker.

### 5. What if the occupation isn't on the list of approved occupations?

The approved occupation list is extensive and covers 195 different positions across a diverse range of industries. There may be circumstances in which the occupation you are seeking is not listed on our occupation list. You can advise TEL to look at adding the occupation onto the list when reviewing the overarching agreement with the Commonwealth (every 12 months). There may be circumstances where the position a business is requiring links to the duties of another occupation on the current occupation list. Approval for this is at the discretion of TEL and the Department of Home Affairs.

### 6. Can individuals apply for the DAMA?

No. The TNQ DAMA is an employer-sponsored Visa program and can only be accessed by employers with genuine skill shortages who may then nominate individuals. Individuals cannot access the TNQ DAMA program directly or on their own.

### 7. What if I need help?

Head to [skillstownsville.com.au](http://skillstownsville.com.au) for a full suite of resources and supporting materials. Townsville Enterprise cannot provide migration advice or assist with visas. If you have questions about the process or require further information, fill in the enquiry form online and our DAMA representative will be in touch.

