



Hospitality Training Association Inc.

media release

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Australian Government appoints HTA as skills assessor for visa

The Australian Government has appointed Brisbane-based Hospitality Training Association Inc. (HTA) as a skills assessor for the Skilled Worker Temporary Visa Subclass 457.

It follows recent changes made by the Australian Government to the visa to ensure it continued to provide Australian industry with overseas workers with needed skills.

From 1 July 2009 employer sponsored temporary workers applying for a 457 visa in the several trades, including cook/ chef, must undertake a skills assessment.

HTA has been approved by the Australian Government, through Trades Recognition Australia, to conduct formal skills assessments for 457 visa applicants from nominated countries in the cook/chef trade.

HTA CEO Philip Charlton said the appointment recognised HTA's position as a leading Australian Registered Training Organisation.

"For more than 20 years, HTA has been serving the needs of the hospitality and tourism industry by providing highly-skilled staff," he said.

"During this time we've worked closely with thousands of international students to help them study and work in Australia. This new appointment further enhances our role in both supporting the needs of the local industry and developing students' skills by exposing them to real work environments.

"For those applying for the 457 visa, the first step of the process is completing the self evaluation program called TradeSET. This self evaluation is available on the TRA website so applicants can check that their skills and experience match those required to work in their trade in Australia before they apply to an RTO for formal skills assessment.

"Skills assessments will be conducted by Australian Registered Training Organisations against industry-endorsed Australian qualifications for those trades."

A skills assessment is one part of a 457 visa application. Other requirements include employer sponsorship and a minimum English language requirement of IELTS 5. More information on the current requirements are available at the <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/sbs/> .

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For further information and interviews contact Mr Phillip Charlton, CEO, 3872 4200