

YOUR COMPLETE

# AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION GUIDE



**Hitchcock**  
+ ASSOCIATES



## EXPERIENCE. EXPERTISE. EXCLUSIVITY.

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With over 35 years' experience in providing expert immigration advice and services to individuals and corporates, Hitchcock & Associates has developed a reputation as trusted migration specialists.

Our team of highly skilled and experienced consultants have a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and nuances involved in the Australian immigration process and are committed to offering our clients the confidence and peace of mind they seek, removing anxiety and ensuring a successful outcome for all their Australian visa and immigration needs.

# FOREWORD

We are mindful of the fact that migrating to another country is arguably one of life's most important and overwhelming decisions to make. We have both immigrated to Australia from South Africa, to settle into a new life, new home, and new country, so we understand just how consuming the process can be.

We believe that along with our first-hand experience and the expert guidance and assistance of our skilled team, much of your stress and uncertainty will be alleviated, giving you peace-of-mind and providing a sense of comfort along every step of the way.

At Hitchcock & Associates, we try to understand each of our client's needs and requirements and to offer a tailormade solution that takes cognisance of your unique situation.

If you are ready to take the next step, we invite you to take a closer look at what we, and Australia has to offer.

*Cecil & Mike*

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*Clients are the heartbeat of our business. They sit at the center of everything we do. Emigration is probably one of the biggest decisions in a person's life, and we are conscious of our responsibility to our clients.*

**MANAGING DIRECTOR Cecil Bass**

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# INTRODUCTION

Our rich pedigree of over 35 years' experience ensures that we are the immigration specialists of choice. You have our complete commitment to giving you our full attention and to finding the right solution for you. Whether this is temporary or permanent residence, or even citizenship, we work with you to provide the best possible outcome that is tailor made to meet your personal circumstances.

With our Managing Director, Cecil Bass, being a past member of the Migration Advice Industry Advisory Group (providing strategic advice to Government), as well as a current Executive Committee Member of the New South Wales Branch of the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA), we are in the unique position of being aware of, and having input, to any reforms or changes to current migration legislation.

WHY AUSTRALIA

# DIVERSE. WELCOMING. SECURE.

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## A STRONG ECONOMY WITH A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITY

As of 2021, Australia was the 13th-largest national economy by nominal GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the world. It is also the 25th-largest goods exporter and 20th-largest goods importer.

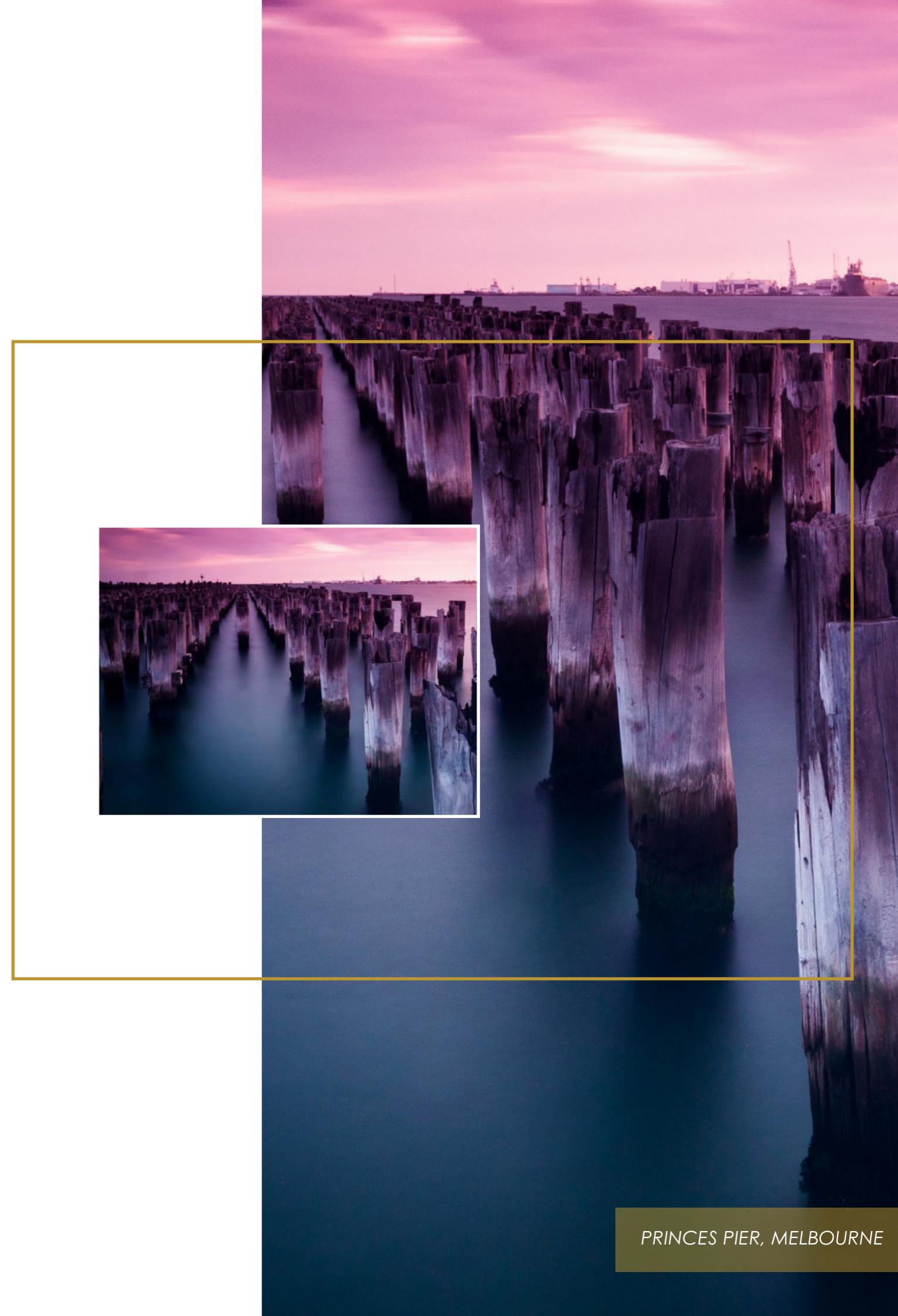
The Australian economy is dominated by its service sector, comprising 62.7% of the GDP and employing 78.8% of the labour force.

Australia is considered an attractive, stable, and low-risk destination for investors due to the resilient economy, vibrant industries, and strong international trade ties.

The Australian Securities Exchange is based in Sydney and is the 16th-largest stock exchange in the world in terms of domestic market capitalisation.

The currency of Australia and its territories is the Australian dollar, which it shares with several Pacific nation states.

In the 2020 *Better Life Index* (which evaluates 38 countries), Australia exceeds the average in income, jobs, education, health, environmental quality, social connections, civic engagement, and life satisfaction.



## EXCELLENT EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS

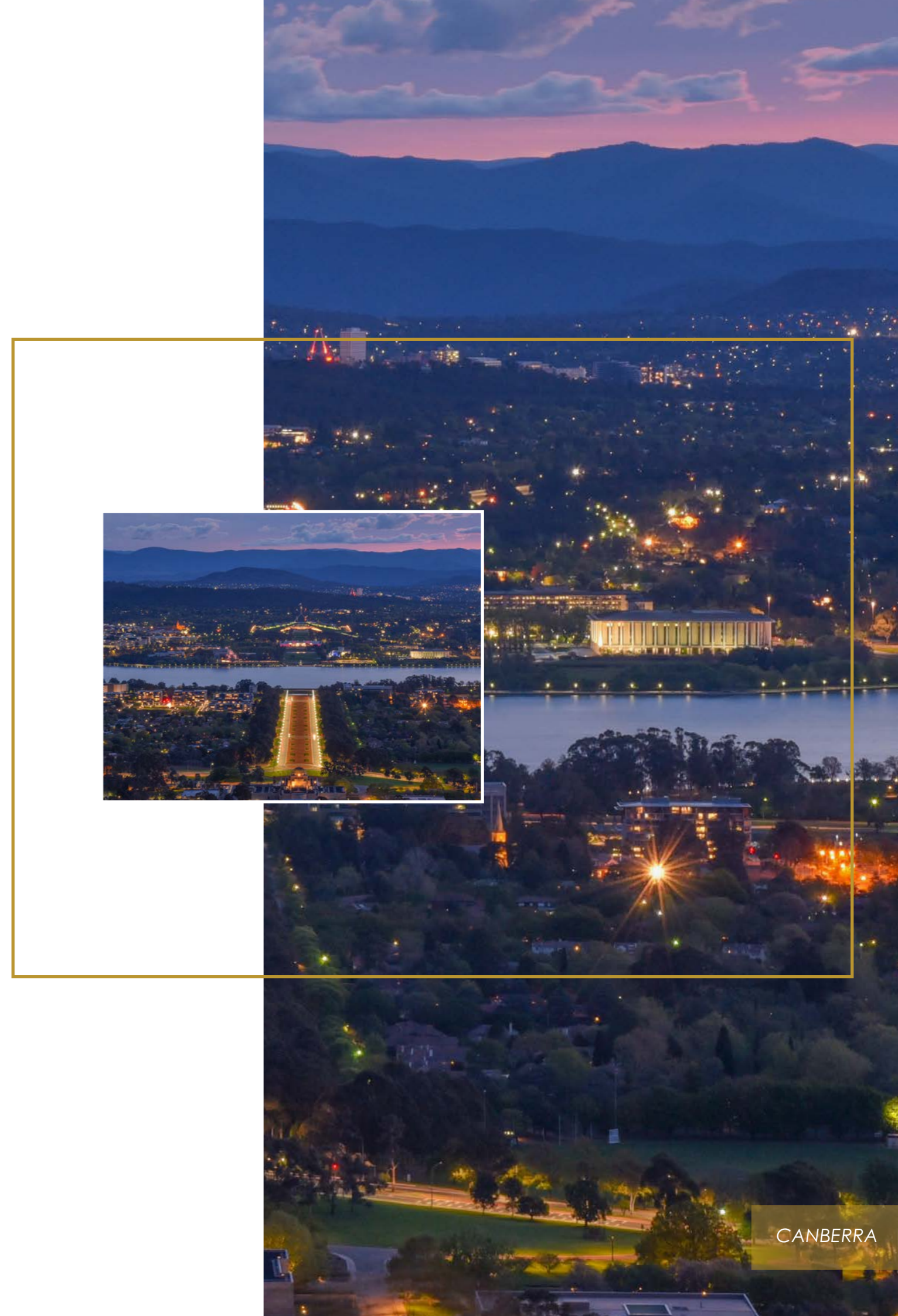
Australia rewards ambition, innovation, and entrepreneurship to those who choose to make it their home. Due to the solid and resilient Australian economy, there are significant career prospects available for skilled migrants.

As at May 2023, Australia's unemployment rate was 3.5% - making finding the right job (as opposed to just any job) a very real possibility. Excellent employment prospects, a strong economy and world-class financial services make it a desirable place to live and work.

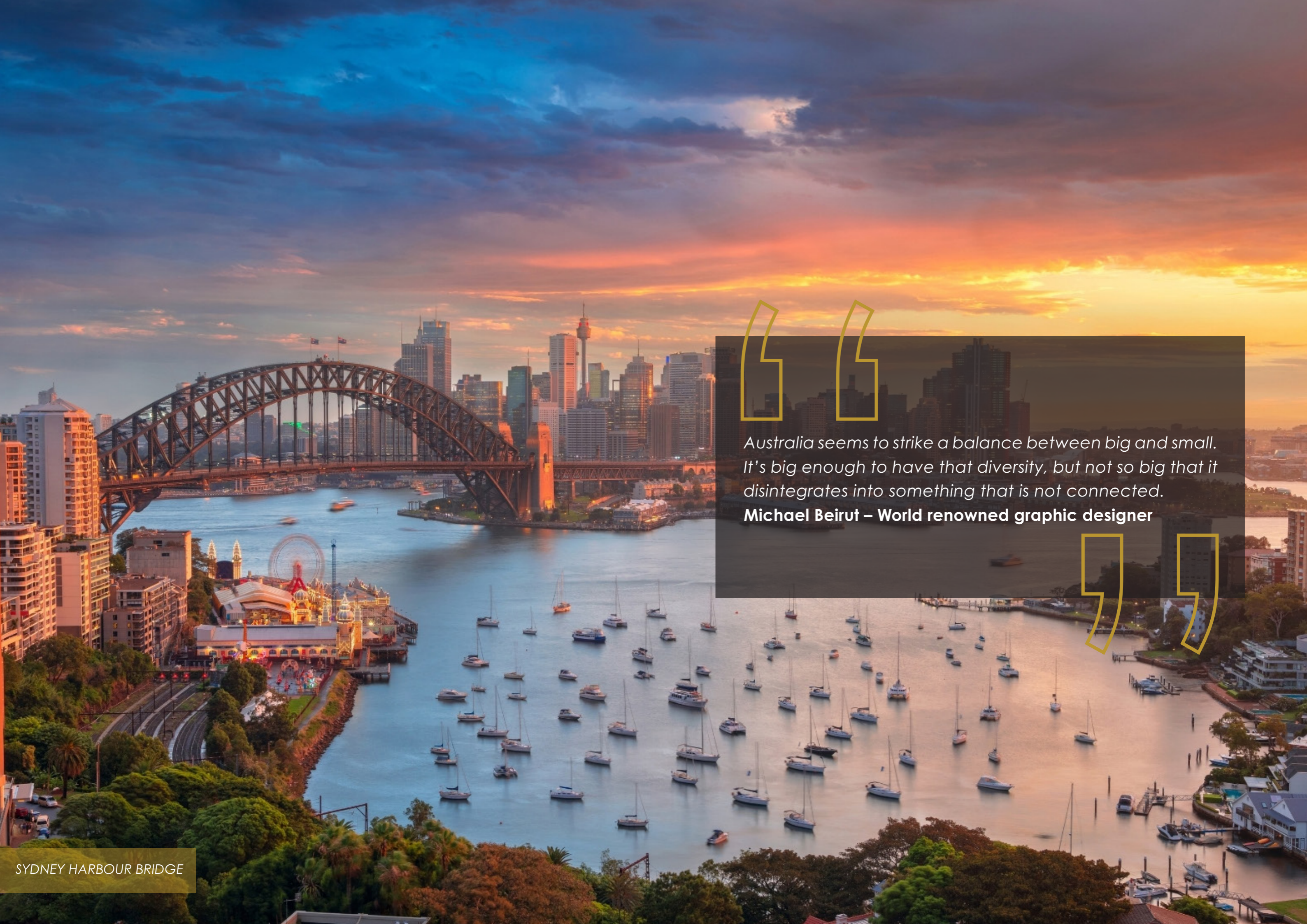
Furthermore, with small and family businesses generating more than one-third of the country's GDP and providing two-thirds of jobs – entrepreneurs are considered the backbone of the Australian economy.

**Australia presently ranks number 1 out of 50 global economies for engaging in entrepreneurial activities for their employer.**

2019/20 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM): the most comprehensive globally comparable assessment of entrepreneurship perceptions and intentions







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*Australia seems to strike a balance between big and small. It's big enough to have that diversity, but not so big that it disintegrates into something that is not connected.*

**Michael Beirut – World renowned graphic designer**

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## WARM AND WELCOMING LIFESTYLE

According to *The Economist*, Australia is an incredibly vibrant, multicultural country. In fact, Australians identify with more than 270 ancestries and boasts the 'world's oldest continuous culture'. Most new migrants say they feel a strong sense of belonging to Australia and that this feeling deepens over time.

*The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)* publishes an annual *Global Liveability Ranking*, which ranks 173 cities for their urban quality of life based on assessments of their stability, healthcare, culture, environment, education, and infrastructure. In the latest 2023 report, Melbourne was ranked 3rd and Sydney was ranked 4th among the Top 10 Most Liveable Cities in the World.

South Africans also generally find the Australian culture, language, and climate to be compatible with their own – not to mention, that for both – sport is considered a national obsession. Popular sports include cricket, soccer, rugby league, rugby union and Australian Rules Football.

**This rich, cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths.  
It is central to our national identity.**

<https://humanrights.gov.au>



MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

In Australia, leisure time spent with friends and family is important. There is a strong emphasis on the work-life balance, with social gatherings, family picnics and beach culture playing an intrinsic part in daily life.

Beautiful, safe, and well-maintained parks are integral to every city in Australia, ensuring that along with the cityscape and trees, there are numerous green areas to enjoy at your leisure.

### SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- One in four of Australia's 22 million people were born overseas
- 46% have at least one parent who was born overseas
- Nearly 20 per cent of Australians speak a language other than English at home
- Since 1945, almost 7 million people have migrated to Australia
- It is estimated that migrants contribute \$10 billion to the Australian economy within their first 10 years of settlement
- As of 2020, there were 7,6 million migrants living in Australia
- In 2021, The Australian government granted 160 052 skilled and Permanent Visas.
- Based on the current trends, Australia's projected population will be 38 million by 2050 and migration will contribute \$ 1,6 trillion to the Australia's GDP.
- Migration would have added 15,7% to the workforce participation rate and 5,9% in GDP per capita growth.

Source: [www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)

\*Ipsos-Eureka Social Research Institute, The Ipsos McKay Report: SBS Immigration Nation thought leadership research (2011), p 47.

[Scanloninstitute.org.au](http://Scanloninstitute.org.au)

[Abs.gov.au](http://Abs.gov.au)

[Mia.org.au](http://Mia.org.au)



TWELVE APOSTLES, VICTORIA

## QUALITY EDUCATION

### School Education (Primary and Secondary)

The Australian schools are ranked as some of the finest in the world.

Australian public schools are free to attend for Australian citizens and permanent residents, while non-government schools (including faith-based schools and schools founded on educational philosophies) and other independent schools usually charge attendance fees. Public and private schools are all subject to strict government controls and regulations to maintain the highest standards.

The school year runs from January to December.

School education (primary and secondary) is compulsory between the ages of six and sixteen (Year 1 to Year 9 or 10). School education is similar across all states and territories with only minor variations with all Australian schools being required to adhere to the same curriculum frameworks of their state or territory.

The 13 years of school education is divided into:

*Primary school* - seven years, starting at Kindergarten Preparatory through to Year 6.

*Secondary school* - four years, from Years 7 to 10.

*Senior secondary school* - two years, Years 11 and 12.

Some of the characteristics that make Australian school education so valuable includes:

- Small class sizes with a maximum of 30 students in a class
- Qualified and university-trained teachers who specialise in subject areas
- Superior facilities
- Quality assurance frameworks where schools must meet required standards



GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND

## Tertiary Education

Tertiary education includes both higher education (including universities) and vocational education and training (VET) which includes Technical and Further Education (TAFEs) - the largest education and training sector in Australia.

Vocational education and training providers are registered and regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Agency (ASQA).

**The Australian education system is distinguished from many other countries by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF was established in 1995 and is a national policy that covers qualifications from the tertiary education sector (higher education and vocational education and training) in addition to the school-leaving; the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education.**

[www.studyaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyaustralia.gov.au)

Australia's universities rank as some of the best in the world. The country boasts 40 public universities, two international universities and one private university.

University tuition fees are calculated based on the calendar year of study, the selected course, and government funding arrangements. Most domestic undergraduate students who are Australian citizens or are permanent residents are eligible for Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) in their course.

A Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) is a place at a university or higher education provider where the government subsidises part of the fees. The remaining portion is called the 'student contribution amount', the payment of which the student is liable.

Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) are available at all public universities in Australia and some, but not all, private institutions.



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, NEW SOUTH WALES

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*The people are immensely likable— cheerful, extrovert, quick-witted, and unfailingly obliging. Their cities are safe and clean and nearly always built on water. They have a society that is prosperous, well ordered, and instinctively egalitarian. The food is excellent. The beer is cold. The sun nearly always shines. There is coffee on every corner. Life doesn't get much better than this.*

**Bill Bryson – OBE and American British author**

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## SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Australia's healthcare system is one of the best in the world, recently ranking an impressive third among eleven of the world's wealthiest countries\*. The quality of healthcare is one of the key reasons why Australians enjoy one of the longest life expectancies!

The Australian healthcare system provides a wide range of services – from general and preventative health through to more complex specialist or hospital care.

It is divided into two major parts – the public health system (Medicare – funded by tax) and the private health system. Access to healthcare can be through either one or a combination of both systems.

Medicare and the public hospital system provide quality free or low-cost access for all Australians to most of these health care services. Private health insurance gives you choice outside the public system. For private health care both in and out of hospital, you contribute towards the cost of your health care.

Medicare has been Australia's universal health care scheme since 1984. Its 3 major components include:

- medical services
- public hospitals
- medicines

**Medicare is available to Australian and New Zealand citizens as well as permanent residents in Australia.**

\* 2021 Commonwealth Fund healthcare report



## THE STATES AND PROVINCES OF AUSTRALIA

Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a sovereign country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands.

Australia is the smallest of the world's continents – it comprises a land area of approximately 7.692 million square kilometres. Although this is just 5% of the world's land mass, Australia is the planet's sixth largest country by area in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country.

Australia's land mass is:

- almost as great as that of the United States of America
- about 50 per cent greater than Europe, and
- 32 times greater than the United Kingdom.

Nearly 20% of Australia's land mass is classified as desert. Climatic zones range from tropical rainforests, deserts, and cool temperature forests to snow-capped mountains.

Australia is home to sprawling modern cities, unique wildlife, vast countryside, and some of the most spectacular beaches in the world.

Canberra is the national capital of Australia.

The country is divided into six states and two territories – each of which have their own unique blend of beauty, cultures, and opportunities.

The largest community of South Africans live in Sydney followed closely by Perth and then Melbourne.





## WELL-MAINTAINED INFRASTRUCTURE

The Australian government is constantly investing in developing new and maintaining existing infrastructure – from roads, public transport, hospitals schools and universities.

The focus of government on 'serving their citizens' means that potholes are repaired, beaches are cleaned as well as parks and recreation facilities well maintained.

Services such as gas, water and electricity are readily accessible and reliable. The privatisation of service delivery results in competitive rates and superior products and service standards.



NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES



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*It's the colours, the light, the space. It's really very deep in my soul... In the Australian bush and inland deserts, there is a sense of being the first person in a place.*

**Suzanne Cory – Distinguished Australian molecular biologist**

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# THE IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE

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Australian Immigration laws and processes are notoriously complex.

With over 100 years of collective experience, our consultants are trained professionals who stay current with the constantly evolving immigration laws and policies. We are specialists in all aspects of temporary and permanent immigration, from initial assessment to individual applications, to employer sponsored visas and ongoing business sponsored monitoring obligations.

We draw on this wealth of knowledge and experience to provide our clients with a clear picture of the processes involved in achieving a successful outcome, right through to citizenship.

Australia is a land that welcomes immigrants. The borders have opened post Covid, which together with a low unemployment rate and skills shortage, has created an environment creating many immigration opportunities.

We are here to guide you through the process.



BUSSETON JETTY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## CORPORATE CLIENTS

Employer sponsored visas allow Australian employers to sponsor skilled overseas workers to come to Australia to fill vacancies within their business. There are several categories of visas, and considerable eligibility requirements and restrictions exist. Furthermore, the applicant's occupation must be on one of the nominated skills lists and, in some instances, skills assessments are required.

Hitchcock & Associates has a dedicated team working exclusively in employment sponsored visa categories. We have developed successful relationships with medium sized and major corporate clients over many years and we guide and work with the employer to create tailor made solutions, both for our clients and the visa applicants.

Visa categories include:

### TEMPORARY

Subclass 400 –  
Temporary Work (Short Stay  
Specialist) Visa

Subclass 408 –  
Temporary Activity Visa

Subclass 482 –  
Temporary Skill Shortage Visa

Subclass 494 –  
Skilled Employer Sponsored  
Regional (Provisional) Visa

### PERMANENT

Subclass 186 –  
Employer Nomination Scheme

Subclass 187 –  
Regional Sponsored Migration  
Scheme Visa

Subclass 191 –  
Skilled Regional Visa





ROTTNEST ISLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## BUSINESS SKILLS CLIENTS

The Business Innovation and Investment Program is designed to encourage skilled persons with proven business skills, investors, and entrepreneurs to come to Australia to benefit the Australian economy.

There are currently four distinct visa types in the Program, each designed to suit a particular type of business skill and attract a particular type of investor. These visas are temporary, which can lead to permanent residency once further conditions are met in subsequent years.

The visas have different requirements and restrictions. Proving the source of funds, establishing financial eligibility and preparation of financial statements are just some of the areas that require careful preparation and planning in these complex applications.

Hitchcock & Associates has the proven financial and business expertise to achieve a successful outcome. In addition, we have a team of multilingual staff to enable us to work with clients from diverse backgrounds and industries.

Visa categories include:

### PROVISIONAL

### PERMANENT

- |   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| Subclass 188A – Business Innovation Stream  | ➔ | Subclass 888A |
| Subclass 188B – Investor Stream             | ➔ | Subclass 888B |
| Subclass 188C – Significant Investor Stream | ➔ | Subclass 888C |
| Subclass 188E – Entrepreneur Stream         | ➔ | Subclass 888E |



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*Alone of all the races on earth, they seem to be free from the 'Grass is Greener on the other side of the fence' syndrome, and roundly proclaim that Australia is, in fact, the other side of that fence.*

**Douglas Adams – English author  
(Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy)**

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## RESIDENT RETURN VISAS

Not all migration professionals offer services or expertise in this important area. Resident Return Visas (RRV's) are really extensions of migrant visas, typically issued to people who are permanent residents or who were previously permanent residents and not yet citizens of Australia and need to travel or remain overseas, in the medium term. We complete many RRV applications annually and we are also skilled at restoring expired residence visas using RRV's where circumstances allow.

Visas include:

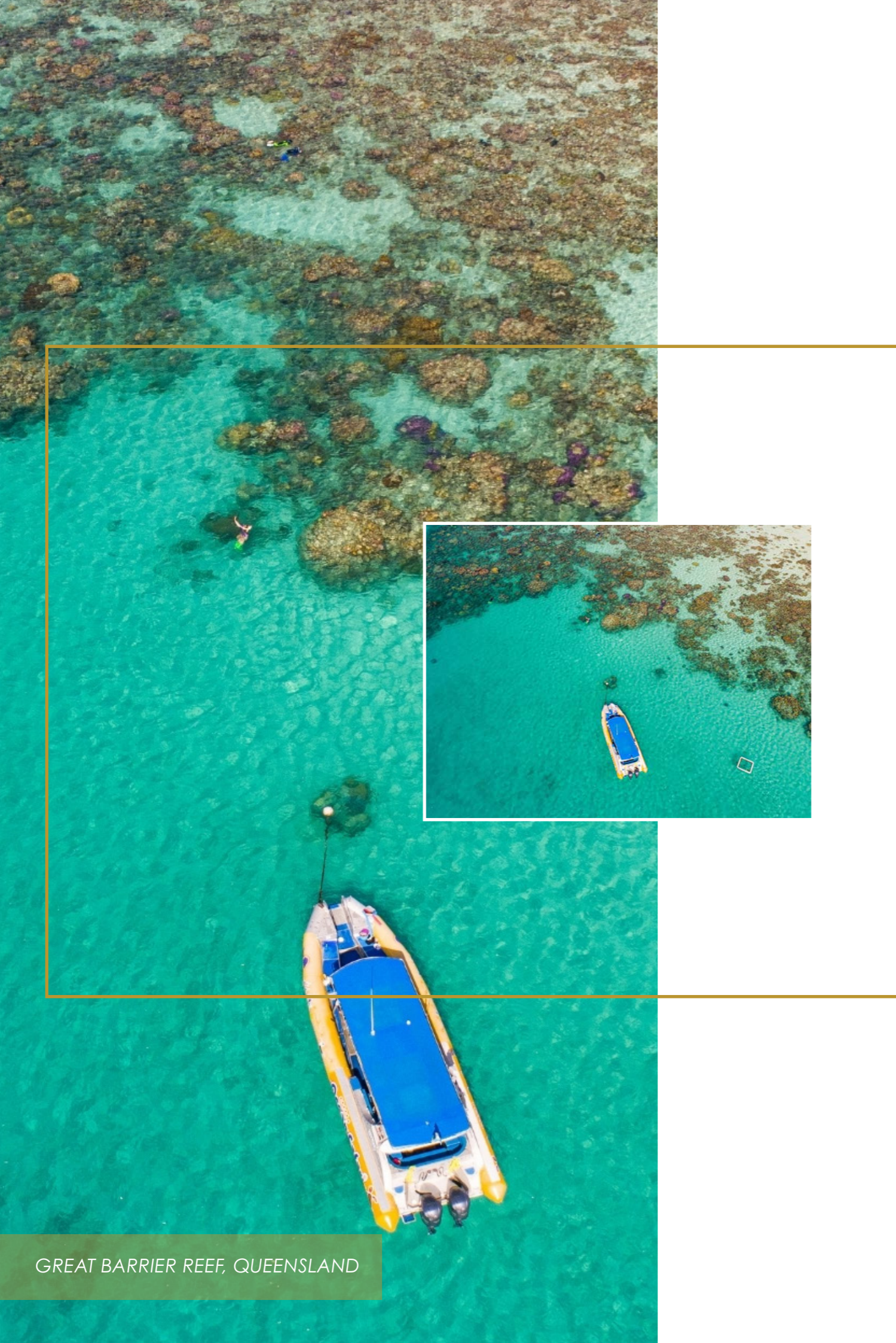
- Subclass 155 - Resident Return Visa

## THE SKILLED MIGRATION PROGRAM

Specifically designed to enable skilled professionals and their families to live and work in Australia. There is also a temporary residence option for international students who have recently graduated from an Australian educational institution. There are several different requirements and restrictions. In some instances, an Expression of Interest (EOI) needs to be submitted, skills assessments by authorised bodies are needed, and the applicant's occupation needs to be on a specific skills list. We have well-trained and skilled staff to guide clients through the complexities of these visas.

Visas include:

- Subclass 189 – Skilled Independent Visa
- Subclass 190 – Skilled Nominated Visa
- Subclass 485 – Temporary Graduate Visa
- Subclass 491 – Regional Sponsored Visa



## GLOBAL TALENT INDEPENDENT VISA

The Global Talent program is aimed at attracting the 'best and brightest' talent from around the world to Australia. The program is restricted to specific industries and provides a direct pathway to permanent residence. Applicants need to be top in their field and have an international reputation and be nominated by an Australian who themselves is recognised. These visas require customised solutions, and Hitchcock & Associates have the required skill and expertise to provide successful outcomes to many clients.

Visas include:

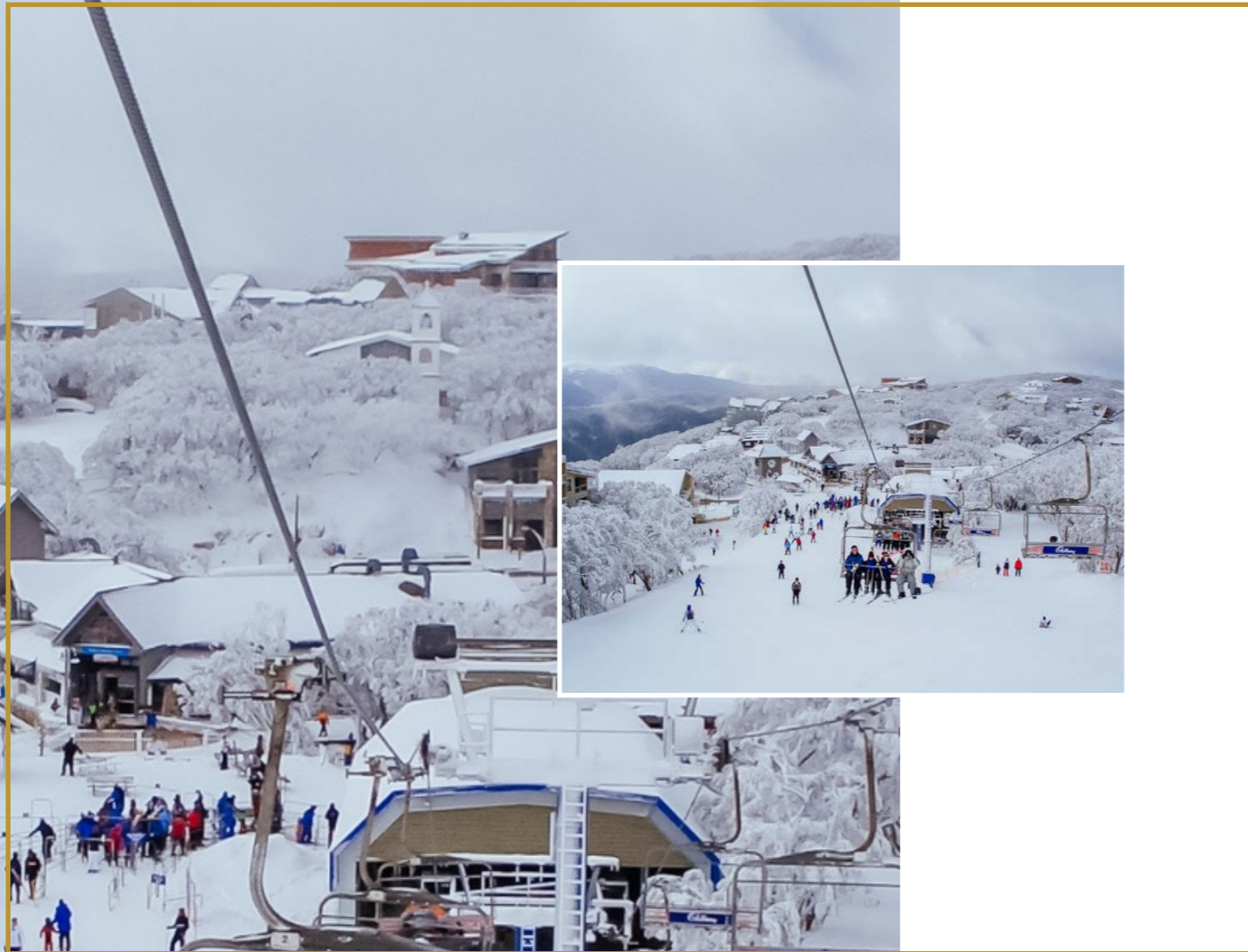
- Subclass 858 – Global Talent Visa

## FAMILY MIGRATION

Keeping families together is a primary goal for this visa stream. There are however significant technicalities and potential pitfalls in this area of migration, and it is important to prepare meticulous applications, with the correct level of documentation and evidence to build a strong case. Hitchcock & Associates has experienced incredible success as we continue to unite families to live in Australia.

Visas include:

- Subclass 870 – Sponsored Parent Visa
- Subclass 143 – Contributory Parent Visa
- Subclass 864 – Contributory Aged Parent Visa
- Subclass 804 – Aged Parent Visa
- Subclass 103 – Parent Visa
- Subclass 309 and 100 – Partner Visas
- Subclass 115 and 835 – Remaining Relative Visas
- Subclass 101 and 802 – Child Visas



MOUNT BULLER, VICTORIA





## CITIZENSHIP

We deliver professional advice and services to assist with citizenship enquiries and applications, as well as to determine eligibility. In addition, we manage issues such as resumption or renunciation of citizenship, citizenship by grant or descent. There are some concessions available within the intricate and nuanced citizenship legislation and we have successfully completed several concessional citizenship applications for clients.

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*Thanks so much for this, we really appreciate it!  
It has been an absolute pleasure working with you all  
on this, your service is amazing and extremely efficient.*

**Neil - Client**

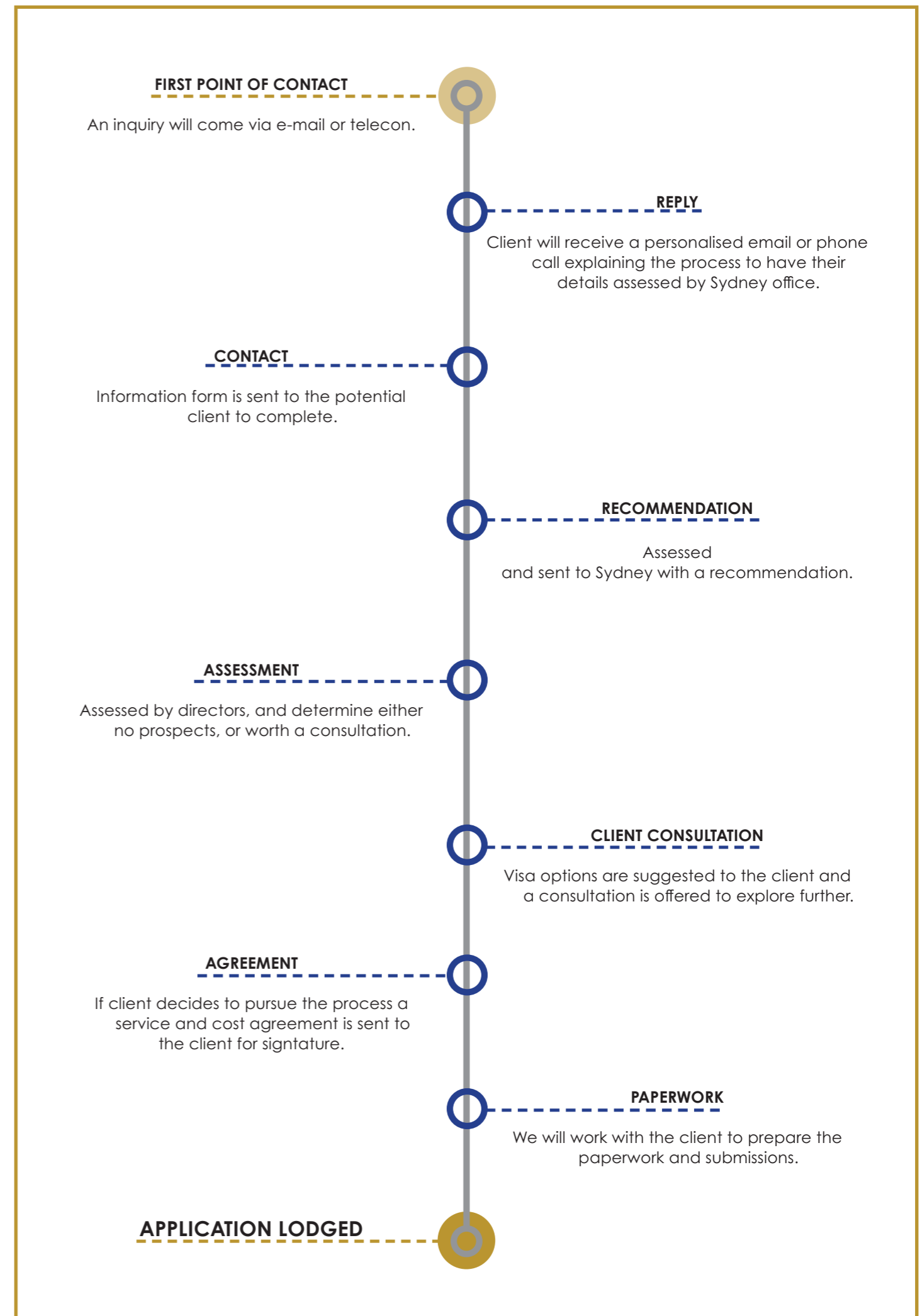
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# CLIENT-FOCUSED PROCESS

## TO DELIVER TAILORED SOLUTIONS

At Hitchcock & Associates we have long-standing and professional relationships with solicitors, accountants, financial institutions, property and business brokers. Our trusted partnership with the leading experts in their specific fields has been developed and nurtured for over 35 years.

- Dedicated, ongoing one-on-one assistance, providing guidance and support to human resource managers and visa applicants on all visa related matters
- Regular direct liaison with Australian immigration authorities within and outside Australia (as required)
- Frequent updates on case matters and immigration policy changes for both corporate clients and visa applicants.
- Follow up services ranging from guidance on visa expiry matters to assistance with Business Sponsor Monitoring and Compliance obligations.
- Access to an Australia-wide referral network for relocation, legal, financial and recruitment services.



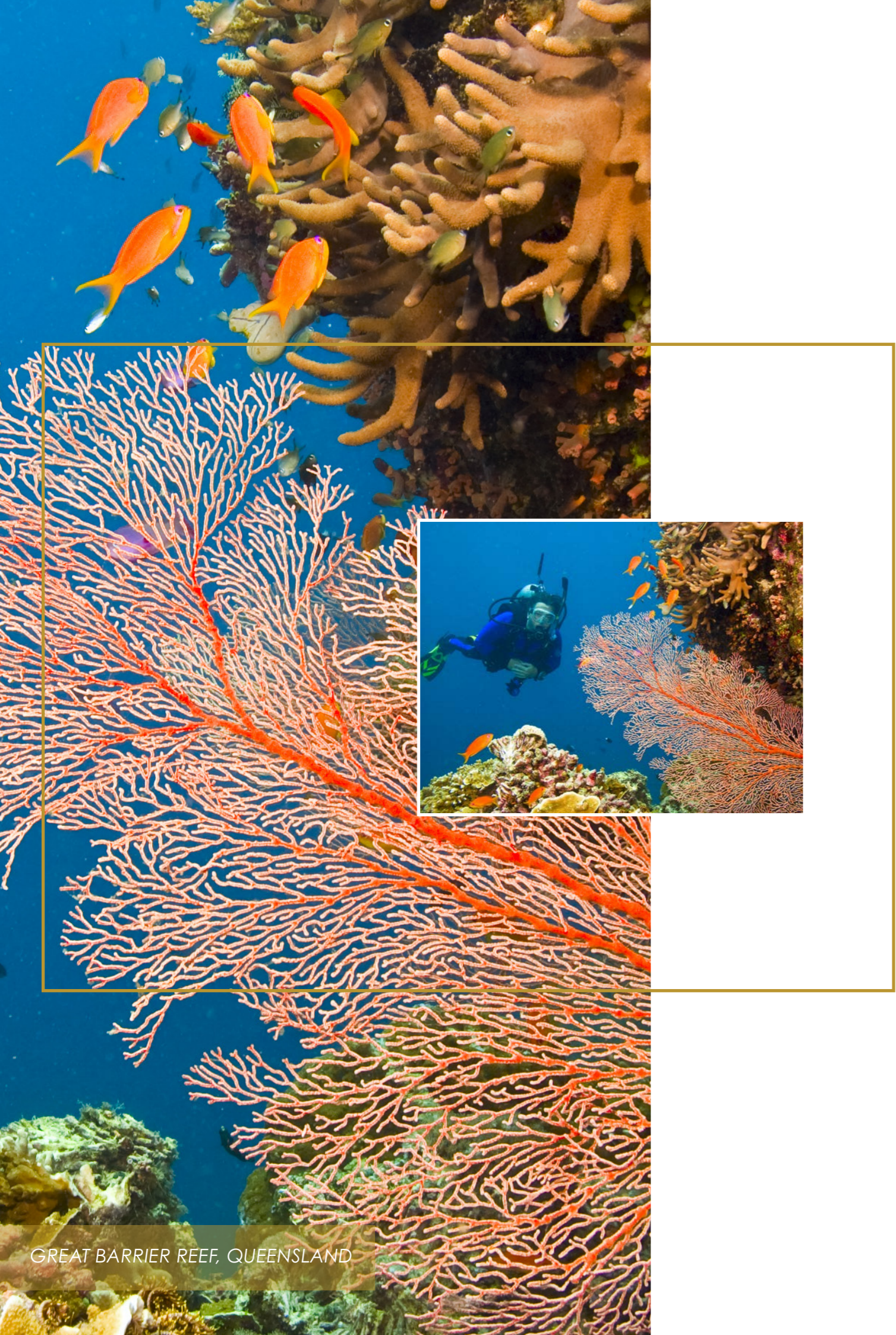


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*We'd like to express our gratitude to you all for your professional advice and good service. The whole application ran smoothly, and we were surprised that we received the desired outcome in such a short turnaround time!*

**Hori - Client**

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GREAT BARRIER REEF, QUEENSLAND

WHY HITCHCOCK & ASSOCIATES

# SPECIALIST. CUSTOMER-CENTRIC. ATTENTION-TO-DETAIL.

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### UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE

Hitchcock & Associates has been serving well-known multinational corporations, small to medium sized businesses and individual clients for many years, establishing a sound reputation and relationship with the right contacts and stakeholders so as to ensure we remain abreast of new developments and processes.



### PERSONALISED SERVICE

At Hitchcock & Associates we offer an honest and trusted service. We provide reliable, efficient, and empathic solutions. Our highly skilled professionals are on hand to engage with clients, and to discuss issues in a discrete, solution-oriented and obligation-free consultation.



### LOCAL OFFICES

We are proud of our international footprint, having established offices in Australia and South Africa and a significant footprint in Vietnam.



BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

## OMARA

Our migration agents are registered with the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA) and are required to comply with the OMARA's Code of Conduct.

The Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority is an office attached to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). The function of the OMARA is to act as the industry regulator for Australian migration agent services and administer a comprehensive regulatory framework, including relevant provisions of the Migration Act 1958.



Australian Government  
Office of the Migration Agents  
Registration Authority

## MIA

Our agents are all members of the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA). The MIA is the peak organisation representing the Australian migration advice profession.

The MIA represents Australian Registered Migration Agents (RMAs) and other migration advice professionals. The MIA is a member association of Professions Australia, a national organisation of professional associations.





BLUE MOUNTAINS, NEW SOUTH WALES

## INTERNSHIPS

Our firm has a long tradition of providing internships to people entering the migration advice profession. Many of Australia's leading advisors started their careers under our tutorship.



“

Australia is a paradoxical land. It is a modern, industrialized, and technologically advanced nation on a continent that is largely unpopulated.  
**Francis Gordon Clarke – Australian researcher and historian**

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# SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICE DETAILS

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**Lisa Pizzut-Nel**

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[lisa@hitchock.co.za](mailto:lisa@hitchock.co.za)



# MEET THE EXPERTS

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Our professional team comprise university graduates with either legal or accounting qualifications, enabling each valued team member to offer expert and up-to-date advice in all areas of Australian Migration Law.

Our permanent presence in South Africa over the past 35 years is indicative of our commitment towards helping South African individuals and corporates with their immigration needs and requirements.



# CECIL BASS

MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**Registered Migration Agent: #0004497**

**Member Migration Institute of Australia: #1058**

Cecil has spent many years in the investment and real estate industries, as well as in local government in South Africa. He gained extensive experience in commercial and industrial property, working with leading property developers and institutions.

Cecil was an elected member of the Johannesburg City Council from 1982 to 1994 representing the Democratic Alliance Party and its predecessors. From 1990 to 1994, Cecil was a member of the Council's management committee, chairing the culture and recreation committee as well as several other committees. He was a member of the Council of Wits University from 1990 to 1994 as well as a member of the University Council's executive committee. He also held numerous senior positions within the Democratic Alliance Party's national and regional structures.

Cecil migrated to Australia in 1998 and joined Hitchcock & Associates in July 2000 as a partner in the business. He was appointed to the role of Managing Director in September 2002.



His professional and business background enables him to specialise in business skills migration to Australia. He has written Business Skills training material for the Migration Institute of Australia and is a sought-after speaker at professional conferences dealing with business migration.

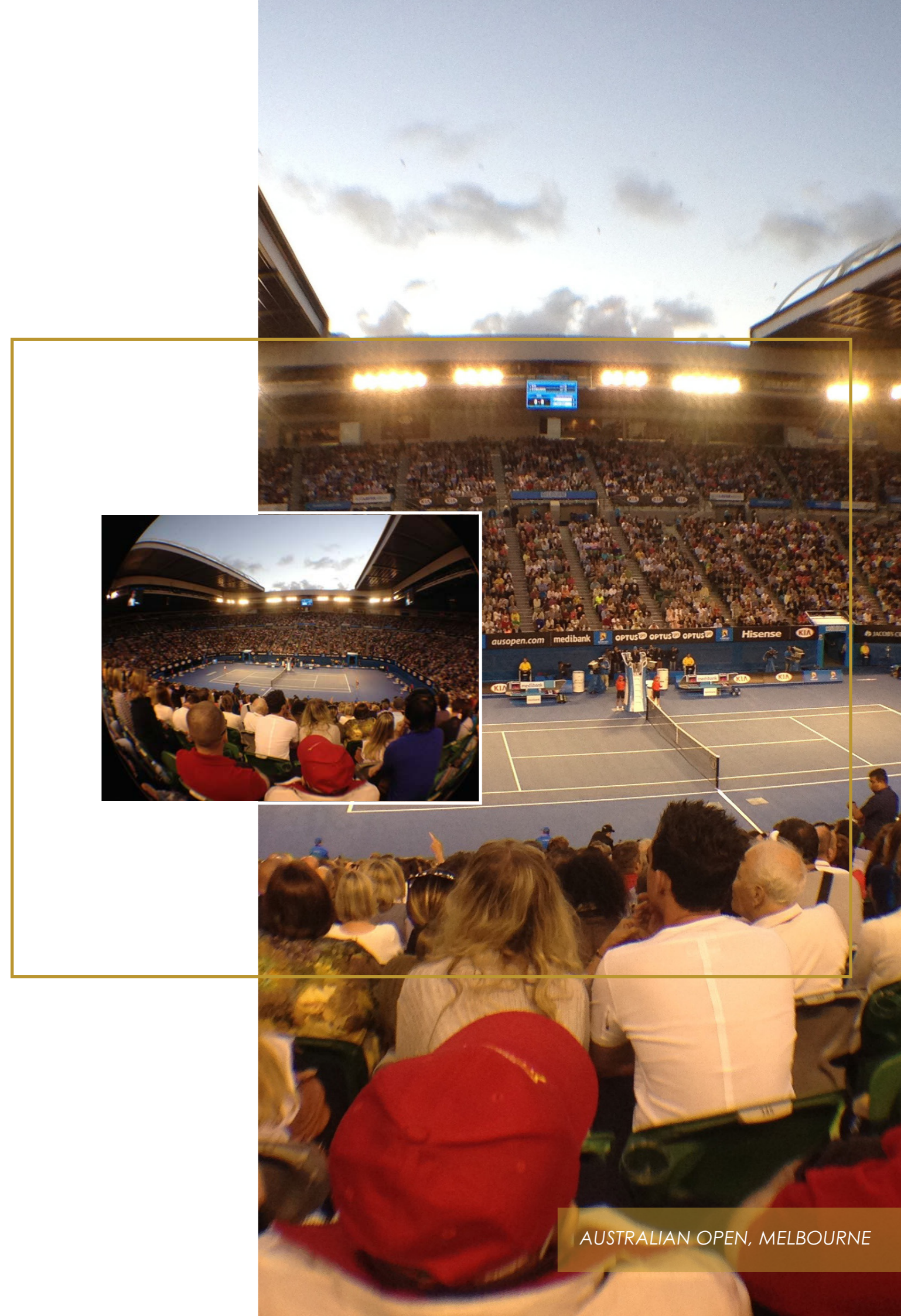
*Cecil is a Chartered Accountant and is recognised as one of the leading practitioners in Significant Investor visas and has successfully completed many of these complex applications on behalf of high-net-worth clients.*

Cecil is also acknowledged as a leading professional in *Resident Return visas and Global Talent visas.*

Cecil is a past member of the Migration Advice Industry Advisory Group, providing strategic advice for the Government, including on potential reforms to the legislative framework governing the industry.

Cecil is also member of the Executive Committee of the New South Wales Branch of the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA).

Cecil's interest ranges from music to sport and the arts as well as taking a keen interest in international affairs. He is the proud grandfather of thirteen Australian grand kids.



AUSTRALIAN OPEN, MELBOURNE

# MIKE DOWSLEY

PARTNER AND DIRECTOR

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Mike was born in South Africa and obtained Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Law degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand. Mike has worked in major corporates and carries a wealth of executive and general management experience.

Having worked in London, Mike has also travelled extensively to the United States, the UK, many European countries, as well as Japan. He has been a Council Member of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and Chairman of the Tourism Standing Committee of that Chamber, as well as a member of the Institute of Directors of South Africa.

Mike joined Hitchcock and Associates in 2021 as a Partner and Director. He relocated to Australia in early 2022 and is based in Melbourne.

He recently completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Migration Law and Practice from the University of Technology Sydney.



# LISA PIZZUT-NEL

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER SOUTH AFRICA

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Lisa was born in South Africa and educated in both Portugal and South Africa.

Lisa has a diverse and extensive background in the renewable energy, advertising and hospitality sectors with a specific emphasis on administration, client relations, project coordination, event coordination and social media marketing.

She joined Hitchcock & Associates as the manager of our office in Johannesburg office in November 2020 and is the face of our South African office, taking responsibility for client relations and the coordination and management of all administrative processes.





**LULI LIU**

REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENT: #1799977  
MEMBER MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA:  
#19057

Luli was born in Ningbo, China. She did her primary schooling in her hometown, completed her high school education in the United Kingdom and obtained her Bachelor of Economics in Australia.

Luli graduated with a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney in 2014. She obtained her Graduate Certificate of Migration Law from Australia National University in 2017 and became a registered migration agent in the same year.

Luli has been working in Hitchcock and Associates since 2015 and she specialises in a range of visa categories including Business Skills, General Skilled Migration, Resident Return and Family Visas. She is fluent in English and Mandarin.



**SIMA ZEINALI**

REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENT: #1807481  
MEMBER MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA:  
#22154

Sima was born in Iran and migrated to Australia in 2010. Sima graduated in Migration Law from the Australian National University.

Sima graduated in Migration Law from the Australian National University (ANU) in 2018 and has been working as a registered migration agent since January 2019.

She joined Hitchcock & Associates in January 2020 and is currently working in our Employer Sponsored Team on a range of visa categories including ENS/RSMS, TSS, Partner visas, and citizenship applications.

She is fluent in English and Farsi.

**SUZI VIZARD**  
REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENT: #0004144  
MEMBER MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA:  
#24750

Suzi completed her post graduate studies and became a registered migration agent in 2000.

She has many years of experience advising on employer sponsored and related visas for multinational companies, while living in Melbourne, Singapore and Hong Kong.

On returning to Australia she joined the Hitchcock & Associates Sydney team in March 2021, working on a wide range of visa categories including GSM, GTI, Family visas, RRV and Citizenship applications.

In June 2023, she moved to the Employer Sponsored Visas team at Hitchcock & Associates providing tailored visa solutions to our many corporate clients across the globe.



**LUKA NGUYEN**  
REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENT: #2217948  
MEMBER MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA:  
#26915

Luka was born in Hanoi, Vietnam and migrated to Australia in 2016. He obtained a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting from Monash University, Melbourne in 2009.

Luka holds a Graduate Diploma in Migration Law and is a Registered Migration Agent practising in our Business Skills team as well as managing applications in a number of other visa categories.

Prior to joining Hitchcock & Associates in 2017, Luka had over 5 years' experience in banking in Vietnam. His education background and work experience enable him to assist in the preparation of the complex business skills applications managed by the firm.

He is fluent in English and Vietnamese.





**JILL VAN DER POEL**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Jill was born and educated in Johannesburg, South Africa and migrated to Australia in 1993. Jill has extensive experience in Recruitment and Human Resources in generalist consultancy practices as well as in the retail and corporate industries.

In 1997, Jill founded and co-owned a successful general recruitment consultancy firm which specialized in corporate, accounting and administration staff placements.

Jill joined Hitchcock & Associates in 2003, working in an executive PA and client relations role.

She is currently the Business Manager of the company, ensuring the smooth running of the firm, and taking responsibility for staff, clients, administration and all non-technical aspects of the business.



**KRYSTAL TRUONG**  
FINANCIAL ANALYST

Krystal was born in Vietnam and migrated to Australia in 2010. She graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting (with Distinction) from the University of Wollongong in 2013.

Krystal has been employed at Hitchcock and Associates since 2016 and has been trained in a range of visa categories including Business Skills, Employer Sponsored and General Skilled Migration Visas.

She is fluent in Vietnamese, Cantonese, English and conversational Mandarin. Her multilingual ability and exposure to diverse environments enable her to deal with clients from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds.

Her accounting and financial background also enable her to navigate the complex tax and accounting processes in Vietnam in order to effectively assist in the preparation of Business Skills applications.



**PATRICIA LEE**  
ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Patricia was born in Malaysia and completed her university studies in Sydney

Patricia graduated with a Bachelor of Economics degree, majoring in Accounting, from Macquarie University in 1985. She worked in various accounting and management positions overseas.

Upon her return to Sydney in 2013, Patricia joined Hitchcock and Associates where she manages the accounts and administration department.

She is proficient in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Malay.



**SOPHIE LU GAO**  
REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENT: #1804640

Sophie was born in China and migrated to Australia with her family in 2016. She came to Australia in 2007 for high school study and completed a Bachelor of Medical Science degree from the University of Sydney. Sophie also holds a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics degree from the University of Sydney and worked in clinical settings for a short period of time.

Due to her interest in the immigration industry, she made a career shift to practice as a Registered Migration Agent following the completion of her Migration Law study at the Australian National University in 2018.

Sophie joined Hitchcock & Associates in June 2023. She works on a variety of visa applications and specializes in General Skilled Migration, Family visas, Student visas and Citizenship applications.

She is fluent in English and Mandarin.





**CLARE BRICKNELL**  
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Clare was born and educated in Sydney, Australia and is completing a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Sydney.

Clare has been with Hitchcock and Associates since February 2023 as an Administration Assistant, assisting with the preparation of a range of visa applications including Employer Sponsored, Resident Return, Family, and General Skilled visas. She is passionate about delivering the best service to clients and making the visa application process as smooth as possible.

Clare's background is in science, education, and administration, and she is an enthusiastic netball fan.



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