

# OUR PLAN TO

# BACK OUR MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES



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## KEY POINTS

The Morrison Government is working to keep our economy strong, keep Australians safe and keep Australians together. Australia is the most successful multicultural society in the world and our Government is working to ensure we remain a strong, prosperous and united society.

Our plan for Australia will:

1. Create 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years;
2. Maintain budget surpluses and pay down debt;
3. Deliver tax relief for families and small businesses;
4. Keep Australians safe and our borders secure; and
5. Guarantee increased funding for schools, hospitals, medicines and roads that you and your family rely on, already at record levels.

All without increasing taxes.

The Morrison Government will continue to celebrate our nation's unique multicultural heritage while strengthening our economy, maintaining social cohesion and securing our future.

Our plan will:

- Reward hard work and the enterprise of migrant families and businesses.
- Deliver better government services to people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- Build social cohesion with practical measures that help new migrants and people from culturally diverse backgrounds to engage in the workforce and the community.
- Open up new opportunities for migrants in regional Australia.
- Maintain programs to assist migrants and multicultural communities to prosper and succeed in Australia.

**A re-elected Morrison Government will invest an additional \$5 million in a dedicated Accelerator Support Program to assist first generation migrants looking to develop a start-up business.** New grants will support those organisations best placed to deliver targeted business education, incubation and mentoring to people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.



A re-elected Morrison Government will invest \$10 million to create a dedicated network of Aged Care System Navigators to assist people from CALD backgrounds and their families in navigating the aged care system. The Navigators will assist these families to understand options and make the right decisions when it comes to finding alternative accommodation options, securing residential care or Home Care Packages, understanding the financial implications and completing the paperwork.

## OUR PLAN

Australia is the most successful multicultural society in the world, uniting a multitude of cultures, beliefs and traditions. Twenty-nine per cent of Australians were born overseas, while half of our population were either born overseas or have a parent born overseas.

Our migrant heritage is an enduring source of strength, prosperity and cultural vibrancy. Coalition Governments have contributed to our multicultural success over many decades.

The Morrison Government will continue to celebrate our multicultural achievement while preserving our economic strength, social cohesion and security. We believe in equal opportunity in a fair and compassionate society irrespective of someone's race, religion or ethnic background. We will defend Australia's democratic freedoms and its longstanding commitment to tolerance and the rule of law.

A re-elected Morrison Government will ensure Australia remains a cohesive and prosperous society where those who have a go get a fair go.

### **Rewarding hard work and the enterprise of migrant families and businesses**

Our plan for lower taxes will reduce taxes on low- and middle-income earners by up to \$1,080 for single earners or up to \$2,160 for dual income families. We are also reducing tax thresholds further, and reducing the 32.5 per cent tax rate to 30 percent as part of the largest tax reform in a generation. Under our plan, 94 per cent of taxpayers are projected to face a marginal tax rate of 30 per cent or less in 2024-25.

We are delivering lower taxes for small, medium and family businesses so business owners can reinvest in their business and create more jobs. The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that one in three owners of small businesses were born overseas. Migrant businesses employ more than 1.4 million Australians and make a huge contribution to our economy.



Our plan for small business will enable migrant businesses to expand and create even more jobs. Our tax plan benefits around 3.3 million small, medium and family businesses and their 7 million employees. We have already lowered the tax rate from 30 per cent to 27.5 per cent and this will be cut further to 25 per cent by 2021-22.

We are also helping small, medium-sized and family businesses invest and grow through increasing the instant asset write-off from \$25,000 to \$30,000, with around 3.4 million small and medium businesses employing some 7.7 million workers now eligible.

Our other initiatives to back small business include better access to finance, red tape relief, helping small business cash flow by ensuring they get paid on time and supporting our small businesses to go digital.

As part of our big plan for small business, a re-elected Morrison Government will invest an additional \$5 million in a dedicated Accelerator Support Program to assist first generation migrants looking to develop a start-up business.

New grants will support those organisations best placed to deliver targeted business education, incubation and mentoring to people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

### **Delivering better government services for people from culturally diverse backgrounds**

The Morrison Government is working to ensure government programs and services are accessible to all eligible Australians and deliver fair outcomes for them regardless of their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

We have guaranteed increased funding for schools, hospitals and medicines – commitments that benefit all Australians.

Nothing could be more important to keeping Australians together than universal access to world-class health care. The Morrison Government's plan for a stronger economy means we can continue to make record investments in Medicare, hospitals, new medicines and medical research.

We are supporting communities affected by specific health and medical needs including \$3.9 million for tailored mental health support for Australians from multicultural backgrounds.



Our multicultural communities recognise the value of a good education and the opportunities it unlocks. The Morrison Government's strong commitment to choice means parents from CALD backgrounds have more options when it comes to giving their children the best possible start to life aligned with their values and beliefs.

We are delivering record funding for students attending state government, independent and Catholic schools, as well as early learning and child care. Our investment of an extra \$37.6 billion in schools over the next decade will ensure funding per student increases, on average, by around 62 per cent through to 2029.

We are keeping all Australians safe through new investments such as our Safer Communities Fund and our plan to reduce violence against women and children. As part of our \$328 million plan to tackle domestic violence we are improving accessibility to 1800RESPECT for people from vulnerable and diverse cohorts, including from CALD backgrounds, to ensure they have access to high quality and culturally appropriate counselling and support.

We recognise that migrant communities can face particular challenges in understanding the full range of government services and the options presented. An area like aged care is a good example. We know that people from CALD backgrounds are less likely to utilise residential aged care services due to language barriers faced in accessing and engaging with services.

A 2018 review of the aged care system found people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds faced greater challenges than the rest of the population when navigating the referral to services and in rating aspects of the aged care services received. In February 2019, the Morrison Government released Australia's first Aged Care Diversity Action Plan to support older CALD Australians to overcome barriers they may face in accessing aged care services.

A re-elected Morrison Government will invest \$10 million to create a dedicated network of Aged Care System Navigators to assist people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families to get the services they need.

The network will comprise on-line and mobile information hubs, community hubs and one-on-one support from specialist workers and volunteers to streamline and simplify aged care service access. These navigators will assist senior Australians and their families from CALD backgrounds to get the best outcomes from the aged care system. They will assist older Australians and their families in



understanding options and making the right decisions when it comes to:

- Finding alternative accommodation options
- Securing residential care or Home Care Packages
- Understanding the financial implications
- Completing the paperwork.

### **Building social cohesion and community engagement**

The Morrison Government is working with diverse communities to ensure Australia remains a safe and socially cohesive nation where people have a strong sense of identity, participate in our economy and are committed to Australian values.

Our plan to keep Australians together includes practical programs that build social cohesion by connecting diverse communities to Australian society and to the workforce. Settlement programs support migrants to become self-reliant and active members of the Australian community. For example, humanitarian migrants and other eligible migrants receive early, tailored and intensive settlement support in the first five years of their arrival in Australia. Government settlement services assist these migrants with employment, education and training, housing, health, legal and services. As well as increasing support for migrants to become established and integrated in their communities, we are acting across a broad front to reduce the factors that lead to social isolation.

We are supporting grassroots initiatives that foster belonging and break down barriers to social and economic participation. With a \$71 million investment over four years, we are:

- Expanding programs to help new arrivals settle and integrate into Australia through the National Community Hubs Program and a new round of Fostering Integration Grants.
- Building interfaith and intercultural understanding in classrooms, cultural institutions and through community-driven programs.
- Helping young people identify, understand and counter online hate.
- Funding sporting initiatives based on the unique role sport plays in promoting social inclusion.
- Providing \$10 million to establish the Community Language Schools Multicultural Grants Program to provide new funding to help young Australians learn another language and connect people to new cultures.



### **Opening up new opportunities for migrants in regional Australia**

The Morrison Government will maintain a responsible and generous migration program as part of our comprehensive population strategy. Our plan will ease the pressure on the big capital cities while supporting the growth of those smaller cities and regions that want more people.

Australia's migration arrangements, which focus on young, skilled migrants, have contributed enormously to our economic prosperity. Without migration, growth in Australia's workforce would slow dramatically and, in the longer term, would even shrink.

While permanent migration, and particularly skilled migration, has contributed to Australia's economic success, temporary migration has also made a large contribution to our economy. In 2017-18, for example, international students in Australia added \$32.4 billion to the economy and tourism \$21.6 billion, making these our third and fifth largest export industries.

The focus of the migration program will remain firmly on attracting skilled migrants to our shores who will help alleviate the impact of the ageing of Australia's population, fill labour and skills shortages, and add to our diverse society. Our strategy enhances the migration program's focus on skills, with the number of Employer Sponsored skilled visas increasing from 35,528 grants in 2017-18 to 39,000 places in 2019-20.

Opportunities will, of course, remain for family and humanitarian migration. There is no change to the Family stream of the program, with 47,732 places available in 2019-20.

Migration flows have tended to concentrate in our three largest cities. At the same time, many communities in regional Australia are keen to attract a higher share of our migration intake, with an estimated 60,000 job vacancies in regional Australia today. By encouraging them to settle and study in regional areas, the Morrison Government is opening up new horizons and opportunities for migrants in regional Australia.

Under our integrated population strategy, we will introduce two new provisional visas to encourage more migrants to settle and remain in regional areas. These visas will enable skilled migrants to settle in and contribute to regional communities with a pathway to permanent residency at the end of a three year period. We will set aside 23,000 places for these visas in 2019-20 – up from 8,534 visa grants in 2017-18 for people required to live in regional Australia. The changes will mean more migrants will stay in regional Australia easing the pressure off our congested cities.



Under the two new regional categories, visas will be priority processed. Employers who want to nominate migrants for positions in their businesses where Australia are not available will have access to a larger pool of occupations compared to those located in our major cities.

To attract Australian and international students to study in regional centres, we will also provide \$93.7 million over four years from 2019-20 for scholarships for domestic and international students under a new Destination Australia program. Changes will also be made to provide an additional one year Temporary Graduate visa for international students who have completed their studies at a regional campus of a university to ensure they can continue to live and work in regional Australia for longer.

**We will also maintain programs to assist migrants and multicultural communities to prosper and succeed in Australia.**

The Morrison Government provides a settlement framework to help new migrants integrate into Australian life that is widely considered best practice. New arrivals, particularly through Australia's refugee and humanitarian program, benefit from specialised support, including help learning English and gaining necessary education or employment skills.

The Morrison Government takes a pragmatic and responsive approach to elements of the migration program. For example, we have implemented tailored aged care labour agreements to support migrant communities. These changes allow aged care providers to hire overseas workers with specialised skills that will support older Australians from multicultural backgrounds. We have also made changes to support Australia's religious communities through the minister of religion labour agreement making it easier for religious institutions to sponsor overseas workers, where Australians are not available.

The Coalition Government has delivered on its commitment to introduce a family reunion visa, with sponsorship applications for the new Temporary Sponsored Parent Visa now open to migrant families wanting their parents to come to Australia for up to 10 years.

## THE CHOICE

The Morrison Government has a plan to keep our economy strong, keep Australians safe and keep Australians together.



Labor has a plan for hundreds of billions of dollars in higher taxes.

This would slow the economy, deny hardworking Australians tax relief and weigh down small businesses looking to invest and create jobs.

A successful migration program depends on public confidence.

Labor has a failed record on immigration. Public confidence in our immigration system nose-dived as Labor lost control of our borders.

It was left to the Coalition to take the difficult but necessary decisions to regain control of our borders and restore the integrity of our migration program.

Labor mismanaged and misused the 457 Visa program.

It was left to the Coalition to end the mismanagement and put in place a new temporary skill shortage visa that strengthens the integrity and quality of the employer-sponsored skilled migration program.

## **COST**

The Coalition will invest an additional \$15 million to assist migrants and multicultural communities.

