

## 12. Language requirements

### 12.1 Sharing knowledge and community participation

Non-citizens are required to share their knowledge and experience with their Papua New Guinean counterparts. It is also important that non-citizens who come to work in PNG are able to communicate with Papua New Guinean citizens within the community.

For this reason, Section 17(1) of the Act requires all non-citizens to prove that they are proficient in English, *Pisin* or *Hiri Motu* before they can be granted a work permit. Proficient is defined in Section 3 of the Act. A person is proficient in a language if they are able to ‘...to speak and understand a language sufficiently for normal conversational purposes.’

### 12.2 English Speaking Countries

Applicants from the following countries are assumed to be proficient in English and do not need to submit evidence of English Language Proficiency at the time of application:

Antigua and Barbuda	Liberia	Sierra Leona
Australia	Malawi	Singapore
Bahamas	Malaysia	Solomon Islands
Barbados	Maldives	South Africa
Belize	Mali	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Canada	Malta	Swaziland
Cook Islands	Marshall Islands	Tanzania
Dominica	Mauritius	Tonga
Federated States of Micronesia	Namibia	Trinidad and Tobago
Fiji	Nauru	Tuvalu
Gambia	Nepal	Uganda
Ghana	New Zealand	United States of America
Grenada	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Guam	Niue	Zambia
Guyana	Palau	Zimbabwe
Ireland	Philippines	
Israel	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Jamaica	Saint Lucia	
Kenya	Samoa and American Samoa	
Kiribati	United Kingdom	
Lesotho	Seychelles	

Applicants from all other countries must submit evidence of proficiency in English.

### 12.3 How can I prove my proficiency?

An applicant may prove his or her proficiency in English if the applicant-

- has an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Certificate with a score of at least Band 4 in the General or Academic Module



IELTS is the internationally recognized method of testing English proficiency. The IELTS test can be taken in over 120 countries worldwide. IELTS is scored on a 9 band scale. Band 4 is defined as a limited user. A Band 4 user has basic competence in the English language which may be limited to familiar situations. Further information about IELTS can be obtained at <http://www.ielts.org>.