

Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hey everyone

Welcome to January's update on visa news we have seen in the last few weeks

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On to this month's news...



Contents

- 1) January Skill Select round (189/491) not happened yet
- 2) Exact State 190/491 allocations for 2020/21
- 3) New Minister for Immigration
- 4) Update on Western Australia State sponsorships
- 5) Canberra/ACT State Invitations update
- 6) Media articles from the last month
- 7) Tasmania to open soon for 490/190
- 8) Family Violence protection for Visa holders
- 9) English scores required by DHA
- 10) Travel requirements to Australia

1) January Skill Select round (189/491) not happened yet

We have had a number of people claiming that the January round has happened. DHA have confirmed it has not yet ...

Dear Agent

A January SkillSelect round has not yet taken place. As per other months we are unable to provide you with advance knowledge of rounds. This is to ensure the integrity of the system. As stated in the information available on our website, the next invitation round will run in January 2021.

You can find more information on SkillSelect rounds by visiting:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds>

(Source: DHA)

2) Exact State 190/491 allocations for 2020/21

Following consultation with States and Territories, the following nomination levels have been allocated for 2020-21:

State	Skilled Nominated (Subclass 190) Visa	Skilled Work Regional (Subclass 491) visa	Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP)
ACT	702	598	30
NSW	3,550	2,800	2,200
VIC	2,500	1,043	1,750
QLD	1,000	1,250	1,200
NT	500	500	75
WA	1,100	340	360
SA	1,500	1,850	1,000
TAS	1,000	1,400	45
Total	11,852	9,781	6,660

(Source: DHA)

3) New Minister for Immigration

Video on the views of the new Immigration Minister Alex Hawke from back in 2017 on the migration program - supporting around 190,000 as a reasonable figure.

<https://www.abc.net.au/lateline/interview:-alex-hawke/8341438?>

4) Update on Western Australia State sponsorships

WA State Nominated Migration Program opening soon
Invitations to apply for the State Nominated Migration Program will resume in January 2021.

The Western Australian State nomination criteria have been revised inline with State health and economic recovery priorities. The changes to the criteria are as follows.

Intending applicants must be currently residing in Australia to be invited and nominated.

Intending applications subject to a section 48 bar, are not eligible for State nomination.

If you are applying through the Graduate stream and due to COVID-19 you completed some of your Western Australian studies online (either onshore or offshore), you are now able to use this study toward the Western Australian study requirement.

Visit the occupation lists page for available occupations on the Graduate Occupation List and the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation list:

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/occupation%20lists>

For more information see the updated Western Australian State nomination criteria or visit the General stream requirements or Graduate stream requirements page:

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/about-state-nomination>

Results for January 2021 round

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/invitation-rounds/current-invitation-round>

(Source: WA State Government)

5) Canberra/ACT State Invitations update

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/2020-21-allocation-of-act-nomination-places>

New ACT Critical Skills List

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/workspace/uploads/documents/act-critical-skills-list-jan-2021.pdf>

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/canberra-matrix-invitation-round>

(Source: ACT government)

6) Media articles from the last month

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2021/01/15/melbourne-family-private-jet-flight-new-zealand-australian-visa>

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/their-pain-will-linger-call-for-more-skilled-migration-to-boost-business-20210118-p56uvm.html>

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7075493/small-visa-tweak-to-help-combat-ag-labour-shortage>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jan/13/labor-pushes-for-visa-applicants-to-be-exempt-from-having-to-leave-australia-during-covid>

7) Tasmania to open soon for 490/190

Tasmania to open for state sponsorship on 29/1/2021

https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/news/2020-2021_program_year_update

8) Family Violence protection for Visa holders

FAQ information from Home Affairs

<https://iscah.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Department-of-Home-Affairs-FAQs.pdf>

9) English scores required by DHA

English scores required following PTE review of their score levels -
This information received from DHA ...

English testing organisations will sometimes adjust their score ranges as new research and knowledge about English testing is developed. We consider these changes carefully before we make any adjustments to the scores required for our English Levels. Where it is decided that scores will change, a notice will be put on our website with information on how it may impact you.

You can find up-to-date information on our website at:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/english-language>

10) Travel requirements to Australia

From 22 January 2021, if you are travelling to or transiting through Australia you must provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test to your airline, taken 72 hours or less before your scheduled departure.

If you do not have evidence of a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test, you should not go to the airport as your airline will not allow you to board the aircraft.

Masks must be worn on all international flights, including at airports.

More information can be found Department of Health website.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-res-trictions/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-international-travellers/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-international-passengers>

Ok folks
That's all for this month

See you all on Monday 15th February 2021




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