

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hey everyone

Welcome to our latest March update on all the visa news we have heard about

Again further signs of the government pushing for migration to be part of Australia's economic recovery as the Covid threat continues to subside both in Australia and around the world

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## 1) Recent Articles about migration

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/feb/25/senate-to-hold-inquiry-into-australias-cruel-family-visa-system>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/treasury-knows-high-levels-of-migration-crucial-to-economic-growth-,14849>

<https://johnmenadue.com/so-many-questions-for-home-affairs>

<https://verietinfo.com/aus/morrison-is-planning-a-recovery-phase-migration-is-critical>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/scott-morrison-says-government-has-open-mind-on-post-coronavirus-migration-overhaul>

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/anzco-list-used-to-determine-australias-tech-talent-visa-eligibility-criticised-as-outdated>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/18/prioritise-skilled-migrants-over-returning-australians-migration-committee-advises>

## 2) Interim Report on changes to Australia's Migration Program

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration today presented an interim report for its inquiry into Australia's skilled migration program.

Committee Chair Julian Leeser MP said that "The Committee has heard repeatedly that skilled migrants create Australian jobs. With over 500,000 temporary visa holders leaving Australia during the COVID pandemic, we need to bring back skilled migration, to fill essential gaps and to help create more jobs for Australians."

"Skilled migrants provide much needed skills to fill skills gaps, offering businesses the opportunity to better meet demand and expand, and to pass on their skills to Australians," Mr Leeser continued.

"Australia has always been an attractive destination for migrants. Our excellent response to the health and economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic has made Australia an even more attractive destination. Now is the time to attract highly talented individuals and businesses to Australia."

"The report recommends a number of measures to streamline the system to ensure we can capitalise on the opportunity in front of us," said Leeser.

The interim report makes recommendations focused on assisting in recovery from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The inquiry will continue with a wider focus on long term reform of the skilled migration program. Submissions responding to the terms of reference will be accepted until 31 March 2021.

### List of Recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

2.76 The Department of Home Affairs should streamline labour market testing to:

§ be less prescriptive about what constitutes labour market testing

§ only require Medium and Large businesses to conduct labour market testing;

§ require labour market testing for businesses headquartered outside Australia or businesses owned by someone who is not an Australian citizen;

§ remove the requirement for employers to advertise any occupations which are on the PMSOL or critical skills lists; and

§ remove the requirement for employers to advertise for all occupations classified as Skill Level 1 and 2 on the jobactive website.

#### Recommendation 2

2.80 The Committee recommends that at least until the pandemic period is over, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment and the Department of Home Affairs remove the requirement for employers to pay the Skilling Australia Fund as part of the visa sponsorship process.

If the levy is retained:

– Consideration should be given to aligning the payment of the levy to the commencement of employment of the skilled migrant or guarantee a refund to the sponsor if the application is unsuccessful.

– If the employer can demonstrate they have spent the same amount or more than the levy in the previous 12 months on training their Australian employees in skills relevant to their work for the employer, they should not be required to pay the Skilling Australia Fund levy.

– The Federal Government should establish greater transparency over the State Governments' use of funds from the Skilling Australia Fund to skill Australians.

### Recommendation 3

3.113 The Committee recommends that the Department of Home Affairs be required to provide greater transparency on where employer sponsored visa applications are in the queue.

### Recommendation 4

3.116 The Committee recommends that the visa conditions for sponsored skilled visa holders working in industries that require migrants to work for different employers or to undertake multiple roles with the same employer to meet practices of the industry, be adjusted to allow them to work for multiple employers without making applications for new visas.

### Recommendation 5

3.127 The Committee recommends that the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List be expanded urgently to include Chefs, Veterinarians, Café and Restaurant Managers and Seafarers.

### Recommendation 6

3.128 The Committee recommends that the Department of Home Affairs conduct an urgent review of the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, with a view to expanding the number of occupations to better reflect the urgent skills shortages in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery. The Department should give particular consideration to civil engineers, electrical engineers, motor mechanics, cooks, carpenters, electricians and other roles in the hospitality, health, trades, agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

### Recommendation 7

3.129 The Committee recommends that the Short-term Skilled Occupation List, the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List and the Regional Occupation List be reviewed as soon as practicable to ensure that the lists most accurately reflect Australia's employment challenges as the economy emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Recommendation 8

3.132 The Committee recommends the Government reserve places on flights and in quarantine for skilled migrants.

### Recommendation 9

3.135 The Committee recommends that:

§ The Department of Home Affairs improve visa processing times for employer-sponsored visas because of the labour market needs during the COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery; and

§ The Department of Home Affairs expedite the processing times for skilled visa holders who have remained onshore in relevant employment seeking a subsequent skilled visa or permanent residency visa.

### Recommendation 10

3.144 The Committee recommends that all employer sponsored visa holders be given a clearer pathway to permanency.

Recommendation 11

4.75 The Committee recommends the establishment of a global marketing campaign to attract global talent and investment. This campaign should:

§ Target talented individuals and investors in key competitor countries;

§ Raise awareness of both the opportunities in Australia, and the migration mechanisms available to those seeking to live, work or settle in Australia; and

§ Leverage off the work already being undertaken by the Special Envoy for Global Business and Talent Attraction.

Recommendation 12

4.76 The Committee recommends that the BIIP and GTI provide options for both automatic permanent residence and temporary visas with a clearly articulated path to permanent residence.

[https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportjnt/024650/toc\\_pdf/InterimReportoftheInquiryintoAustralia'sSkilledMigrationProgram.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf](https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportjnt/024650/toc_pdf/InterimReportoftheInquiryintoAustralia'sSkilledMigrationProgram.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf)

### 3) Western Australia State (unofficial) invites March 2021

Western Australia had their March round last week  
We have seen a lot less invitations this month

That could be because of the state conventions of not being able to do much processing in the official state election period (which officially ends today). Also there may be limited people eligible due to only being able to invite onshore and those not effected by s48 bars).

We have seen no invites for chef and expect this occupation may be nearly exhausted for the 2020/21 program year. WA had to fight hard to get this on their WA list so not surprising given the heavy demand that this may be closed or near closed.

Lowest ranked invite for University graduates that WE saw was

- Bachelor degree 85 points (no EOI date available)

For Vocational education students was

- Advanced Diploma 65 points (EOI lodgement 25/2/2021)

There may well be lower ranked invites at Diploma level but we have not seen those with our clients.

## 4) Statistics on Victoria's State Migration Program

### Places filled

#### **Skilled nominated visa (subclass 190) - State nomination program**

2,500 places have been allocated to Victoria. As at 28 February 2021, for the 2020-21 program 5,121 ROIs have been received and 1,043 applications have been made for Victorian visa nomination.

#### **Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) - State nomination program**

1,043 places have been allocated to Victoria. As at 28 February 2021, for the 2020-21 program 701 ROIs have been received and 209 applications have been made for Victorian visa nomination. The Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa provides opportunities for skilled professionals to gain further work experience in Regional Victoria. Subclass 491 visa holders may be eligible to then apply for the Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191)[external link](#).

### Places as at 28 February 2021

#### **Registrations of Interest selected**

##### **Subclass 190**

As at 28 February 2021, 1,140 of 5,121 ROIs have been selected to apply for Victorian visa nomination.

##### **Subclass 491**

As at 28 February 2021, 270 of 701 ROIs have been selected to apply for Victorian visa nomination.

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/migrate/program-review>



## 5) Iscah summary of January 2021 Skill Select round (189/491)

DHA have finally released their results from the January skill select round.

Just 200 189 invites and 163 in the 491 Family category

Invites were at 65 points for 189 (EOI effect date of 04/2020)

Family 491 also at 65 points (EOI effect date of 11/2020)

The ONLY Pro rata occupation that got invites were in the 2339 group

95 points for 189 (EOI effect date of 10/2020)

70 points for 491 family (EOI effect date of 09/2020)

The following occupations were officially eligible for invites

### 189/491 Family

133111 Construction Project Manager	253322 Renal Medicine Specialist
232214 Other Spatial Scientist	253323 Rheumatologist
233212 Geotechnical Engineer	253324 Thoracic Medicine Specialist
233611 Mining Engineer (excluding petroleum)	253399 Specialist Physicians nec
233612 Petroleum Engineer	253411 Psychiatrist
233911 Aeronautical Engineer	253511 Surgeon (General)
233912 Agricultural Engineer	253512 Cardiothoracic Surgeon
233913 Biomedical Engineer	253513 Neurosurgeon
233915 Environmental Engineer	253514 Orthopaedic Surgeon
234112 Agricultural Scientist	253515 Otorhinolaryngologist
234212 Food Technologist	253516 Paediatric Surgeon
234313 Environmental Research Scientist	253517 Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon
234412 Geophysicist	253518 Urologist
234511 Life Scientist (general)	253521 Vascular Surgeon
234513 Biochemist	253911 Dermatologist
234514 Biotechnologist	253912 Emergency Medicine Specialist
234599 Life Scientists (nec)	253913 Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
234611 Medical Laboratory Scientist	253914 Ophthalmologist
234912 Metallurgist	253917 Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist
253111 General Practitioner	253999 Medical Practitioners nec
253411 Psychiatrist	254111 Midwife
253311 Specialist Physician (General Medicine)	254411 Nurse Practitioner
253312 Cardiologist	254412 Registered Nurse (Aged Care)
253313 Clinical Haematologist	254413 Registered Nurse (Child and Family Health)
253314 Medical Oncologist	254414 Registered Nurse (Community Health)
253315 Endocrinologist	254415 Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency)
253316 Gastroenterologist	254416 Registered Nurse (Developmental Disability)
253317 Intensive Care Specialist	
253318 Neurologist	
253321 Paediatrician	

254417 Registered Nurse (Disability and Rehabilitation)  
254418 Registered Nurse (Medical)  
254421 Registered Nurse (Medical Practice)  
254422 Registered Nurse (Mental Health)  
254423 Registered Nurse (Perioperative)  
254424 Registered Nurse (Surgical)  
254425 Registered Nurse (Paediatrics)  
254499 Registered Nurses nec  
272311 Clinical Psychologist  
272399 Psychologists nec

**491 Family (only)**

253313 Clinical Haematologist  
253314 Medical Oncologist  
253315 Endocrinologist  
253321 Paediatrician  
253322 Renal Medicine Specialist  
253323 Rheumatologist  
253324 Thoracic Medicine Specialist  
253411 Psychiatrist  
253512 Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
253514 Orthopaedic Surgeon  
253516 Paediatric Surgeon  
253518 Urologist  
253521 Vascular Surgeon  
253911 Dermatologist

The next round is scheduled for the last quarter of the financial year. So can be April, May or June 2021. We are hearing positive signs from DHA that the 189 program will be a strong part of the recovery. I expect that the 2021/22 program numbers will reflect that when we see the May 2021 budget announcements. Currently the program sits at just 6,500 grants . I expect it to more than double this in the next program year.

(Source: Iscah and DHA)

## 6) Message from DHA about claiming work points

Posted on: 15/03/2021 at 09:30

Skilled Employment Experience - Closely Related Occupations You can only claim points for employment if it is in your nominated skilled occupation or a closely related skilled occupation. A closely related skilled occupation is an occupation listed under the same four (4) digit ANZSCO Unit Group. If you claim points for employment that is not in your nominated skilled occupation or a closely related skilled occupation, and you subsequently lodge a visa application, it may be refused. More information on Unit Groups can be found at:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ANZSCO>

## 7) Tasmanian State Migration news

Tasmania High Calibre able to move from 491 to 190

From Tasmanian State government -

High calibre subclass 491 category applicants may be considered for subclass 190 nomination

We will consider applicants who have applied for nomination in any of the subclass 491 categories for subclass 190 nomination if they can demonstrate that they are a "high calibre" candidate, even if they do not meet the subclass 190 category requirements. Applicants who believe they warrant consideration as high calibre candidates should supply a written submission included in the Commitment Letter of their application outlining their reason(s) for their request.

Positive attributes include:

- Employment in highly skilled, specialist positions (normally ANZSCO 1 or 2)
- Rare/unique skills in high demand
- Specialist health/allied health skills and employment (in a health related setting)
- Recent graduate of a TSOL related occupation, with prior skills/experience and can demonstrate strong employment opportunities
- Employment directly related to nominated occupation, with highly reputable, well known company
- Employed in skilled area of high demand, having lived in Tas for 2 years or more
- Extensive residence in Tas (over 3 years) with solid and ongoing skilled employment

Possessing any or all of these does not guarantee we will agree to subclass 190 nomination.

Important note: please DO NOT email to enquire eligibility as a 'high calibre' calibre applicant – we will not make an assessment before receiving your application. Select both 491 and 190 on your Skillselect EOI and include your request to also be considered for subclass 190 in your Commitment Statement.

(Source: Tasmanian State Government)

## Change in Tasmanian criteria for those who start study after graduate after 30 June 2021 –

If you commenced your last course of study in Tasmania after 30 June 2021

- You must have completed a course of study and obtained a letter of completion from a tertiary institution in Tasmania registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)
- Your course of study must be listed on CRICOS with a duration of at least 92 weeks\* and must have been completed full time and on-site in Tasmania
- You must have lived in the state for at least 2 calendar years from the commencement of your course and for the duration of your studies
- You and your dependents must currently be living in Tasmania and demonstrate a genuine commitment to continue to live in Tasmania
- If you are not currently in skilled employment you must provide a career plan that explains how your studies have increased your ability to find skilled work in Tasmania. This may include areas unrelated to your Tasmanian study
- Your study does not need to be related to your nominated occupation, however a relevant skills assessment will be highly regarded.
- If you held a Student visa (subclass 500) when you completed your last course of study in

Tasmania, the study must be:

> a degree (bachelor, masters or any higher degree), or a diploma (standard, advanced, associate or graduate); or

> a qualification directly related to a Priority Industry Training and Workforce Development

> Area (current at the time you commenced study) at the minimum qualification level specified for that area.

- If you held a visa that was NOT a Student visa (subclass 500) at the time you completed your last course of study in Tasmania, the study MUST be directly related to a Priority Industry Training and Workforce Development Area (current at the time you commenced study) at the minimum qualification level specified for that area.

Please note: only one course of study leading to one qualification may be included, unless it is part of an articulated pathway or packaged course, eg. a 2 year Certificate III – IV Commercial Cookery Pathway.

(Source: Tasmanian State Government)

## 8) Occupation added to Northern Rivers (NSW) 491 list

Added to Northern Rivers NSW 491 list  
•254499 Registered Nurses nec

<https://www.rdanorthernrivers.org.au/migration/2020-2021-nsw-subclass-491-occupation-list-northern-rivers-nsw>

## 9) Western Australia State (unofficial) invites February 2021

The WA state government ran their February 190/491 invite last month

The lowest ranked invite we saw in each category was as follows

General Stream = 90 points EOI submission date: 30/03/2020

Degree : Bachelor – 85 points EOI submission date: 22/10/2021 (meaning all masters graduates got an invite )

VET : Diploma - 95 points EOI submission date: 17/02/2021

## 10) Vetassess Q & A

6 common questions answered by Vetassess for skills assessments –

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/Portals/0/Downloads/Answers%20by%20Experts%20-%20Vol%201.pdf>

## 11) Update on South Australia state migration

South Australia update from state website -

South Australia's expanded skilled migration program opened on 8 February 2021 and we have commenced nominating applicants.

You may have noticed some occupations are currently not displaying on the occupation list. These high-demand occupations and their requirements are in the process of being reviewed, and will be updated on our website soon.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in South Australia's migration program.

(Source: South Australia state government)

## 12) ACT update on Invitations

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

## 13) Immigration department submission to Senate Review

Department of Home Affairs submission to the Australian Senate JSC on Migration for 2021/2022 program – <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=7da91909-209b-4968-858a-dc54b0a0ba97&subId=702852>

## 14) NSW update on State Migration

S48 bar

The section 48 bar applies to applicants who are holding a bridging visa, and have had a visa refused or cancelled, since their last entry into Australia. If you are subject to a section 48 bar you need to leave Australia before you can reapply for a visa.

NSW will not renominate applicants who are subject to a section 48 bar where their nomination has expired, and they are unable to leave Australia.

Nomination allocations provided by the Department of Home Affairs are limited and it is currently uncertain when border restrictions will be lifted.

To ensure the limited nomination positions allocated to NSW go to support the economic recovery of the state, NSW will not renominate applicants subject to a section 48 bar.

Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190)

The process for applying for NSW nomination for the Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) remains the same, with invitations sent periodically to selected candidates.

For all information on NSW nomination for this visa, please visit our subclass 190 visa website.

Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491)

Regional Development Australia (RDA) offices have commenced, or will soon commence, accepting and assessing applications for nomination. A list with the participating RDAs can be found on our subclass 491 visa website.

Nomination criteria is consistent across all regions and can be found on our subclass 491 visa website.

Information about how to apply can be found on the respective RDA website.

(Source: NSW State Government)

## 15) Partner visa Processing update

Partner visa processing update –

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article>

We are working hard to process more visa applications for partners, with a planning level of 72,000 this year. It is important that applicants provide all the information we need to assess their application.

If your application contains all the required information, including health and police checks, it can be processed more quickly.

Log into your ImmiAccount to make sure you (and any dependants included in your application) have provided online all the documents that are relevant to your circumstances.

For more information and to check the requirements for your visa:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing>)

(Source: DHA)

## 16) Prospective Marriage Visa concession details

Prospective Marriage visa concession details –

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/refunds-and-waivers-visa-application-charges>

## 17) Parent visa processing times

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/family-visa-processing-priorities/parent-visas-queue-release-dates>

## 18) January Skill Select 190 and 491 (family) results

January 2021 Skill Select results published –

Current round

Invitations issued on 21 January 2021

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 21 January 2021.

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	200
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	163

Invitation process and cut offs

The highest ranked clients by points score are invited to apply for the relevant visa. For clients who have equal points scores, the time at which they reached their points score for that subclass (referred to as the date of effect) determines their order of invitation. Expressions of Interest with earlier dates of effect are invited before later dates.

Visa subclass	Minimum points score	Latest date of effect month
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	65	04/2020
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	65	11/2020



## 18) January Skill Select 190 and 491 (family) results

Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 21 January 2021 invitation round.

Due to high levels of demand, and in keeping with previous program years, the below occupation groups will be subject to pro rata arrangements to ensure availability of invitations across the program year.

SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent visas (subclass 189), and thereafter the remaining to Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored . If all places are taken up by subclass 189 visas then there will be no invitations issued for subclass 491 visas in these occupations.

Subclass	Occupation ID	Description	Minimum points score	Latest date of effect month
189/491	2211	Accountants	N/A	N/A
189/491	2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	N/A	N/A
189/491	2334	Electronics Engineer	N/A	N/A
189/491	2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	N/A	N/A
189	2339	Other Engineering Professionals	95	10/2020
491	2339	Other Engineering Professionals	70	09/2020
189/491	2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	N/A	N/A
189/491	2613	Software and Applications Programmers	N/A	N/A
189/491	2631	Computer Network Professionals	N/A	N/A

(Source: DHA)

Ok folks  
That's all for this month

See you all on Monday 15th April 2021




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