

Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hey

Welcome to the zillionth edition of our visa newsletter that gives updates on any news we have heard about in the last month

It is free to subscribe and you are able to get backcopies on our website at www.iscah.com

On to this month's news



Contents

- 1) Recent Migration articles in the Australian media etc
- 2) Tasmanian State Migration update
- 3) ACT/Canberra update on territory sponsorship
- 4) Queensland State Migration update
- 5) Victorian State Migration update
- 6) Western Australia State Migration update
- 7) Changes to British on Working Holiday visas
- 8) TRA review skills assessment policy
- 9) Enhancing Kiwis' pathway to Permanent Residence
- 10) Vetassess review criteria for some Professional Occupations

1) PMSOL Expanded

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs Alex Hawke MP has today announced the inclusion of a range of skilled occupations on the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List (PMSOL).

The PMSOL, first announced in September 2020, is developed in conjunction with the National Skills Commission to ensure a small number of critical occupations are filled to continue to create Australian jobs and aid in Australia's ongoing recovery from the impact of COVID-19. The addition of 22 occupations brings the PMSOL to 41 in total.

Minister Hawke said the Government engaged with small, medium and large Australian employers, business leaders, and industry bodies across the economy to determine these changes. "Government has received valuable feedback from Australian business stakeholders on critical skill vacancies, which has been considered together with data from the National Skills Commission, in order to develop today's update to the Priority Migration Skilled Migration List," Minister Hawke said. "The Morrison Government will continue to support Australian businesses, including through skilled migration, as the engine room of our nation's economy."

The 22 new occupations are (including ANZSCO codes):

- Accountant (General) (221111)
- Accountant (Taxation) (221113)
- Accountant (Management) (221112)
- External Auditor (221213)
- Internal Auditor (221214)
- Electrical Engineer (233311)
- Civil Engineer (233211)
- Structural Engineer (233214)
- Geotechnical Engineer (233212)
- Transport Engineer (233215)
- Mining Engineer (233611)
- Petroleum Engineer (233612)
- Surveyor (232212)
- Cartographer (232213)
- Other Spatial Scientist (232214)
- Medical Laboratory Scientist (234611)
- Orthotist / Prosthetist (251912)
- Multimedia Specialist (261211)
- Analyst Programmer (261311)
- Software and Applications Programmers (261399)
- ICT Security Specialist (262112)
- Chef (351311)

Visa holders, who have been sponsored by an Australia business in a PMSOL occupation will be subject to quarantine arrangements at their own expense. Existing skilled migration occupation lists will remain active and visas will still be processed, but priority will be given to those in occupations on the PMSOL.

(Source: DHA)

2) Working Holiday visa changes

Working Holiday Maker Visa maker visa changes helping COVID-19 recovery

Upcoming changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program will provide more support to the tourism and hospitality sectors still recovering from the disruptions of COVID-19.

WHM visa holders working in the tourism and hospitality sectors in Northern, remote and very remote areas of Australia will be able to count this as specified work, making them eligible for a second or third WHM visa. This option will be available to WHMs who lodge their applications from March 2022 and will take into account work undertaken in the tourism and hospitality sectors in these areas from today.

As announced in October 2020, WHMs offshore who were unable to come to Australia or had to leave early because of COVID-19 will be able to apply for a replacement visa with nil Visa Application Charge (VAC) from 1 July 2021.

Eligible current and former WHMs in Australia will also be able to apply for a replacement WHM visa with nil Visa Application Charge (VAC) from March 2022, providing another opportunity to meet the specified work requirements for a subsequent WHM visa.

Former WHM visa holders who have transitioned to another visa, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic Event visa, may also be eligible to apply for a nil VAC replacement WHM visa.

As announced on 8 May 2021, tourism and hospitality has been added to the list of COVID-19 critical sectors. This allows all WHMs employed in the tourism and hospitality sector to work longer than six months for one employer without requesting permission and gives more flexibility to tourism and hospitality employers to meet their workforce needs.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, Alex Hawke said these changes build on those introduced from April last year to support WHM visa holders impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We recognise the important contribution Working Holiday Makers have made to critical sectors of the Australian economy throughout the pandemic," he said.

"COVID-19 travel restrictions and economic shocks disrupted the plans of many visa holders. These additional measures provide the opportunity for a reset — helping Working Holiday Makers to stay and work in Australia," he said.

"We will continue to monitor and adjust temporary visa conditions to ensure we have the right settings in place as Australia emerges from the pandemic," Minister Hawke said.

More information on the changes to the WHM program will be available on the Department of Home Affairs website as the new arrangements for tourism and hospitality, specified work and nil VAC WHM visas are put in place at www.homeaffairs.gov.au

(Source: DHA)

3) Recent Media articles

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/news/2021/06/skilled-migration-changes-benefit-profession>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jun/28/australias-population-forecast-to-grow-slower-and-age-faster-than-expected>

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/home-affairs-blames-legacy-visa-system-for-poor-customer-service-experience>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/no-increase-to-migration-caps-but-government-hopes-to-reopen-borders-by-mid-2022>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/migration-recovery-crucial-in-fight-against-covid-19-recession-and-ageing-population>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/migrant-families-push-to-classify-parents-as-immediate-family-gains-momentum-in-australia>

<https://johnmenadue.com/immigrant-conundrums-parents-visas-and-australian-citizenship-during-the-pandemic>

<https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/the-fraying-of-judicial-nerves-in-migration-cases>

4) Changes to Citizenship Fees

From 1 July 2021, the Department of Home Affairs will update citizenship application fees to more accurately reflect the cost of delivering the citizenship program.

This is the first change to citizenship application fees since 2016 and has been determined by citizenship application processes and costs. The new fees are commensurate with the comprehensive approach to end-to-end processing of citizenship applications and reflect inflation costs, staffing costs and the increased complexity of applications, which take longer to process. Based on existing fees, the Government is only recovering approximately 50 per cent of the costs of processing citizenship applications.

The cost of citizenship applications remains comparable with other countries. From 1 July 2021, the cost of citizenship by conferral will still be lower than in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

(Source: DHA)

5) WA State Migration News

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

New occupations now open for WA state sponsorship

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

And a new schedule 1/2 for interstate graduates in the general stream who live in Australia

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/general-stream-wasmol-schedule-2-requirements>

Update on new State requirements for WA sponsorship

<https://www.migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/general-stream-wasmol-schedule-2-requirements>

Although there were recent changes to the WA General occupation list there is still more to come .. The WA state government are likely to update their graduate occupation list in the next couple of weeks with some changed occupations as open/closed.

They (WA state migration centre) are unable to give ANY updates on these changes or occupations as it is all managed by other sections of the WA state government. So don't bother asking them. keep watching their website for news shortly.

WA State Invitation Round – Unofficial results July 2021

Grad Stream ALL 190 invites

Degree cut off:

Bachelor - 70 points

(So all masters grads invited at 65+)

VET

Adv Diploma – 65 points

No Chef invites

General Stream Schedule 1

RN – Medical Practice - 90 points

EOI: 06/07/21

(Source: WA State government and our clients)

6) Immigration Department official skilled visa newsletter June 2021

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/skilled-migration-program/skilled-visa-newsletters/june-2021>

7) New Immigration fees from 1st July 2021

Department of Home Affairs Visa Application charges – Increases 1 July 2021

Summary Visa Application Charge changes - 1 July 2021			
Schedule 2 - Subclass	Base Charge	Dependent 18 and over	Dependent under 18
143 (Contributory Parent)	\$4,225	\$1,425	\$715
186 (Employer Nomination Scheme)	\$4,115	\$2,060	\$1,030
189 (Skilled - Independent)	\$4,115	\$2,060	\$1,030
189 (Skilled - Independent) NZ stream	\$825	\$410	\$205
189 (Skilled - Independent) NZ second instalment	\$3,290	\$1,645	\$825
190 (Skilled - Nominated)	\$4,115	\$2,060	\$1,030
482 (Temporary Skill Shortage) - STSOL	\$1,290	\$1,290	\$325
482 (Temporary Skill Shortage) - MLTSSL	\$2,690	\$2,690	\$675
485 (Temporary Graduate) - First	\$1,680	\$840	\$425
485 (Temporary Graduate) - Second	\$660	\$330	\$170
491 (Skilled Work Regional (Provisional))	\$4,115	\$2,060	\$1,030
494 (Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Prov))	\$4,115	\$2,060	\$1,030
500 (Student)	\$630	\$470	\$155
600 (Visitor)	\$370	N/A	N/A
801 (Partner), 100 (Partner), 300 (Prospective Marriage)	\$7,850	\$3,930	\$1,965

8) New Working Holiday COVID refund concessions

You may be able to apply online for an offshore nil VAC (no fee) Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa, or request a VAC refund if:

- you were granted a COVID-19 affected WHM visa before 20 March 2020;
 - your WHM visa expired on or after 20 March 2020 while you were outside Australia, or your WHM visa will expire before 31 December 2021 while you are outside Australia; and
 - you did not travel to Australia on your WHM visa, or you departed Australia before your WHM visa ceased.
- If eligible, you can make an offshore nil VAC WHM visa application online from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2022. For further information, visit [Working holiday Maker program - latest news](#).

If you no longer meet the age requirement to apply for a nil VAC WHM visa, you can request a VAC refund. To do this, use the [COVID-19 travel restrictions VAC refund request form](#).

Offshore nil VAC applications and VAC refund requests must be lodged by 31 December 2022.

From March 2022, you may be able to make a nil VAC WHM application if you are in Australia at that time and are eligible to apply. More information on visa eligibility and requirements for the onshore nil VAC WHM visa will be available once arrangements are finalised.

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

(Source : Home Affairs)

9) Points test statistics

189 points test Applications lodged and awaiting a decision -

There are around 13590 as of March 2021 as follows

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2021/fa-210400714-document%20released.PDF>

189 Visas granted in 2020/21 up to March 2021 -

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2021/fa-210400185-document%20released.PDF>

(Source: Home Affairs)

10) Victorian State Migration

Victoria State Migration to reopen

<https://gemsuseraccount.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/r/6E29F0751EB7D2D72540EF23F30FEDED/C47B9E56177EDF581D9B8A97F4DCD411>

11) Queensland State Migration News

QLD State Migration update

LATEST NEWS

The Queensland State Migration Program is closed and will remain closed until further notice.

The new Queensland business and skilled nomination criteria is currently being finalised and will be available towards the end of July 2021 and will be published on the homepage of our website at this time.

This new criteria announcement will coincide with the launch of our new website, and name, Migration Queensland.

From then on – ‘Business and Skilled Migration Queensland’ will be known as ‘Migration Queensland’.

If you have been nominated by BSMQ for a 188 visa prior to 30 June, you will be subject to current 188 criteria. However, you are able to submit your visa application to Home Affairs after this date, as long as it meets the normal 60-day requirement.

When the Migration Queensland program 2021-22 opens in late July, you will be subject to the new subclass 188 criteria.

Thank you for your interest in the Queensland State Nomination migration program and we look forward to updating you further in the coming weeks.

(Source: QLD State government)

12) Official 2021/22 Migration Numbers

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/migration-program-planning-levels>

The Migration Program is designed to achieve a range of economic and social outcomes. In 2021-22, the Migration Program will have an overall planning level of 160,000 places, consisting of the following streams:

- **Skill (79,600 places)** – this stream is designed to improve the productive capacity of the economy and fill skill shortages in the labour market, including those in regional Australia.
- **Family (77,300 places)** – this stream is predominantly made up of Partner visas, enabling Australians to reunite with family members from overseas and provide them with pathways to citizenship.
- **Special Eligibility (100 places)** – this stream covers visas for those in special circumstances, including permanent residents returning to Australia after a period overseas.
- **Child (3,000 places)** – this stream is managed outside the Migration Program as it is demand driven and not subject to a ceiling.

2021-22 Migration Program planning levels

Stream and Category	Places in 2021-22
Skill stream	
Employer Sponsored	22,000
Skilled Independent	6,500
Regional	11,200
State/Territory Nominated	11,200
Business Innovation & Investment Program	13,500
Global Talent	15,000
Distinguished Talent	200
Skill Total	79,600
Family Stream	
Partner	72,300
Parent	4,500
Other Family	500
Family Total	77,300
Special Eligibility	100
Child (estimate; not subject to a ceiling)	3,000
Total	160,000

13) National and State skills shortages

The following list is not the Immigration departments PMSOL
It does give a summary though of what skills may be in shortage in each state and nationally now and in the future

https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-06/Skills%20Priority%20List%20Occupation%20List_0.pdf

14) New Additions to travel exemptions

New additions to travel exemptions to Australia -

- students who have been selected to take part in an International Student Arrivals Plan that has been approved by the relevant state or territory government, and endorsed by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment as satisfying the Protocols and Preconditions for International Student Arrivals.
- students who are in their final three years of study of a medical university degree, who have evidence of a confirmed placement in an Australian hospital or medical practice. The placement must commence within the next two months, and provide medical services to the Australian public.
- a student completing year 11 and 12, with endorsement from the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), and support from the relevant state or territory government health and education authorities. Further information regarding this process can be found at the Department of Education, Skills and Employment website.
- a student in your final two years of study of a dental, nursing or allied health profession university degree, where you have evidence of a confirmed placement in an Australian hospital or medical practice which begins within the next two months.

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel-restrictions>

(Source: Home Affairs)

15) ACT /Canberra Small Business owner option

ACT/Canberra - Small Business Owner pathway now open

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/workspace/uploads/documents/act-nomination-guidelines-july-2021.pdf>

Latest Invite results

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/skilled-visa-act-nomination/>

16) Tasmania State update

Tasmania State 190/491 update -

2020–2021 Program Update

The Tasmanian Visa State Nomination Program is now temporarily closed.

* Subclass 190 nomination applications which were not finalised by 30 June 2021 will continue to be assessed into the 2021-22 program year.

* Subclass 491 nomination applications lodged before 20 March 2021 which were not finalised by 30 June 2021 will also continue to be assessed into the 2021-22 program year.

* All other applications which were not finalised by 30 June 2021 will be closed and the service fee refunded.

An update on a recommencement date for the 2021-22 State Visa Nomination Program year will be confirmed over the next few weeks

(Source: Tasmanian State Government)

17) South Australian State Migration

Skilled Migrants meeting the South Australian state nomination requirements will be able to directly apply for nomination from 8am, Tuesday 20 July 2021

Full details of state nomination requirements can be viewed [here](#).

Important: In order for South Australia to approve your nomination you will be required to meet both the Department of Home Affairs criteria and South Australia's requirements.

Our skilled migration program will focus on the following:

Talent and Innovators Program

Providing opportunities and pathways for those who can contribute to South Australia's priority growth industry sectors. [Learn more here](#).

Currently working in South Australia (including long-term residents in SA)

If you are living and working in outer regional South Australia, or a long-term resident living and working in SA, you may be eligible for concessions to the skilled work experience requirements. [Learn more here](#)

International Graduate of South Australia

SA graduates must be currently working in their nominated or closely related occupation for the last 3 months in South Australia (post-course completion), unless specified differently for your occupation. [Learn more here](#).

Offshore Registration of Interest - Critical Skills

Specific trade and health occupations are now available to offshore applicants. You can submit a Registration of Interest application if you meet the published requirements for your occupation. [Learn more here](#).

In addition, South Australia offers a range of programs available to skilled migrants, view our website for employer sponsored pathways.

The Skilled Occupation List will allow you the opportunity to review specific occupation requirements. The online application system for new submissions will be available from 8am Tuesday 20 July 2021.

Please ensure you are subscribed to the NEWS section of our website to keep up to date with new announcements.

(Source: South Australian State Government)

18) North Queensland DAMA

New occupations added to Far North Queensland DAMA Occupations List

Far North Queensland is looking to attract more skilled migrants with an update of its Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) Occupation List.

There are a range of new occupations on the DAMA list, with a focus on the agribusiness, food production, hospitality and tourism sectors.

There have also been changes to the skills, qualifications and experience requirements of some occupations. These changes applied from 18 June 2021.

https://www.vetassess.com.au/portals/0/downloads/dama/Queensland-DAMA_Occupation_List_and_FAQs_booklet_brochure.pdf

19) Business Skills Changes 1st July 2021

Summary of Business Skills changes from 1st July 2021

<https://iscah.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BusinessSkills202122.pdf>

Ok folks
That's all for this month

See you all on Monday 16th August 2021




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