

Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hey,

Welcome to another 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...



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1) Recent Media articles

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/nsw-opens-submission-window-for-491-regional-visa-for-limited-time>

<https://www.porthedland.wa.gov.au/news/investigation-of-designated-area-migration-agreement-puts-key-workers-shortages-in-the-spotlight/14787>

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/aug/10/australia-risking-its-reputation-among-indian-students-with-harsh-border-policy-high-commissioner-says?utm_term=45547b2273eb4eefa3adf03407dab320&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/government-skilled-migration-overhaul>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/undoing-duttons-worst-skilled-migration-policy-mistakes-is-not-enough-,15392>

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7379182/report-pushes-action-on-skilled-migration/?cs=14231>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/government-approved-visas-against-migration-laws,15411>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/home-affairs-making-money-while-migrants-miss-out,15389>

2) Students lost

Article from the Australian newspaper

Australia has lost more than 100,000 foreign students in the past financial year at a cost of nearly \$6bn to the economy, with higher education leaders warning that the sector will not recover from any further Covid-19 induced delays.

New federal government data seen by The Australian shows there are more than 472,000 holders of Australian student visas, including those inside and outside the country, compared to more than 595,000 at the same time in 2020.

Overall commencements at Australian universities by foreign students have fallen 35 per cent from their peak in 2019, and 21.8 per cent in the year to April.

(Source: The Australian newspaper)

3) Victoria update on state invitations

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

4) WA State migration news

The WA state government has confirmed that not only is there a limit to the amount of 190 and 491 invites they will give each round (as usual) but also that they are now also using a cap on each occupation.

So you may see an invite for example for ICT Security Specialist at a lower score than you as a Software Engineer. Simply because the cap for Software Engineer closed quicker in that invite round. In which case you will need to keep your fingers crossed for the next invite round, or get more points

July official results

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

WA to ask for an extra 5000 places

"•Work underway to attract up to 5,000 onshore skilled migrants from interstate to WA"

"With onshore visa holders also showing strong interest in filling skilled jobs in WA, the State Government is requesting an additional 5,000 onshore places from the Commonwealth Government under the State Nominated Migration Program."

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2021/08/McGowan-Government-puts-Skills-Summit-ideas-into-action.aspx>

5) Skill Select 189/491 family July round

A selection round happened overnight

The lowest ranked EOIs invited we have seen are ...

189 - 90 points with an EOI effect date of 7th June 2021

491 - 80 points with an EOI effect date of 7th May 2021

The occupations we have seen so far invited are

- Nurses (and specialisations)
- ICT Security Specialists
- Civil Engineer
- Chef
- Electrical Engineer
- Environmental Engineer
- General Practitioner
- Mining Engineer
- Microbiologist
- Transport Engineer

(NOTE that some occupations above were ONLY for 491 family invites)

6) New DAMA agreement for Western Australia

A DAMA agreement allows companies to sponsor skilled workers at lower skill levels and with some work, english and salary exemptions that would not usually be allowed in the normal 482, 494 and 186 company sponsored visa categories

The South West of WA will shortly sign off this new DAMA to fill skills shortages in a large number of occupations. We believe this will then commence officially sometime between October and December 2021

If you require any assistance with a company sponsored visa under this DAMA in the regional South West of WA , email us to

(Source: Local regional WA government)

7) Pharmacists added to PMSOL

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AlexHawke/Pages/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-skilled-migration.aspx>

8) Tasmania state migration update

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

9) NSW state migration update

NSW Program Update

NSW nomination for the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) is now by invitation only. You must first register your interest in NSW nomination to be considered.

Below you will find information about the nomination process, how to register your interest in NSW nomination, and nomination criteria.

A New Nomination Process

To apply for NSW nomination, you must:

1. Ensure you are eligible for the Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491)
2. Confirm you meet the criteria under a NSW nomination stream
3. Complete an EOI in SkillSelect
4. Register your interest during a submission window
5. Be invited to apply
6. Apply to an RDA office where your skills are required within 14 days

How to Register Your Interest in NSW Nomination

Simply complete our online form during a 'submission window' to register your interest in NSW nomination.

Submission Windows

Submission windows for the 2021-22 financial year are the months of August, October, January, and March. NSW will select and invite candidates to apply to a Regional Development Australia (RDA) office during a submission window and up to seven days after a submission window closes.

Nomination Criteria

There are three nomination streams this financial year:

- Stream 1 — I am living and working in Regional NSW
- Stream 2 — I have recently completed study in Regional NSW
- Stream 3 — I am skilled in an occupation required in Regional NSW

Preference is given to migrants registering their interest under stream 1.

Further Information

- Find information about NSW nomination streams on our Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) page.
- Regional NSW occupation lists are available on our Skilled visa occupation lists page.
- Read our Common skilled visa questions page for answers to our most commonly received questions.
- Read our How to register your interest in NSW nomination page for useful information about how to be considered during an invitation round.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/visas-and-migration/skilled-visas/subclass-491?>

10) Other NSW state updates

Changes to NSW 190 occupation list

<https://www.business.nsw.gov.au/live-and-work-in-nsw/visas-and-immigration/nsw-skilled-occupations-list/nsw-190-priority-skilled-occupation-list>

There have been some additions to the NSW 491 occupation list

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/visas-and-migration/skilled-visas/nsw-skilled-occupation-lists>

More changes made to NSW 190 list

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/visas-and-migration/skilled-visas/nsw-skilled-occupation-lists>

11) 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>

12) National skills shortages report

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

13) Exemption requests for Indian nationals

Exemption requests for travel from India

Based on current health advice, travel restrictions for travel from India to Australia have returned to global settings. Individuals seeking an exemption to travel from India to Australia can apply for a travel exemption through the travel exemptions portal.

<https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>

14) Latest ACT invitation results

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

15) Latest Victorian State news

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/news-events/news/2021/digital-games-skills-added-for-victorian-visa-nomination>

16) Trades Recognition Australia update

<https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/news-media/news/job-ready-program-jrp-participants-impacted-because-covid-19-restrictions>

17) Skill Select Round July 2021

Invitations issued on 26 July 2021

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 26 July 2021.

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	250
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	500

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	Number	Latest date of effect month
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	80	07/2019
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	65	03/2021

Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 26 July 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	2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	90	04/2021
491	2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	N/A	N/A
189	2339	Other Engineering Professionals	90	04/2021
491	2339	Other Engineering Professionals	N/A	N/A
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

The Department will run quarterly invitation rounds for the remainder of the 2021-22 program year.

(Source: Department of Home Affairs)

Ok folks
That's all for this month

See you all on 20th September 2021




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