

Welcome to our August edition of all the visa news we have seen in the last month

The government has kick started the state programs at last and we have details of the numbers allocations. As well there is a skills summit in September for major industry leaders as well as a Federal October budget where we will hear more about what the government has in store.

Currently Australia has 450,000 job vacancies for which skilled migration will play a big part

You can receive this newsletter monthly free by subscribing to newsletter@iscah.com

If you want backcopies they are available at www.iscah.com

On to this month's news ...



Contents

- 1) Official State Migration 2022/23 Allocations
- 2) WA State Migration
- 3) NT State Migration
- 4) VIC State Migration
- 5) ACT State Migration
- 6) QLD State Migration
- 7) Tasmania State Migration State Nomination Program update
- 8) Minister for Skills and Training - Brendan O'Connor
- 9) PTE online home-based English test
- 10) Global Talent visa processing only offshore applicants
- 11) Backlog that new government inherited
- 12) NAATI online CCL second language test
- 13) Teachers Priority
- 14) Covid concession for Study points in Australia
- 15) VETASSESS update
- 16) News Articles

1) Official State Migration 2022/23 Allocations

Here are the official figures

<https://iscah.com/state-migration-allocations-for-2022-23/>

We believe they may be slightly amended in October 2022

2) WA State Migration

WA State 190/491 results from 4th August 2022

We received invites for:

Schedule 1 down to 80 points, EOI effect date of December 2021, residence in WA.

Schedule 2 down to 95 points, EOI effect date of July 2021, residence in WA

Graduate down to Masters down to 90 points, EOI effect date of March 2022, residence in WA.

Trades we have seen trades people, Advanced Diploma down to 85/80 points but cannot confirm that yet

The WA state government usually put up official results here;

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

3) NT State Migration

The Northern Territory (NT) has now received an interim allocation of nominations under the general skilled migration program.

Migration NT continues to receive and assess onshore nomination applications under the existing eligibility criteria.

Offshore applications remain closed

https://theterritory.com.au/migrate/migrate-to-work?fbclid=IwAR04NAjdmXDYtqTLzaazdhweUUhr1zr1co0d_U_NvCwQtrztR-jr92ckrhc

4) VIC State Migration

The 2022-23 program is open will have expanded eligibility criteria across both skilled migration visa subclasses 190 and 491 and will be open to offshore applications.

<https://gemsuseraccount.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/732C18EC42632C4A2540EF23F30FEDED/756624E25C1F84045EC167A51C1E6F80?alternativeLink=False&fbclid=IwAR2W-D9eI77CFRLMMM-XOaNMxrOfsPmY85-Y-UyjHDx0ev-fK6OPkpiofV0>

5) ACT State Migration

2022-2023 Allocation of ACT Nomination Places:
The ACT received an interim allocation for the 2022-2023 program year.
Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa: 800 places
Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa: 1920 places

Canberra Matrix Invitation Round: 15 August 2022

https://www.act.gov.au/migration/resources/canberra-matrix-invitation-round?fbclid=IwAR3tL67OAS7GgIkRx-4M77Mgyz5VDzaa4mmq0rWfXiAm_laC3-vacKbG3_c

6) QLD State Migration

The Migration Queensland (MQ) Program will open on 16 August 2022 with Queensland's new nomination criteria and factsheets published on the MQ website.

<https://migration.qld.gov.au/News?fbclid=IwAR2W-D9eI77CFRLMMM-XOaNMxrOfsPmY85-Y-UyjHDx0ev-fK6OPkpiofV0>

7) Tasmania State Migration State Nomination Program update

Interim nomination allocation received

Tasmania has received an interim skilled visa allocation of nomination places from the Australian Government for the 2022-23 program year.

The Department of Home Affairs has advised that this allocation will be revisited after the first quarter of 2022-23 and should not be taken as an indication of the full year's quota.

Tasmania's interim allocation includes:

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa: 2000 places

Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa: 1350 places

2022-23 program opening

The Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program will open progressively in phases over the coming weeks.

The initial phase will include successful candidates 'held over' from the 2021-22 year as well as the selection, invitation and nomination of candidates in the Overseas Skilled Occupation Profiles pathway.

Candidates currently residing overseas who are interested in Tasmanian nomination should ensure their Skillselect EOIs are up-to-date and reflect the profiles published on the Migration Tasmania website.

The second phase will open the program to high-priority 'Gold Pass' and 'Green Pass' applicants.

The final phase will open the program to registrations of interest from all eligible candidates.

Further details regarding each phase of the reopening of the Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program will be provided in future updates.

Latest website updates

Subclass 491 Tasmanian Skilled Employment pathway

An error was detected in the Priority Attributes for the subclass 491 Tasmanian Skilled Employment pathway. This has been updated for that pathway only.

Minor language changes have been made to some other attributes in all pathways to clarify meaning.

Painting Trades Workers - Tasmanian Onshore Skilled Occupation List

The caveat related to Painting Trades Workers has been updated:

Employer must have operated in Tasmania for at least three years or candidate must have been employed in Tasmania for 12 months

Additional information, exclusions and definitions

In response to feedback and questions received by Migration Tasmania, the following information has been added to the Additional information, exclusions and definitions document, and will be posted on the Migration Tasmania website shortly.

- Employment related to skills assessment

In-course work placements completed as part of a course of study are not recognised in relation to this requirement. Work placements of over 400 hours are recognised for an Orange priority attribute in the Tasmanian Skilled Graduate pathway.

- Gold priority attribute – employment and skills assessment related to critical role
Where a Gold priority attribute states “Skills assessment and related employment included in Critical Roles list”, that employment must have been for at least the immediate 3 months prior to registering interest, and must be ongoing at the time the candidate applies for nomination.

- Exclusions

*Retail supervisor and management positions will be considered and weighted in the Established Resident pathway where the duties are consistent with at least ANZSCO Skill Level 4 Retail Supervisor

- Combined courses

Multiple courses of study can be combined to meet the 92-week requirement in the Tasmanian Skilled Graduate category only where those courses are combined or result in the award of one overall qualifications. For example, a combined Certificate III/IV Commercial Cookery that lasts 92 weeks is acceptable.

Enrolment in all courses must have occurred at the same time and Confirmations of Enrolment issued together. There must be no break between courses other than standard term breaks. There must also be a genuine progression between all courses in the package.

An example may be a Graduate Certificate in Public Policy followed by a Graduate Diploma in Public Policy.

It would not meet the requirement where a graduate completed and graduated from a Diploma of Leadership and Management, then separately enrolled in and completed an Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management.

Note that graduates who have lived in Tasmania for 3 years may be eligible for subclass 190 nomination in the Tasmanian Established Resident Pathway.

- Employment contracts

Where a contract has not been entered into (eg, casuals who do not have a formal contract), applicants will need to provide evidence of the job offer and that all pay and conditions are consistent with the National Employment Standards (NES) and any awards, enterprise agreements or other registered agreements that may apply.

8) Minister for Skills and Training – Brendan O'Connor

Next week in parliament we'll be working on legislation that will help address the critical skills shortages we face.

"Australia has a critical skills crisis. We will tackle it"

(Source - Minister for Skills and Training - Brendan O'Connor Facebook page).

9) PTE online home-based English test

The immigration department have again advised they do NOT accept this new online test that you can do at home for points under the points test.

10) Global Talent visa processing only offshore applicants

Global Talent visa processing only offshore applicants - And priority given to offshore permanent visas in other visa categories ...

(Article from Financial Review newspaper)

Permanent skilled workers to be top priority in immigration revamp

The Albanese government will prioritise the processing of almost 60,000 permanent visa applications lodged by skilled workers based overseas, in a bid to rapidly reduce areas of dire shortage such as health, education and aged care.

The move is a down payment on an anticipated increase to the size and composition of the permanent migration intake, to be announced following the September jobs and skills summit.

"We arrived in this role with a huge visa backlog and no plan to work through it," Clare O'Neil said. Elke Meitzel

"We've got to get the system moving again, and then we have to have the deeper conversation," Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil told The Australian Financial Review.

"There's a really important conversation to be had about the size and composition of the migration program."

In the immediate term, stretched departmental resources will be diverted from processing the generally lower skilled permanent visa applications lodged by temporary visa holders already in Australia, so applications by more highly skilled workers overseas can go to the front of the queue.

Of the current total backlog of 961,016 visa applications across all categories, there are 560,187 lodged by people outside Australia.

Of these, 57,906 are skilled workers seeking permanent visas. These will be the new priority, especially teachers, health workers and aged care staff.

There are another 13,806 offshore visa applicants seeking temporary visas.

For the past two years, about 81 per cent of permanent visas were granted to those already in the country, but Ms O'Neil said the focus must change.

"We arrived in this role with a huge visa backlog and no plan to work through it," she said.

"We're doing everything we can through the existing program to alleviate this."

But Ms O'Neil said there must also be longer-term changes to the permanent migration program that balanced the demands of business and the unions.

The place for that to be thrashed out would be the jobs and skills summit in early September, she said.

There will have to be trade-offs

Before the pandemic, the Morrison government capped Australia's total migration intake at 160,000 a year, but migration fell into net negative territory during the COVID-19 years, during which 600,000 temporary visa holders left, leaving large gaps health, construction and hospitality.

Business groups are demanding the cap be lifted to at least 200,000 for the next two years to help fix the labour and skills crisis.

With unions wary about filling jobs with migrants, Ms O'Neill suggested there would have to be trade-offs with upskilling Australians.

"The voice of business is very important to migration but so is the voice of the union movement," she said.

"We don't want to make the mistake of the past of using temporary migration to fix problems. We need to train more Australians."

Ms O'Neill said there was a "once in a generation opportunity to step back and ask what the immigration system was for and ask whether the current system is meeting needs".

She said the program was a productivity tool to not only help the country become a high-skilled, high wage economy by boosting manufacturing, science and teaching, but by buttressing the care and education sectors as well.

"We can drive a big economic transformation," she said.

Ms O'Neil also revealed steady progress was being made in processing the huge backlog of visa applications that developed while international borders were closed to foreign workers for almost two years because of COVID-19.

She said 623,000 temporary and permanent visa applications had been processed since June 1. Processing times for offshore permanent visa applicants had fallen from 11 months in May to four months in June.

Part of reprioritising the backlog includes all but junking the previous government's Global Talent program, which spent millions supposedly scouring the globe for highly skilled professionals. But in the past financial year, 77 per cent of the Global Talent visas were awarded to applicants already in Australia and mostly already in another visa category.

The program's 15,000 places were cut to 8448 places, but Ms O'Neil said only the program's offshore applicants would now be considered.

Australia's borders reopened to foreign visa holders on December 21, but there was a huge backlog in processing because departmental resources had been diverted towards policing the border and processing travel exemptions during the pandemic.

A NAB survey of 800 small and medium enterprises across a broad range of industries, conducted from May 17 to June 9, found 35 per cent of those surveyed said labour shortages were having a "very significant" impact on their business.

Additionally, 34 per cent expected a "very significant" impact over the next 12 months.

The greatest concern came from within the health and construction sectors with about one in two respondents saying labour shortages were a "very significant" issue.

Transport, storage, manufacturing and retail reported the biggest increase in concern about labour shortages from the March to June quarters this year, while the impact on accommodation providers fell significantly, likely due to international borders reopening, the survey finds.

The companies said, "increasing traineeships and apprenticeships", and "increasing the migrant intake", were the top two ways to begin solving the labour shortage.

Last week, business and employer groups echoed the sentiment in the lead-up to the jobs and skills summit.

They called for a temporary two-year increase in skilled migration to 200,000 places a year, and making temporary skilled migration more accessible and responsive to employer needs by scrapping the so-called targeted occupation eligibility list.

With unemployment at a 48-year low of 3.5 per cent, and with the number of jobseekers level pegging the number of job vacancies.

The upcoming skills and jobs summit must focus on lifting how much each worker can do and can earn.

Unions warned they would fight for more safeguards to ensure temporary visa workers were not exploited.

Before the election, then-prime minister Scott Morrison flagged reassessing the migrant intake sometime later, but said it would be a while before the current cap of 160,000 was achieved.

Mr Morrison told The Australian Financial Review Business Summit in March, "you just don't turn the tap on and all of a sudden, 160,000 people turn up next week".

11) Backlog that new government inherited

3.2. Status of visa caseloads

As at 13 May 2022, there were 962,679 non-humanitarian active visa applications on-hand, consisting of 571,386 temporary, 149,874 skilled and 232,331 family (including about 54,000 first stage partner visa applications) and 9,088 Resident Return visa applications.

Of these, 130,638 are in visa categories subject to capping and/or queuing. The cap is set annually in a legislative instrument based on Migration Program planning levels. In order to reduce the pipeline, the Government would need to allocate more places to these programs.

Visa processing times are published monthly on the Department's website.

3.3. Resourcing

The current global immigration program delivery network is dispersed across six locations in Australia and 34 locations overseas. As at 30 April 2022, there were over 1,900 staff supporting non-humanitarian visa processing globally.

Some locations in the offshore network continue to be impacted by COVID-19, and as at 30 April 2022, the offshore network was operating at approximately 76 per cent of overall capacity.

The Department has managed growing application volumes across all visa types following the reopening of the border by allocating resources flexibly. Processing staff in the global network, regardless of location, work across a range of visa programs and cohorts to deliver Government priorities. By necessity, this requires processing in some categories to be de-prioritised.

Visa processing is supported by strong controls to manage the integrity of visa programs and ensure protection of the Australian community. This includes a global network of visa caseload risk and integrity officers.

Source : <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/.../fa-220600105-document...>

12) NAATI online CCL second language test

Although case officers have been granting 5 points for this ONLINE test, there was no official confirmation from the Immigration department that this was acceptable.

Home Affairs policy area have now confirmed that they will accept this ONLINE test for the allocation of 5 points.

Validity of CCL/NAATI second language results

"A CCL result or Credential Letter is valid for five* years from the date of issue.

(*Please note this was previously three years and is now five years as of 9/08/2022)"

From the NAATI website.

NAATI have confirmed that only NEW CCL test results from the 9th August 2022 will last for 5 years. Previous results will still only be valid for 3 years

13) Teachers Priority

Visa boost to entice overseas teachers.

Visas for overseas teachers will be prioritised to help staff Australian classrooms, Education Minister Jason Clare says.

The idea has been detailed by Clare in a press conference with state ministers following an education roundtable in Canberra.

"One of the things we've got to do is prioritise visas for teachers from overseas who want to come and work here," Clare said.

"States, independently of the Commonwealth, work with teachers who are keen to work here, make sure they meet the standards that individual states have, to be accredited and registered to teach here, and then when they want to come here, make sure they get the visa as quickly as possible."

He said Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil had agreed to prioritise the visas.

NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said this was already part of that state's strategy.

"We need to go through that proper process of making sure they've got the right skills, they've got the right accreditation to meet the high standards that of course we want from our teachers.

"But one of the concerns and challenges has been that wait for a visa. And I think that's also been turning off prospective people from coming.

"I wonder what opportunities there may be for fast track to citizenship for people who are highly skilled, people coming work in areas where there's high demand, such as STEM. There's a lot we can do in that space if we work collaboratively."

(Source - Article from Financial review newspaper)

14) Covid concession for Study points in Australia

Please note that where a covid concession has allowed a student to count overseas online study towards meeting the Australian Study Requirement, this can also count towards obtaining 5 points for 2 years of study in Australia.

However, it CANNOT count towards obtaining 5 extra points for REGIONAL STUDY of 2 years as that regulation requires you living in the regional area and there is no concession.

15) VETASSESS update

From Monday, July 25, all technical interviews for trade occupations will be conducted at approved VETASSESS venues.

Please note that this does not affect the arrangements for interviews that have already been booked.

We currently have venues in Australia as well as in China, Fiji, India, Iran, Philippines, South Africa, Nepal, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

VETASSESS Newsletter here;

https://mailchi.mp/vetassess/asktheexpertswbinarjune2022_email02-1793113

16) News Articles

Migration the right fix for worker shortages

<https://www.afr.com/policy/economy/migration-the-right-fix-for-worker-shortages-20220718-p5b2ct>

Skilled worker shortage: New register to help lure workers from around world to WA

<https://thewest.com.au/politics/state-politics/skilled-worker-shortage-new-register-to-help-lure-workers-from-around-world-to-wa--c-7562164>

Three immigration solutions for worker shortages from Victorian and NSW business lobby

<https://johnmenadue.com/three-immigration-solutions-for-worker-shortages-from-victorian-and-nsw-business-lobby/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jul/21/visa-application-backlog-risks-causing-human-misery-and-economic-carnage-due-to-understaffing-says-labor-mp>

Temporary migration not the answer to Australia's skills shortages, Anthony Albanese says

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/temporary-migration-not-the-answer-to-australias-skills-shortages-anthony-albanese-says/i0gq90maa>

Government assures unions amid concerns over migration expansion

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/government-assures-unions-amid-concerns-over-migration-expansion-20220720-p5b301>

Skilled workers prioritised amid backlog of almost one million visa applications

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/skilled-workers-prioritised-amid-backlog-of-almost-one-million-visa-applications/xi6uoobic>

Australia outsourcing biometrics capture aspect of visa issuance

<https://www.biometricupdate.com/202207/australia-outsourcing-biometrics-capture-aspect-of-visa-issuance>

Visa applicants in limbo, Jonas Vingegaard wins Tour de France, and national anthem reimaged

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/visa-applicants-in-limbo-jonas-vingegaard-wins-tour-de-france-and-national-anthem-reimagined/7k7lz995i>

Visa push leaves refugee community on hold

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7840452/visa-push-leaves-refugee-community-on-hold/>

<https://twitter.com/RizviAbul/status/1555112112619667456>

3000 migration spots allocated to Pacific Islands

<https://www.fijitimes.com/3000-migration-spots-allocated-to-pacific-islands/>

Consultation has commenced on cost recovery for migrant skills assessment services

<https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/news/consultation-has-commenced-cost-recovery-migrant-skills-assessment-services>

Dedicated agriculture visa off table

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7854041/dedicated-agriculture-visa-off-table-watt/>

Fears lengthy visa processing delays for skilled migrants will worsen the hospitality skills crisis

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-10/visa-processing-delays-could-worsen-skills-crisis/101310102>

Federal government plans to increase skilled migrant intake to combat labour shortage

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/skilled-migrant-cap-increase-federal-government-labour-shortage-australia/5468aac8-0ff8-4c6e-a6f3-c2cd4cce590e>

Labor to bring in tens of thousands more migrants as it eyes bargain with union movement

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/labor-to-bring-in-tens-of-thousands-more-migrants-as-it-eyes-bargain-with-union-movement-20220812-p5b9hf.html>

Interview with Skills minister about the size of the migration program

<https://ministers.dewr.gov.au/oconnor/interview-sky-news-am-agenda-peter-stefanovic?>

More news from the skills minister about the skilled migration program and lowering some skills assessment criteria

<https://ministers.dewr.gov.au/oconnor/press-conference-melbourne-0>

Unions and employers agree 40,000 more migrants a year needed to fill Australia's skills shortage

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/17/unions-and-employers-agree-40000-more-migrants-a-year-needed-to-fill-australias-skills-shortage>

Government taking action to process more visas faster

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/processing-more-visas-faster.aspx>

Ok folks,

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 19th September.



Steven O'Neill (Iscah Manager - MARN 9687267)

 iscah.migration


 iscahmigration

 iscah.com

 Phone: 08 9353 3344

 Fax: 61-8-9353 3350

 E-mail: newsletter@iscah.com

 Iscah Migration
Suite 14 (Kewdale Business Park)
133 Kewdale Road, Kewdale
Perth Western Australia, 6105
PO Box 75 Welshpool BC 6986



Registered Migration Agent 9687267