

Hey everyone

We roll on to another edition of our monthly newsletter
States are opening up and occupations lists are expanding, with more options

This is summation of all that we have seen in the last month in terms of visa news

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On to this month's news ...



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1) WA State Migration

2022-23 SNMP program changes

The WA Government has made changes to its migration program to support skilled workers looking to migrate to Western Australia including increasing occupations eligible for skilled migration in WA by around 60 per cent. New occupations have been added to the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List Schedule 1 (WASMOL Schedule 1) and the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List Schedule 2 (WASMOL Schedule 2).

The list of newly available occupations can be found on the WA State Nomination – combined occupation list. The WA Government has also waived the \$200 application fee and has made changes to the requirements for new applicants as of 1 July 2022, including:

Removal of the requirement to demonstrate sufficient funds for WA State nomination.

Reduction in the English requirements for applicants at the Manager and Professional occupation level to the "competent" level of English.

Changes to the document requirements for the WASMOL Schedule 1&2 and the Graduate Occupation lists based on the visa the applicant is being nominated for. The next round of invitations to apply for WA State nomination are anticipated to be issued in the third week of September 2022.

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/latest-news>

August invite statistics

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

2) NSW State Migration

For the 190 visa

- NSW will publish their 190 skills list in around 2 weeks time. And look to open after that for invitations
- applicants must live overseas for the last 6 months or 6 months in NSW. So no interstate applicants can apply
- There will be a minimum score for each occupation published regularly on the NSW website
- All applicants must lodge just one EOI nominating NSW with just the 190 chosen (no other visa category) - 189/190 combined is NOT ok

For the 491

- Again NSW occupation lists being updated in the next 2 weeks
- There will be just ONE occupation list covering all the regions (RDAs)
- There will be 2 pathways. One to apply direct to the RDA, Or second to be invited by NSW government.
- Must live in NSW for 3 months, or overseas for 3 months or have a regional NSW study exemption

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

3) ACT State Migration

Canberra Matrix Invitation Round: 13 September 2022

<https://www.act.gov.au/migration/resources/canberra-matrix-invitation-round>

4) SA State Migration

South Australia updated 190/491 criteria

South Australia have updated their criteria for EACH occupation depending on where you live etc
Check your occupation criteria here;

<https://www.migration.sa.gov.au/occupation-lists/south-australia-skilled-occupation-list>

Skilled & Business Migration Update

<https://www.migration.sa.gov.au/news-events/important-update-2022-23-skilled-business-migration-programs-opening-soon>

5) Tasmania State Migration

The Migration Tasmania Skilled Nomination Eligibility Checker is now available. Potential applicants and their agents can use this to check eligibility for Tasmanian nomination, find the most appropriate nomination pathway and learn which additional priority attributes they may have.

In the current stage of the Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination program only those eligible candidates who have at least one gold or green priority attribute can register their interest in nomination. The application gateway will be available to all eligible candidates in October 2022.

For more details refer to the "How to Apply" tabs of the subclass 190 and subclass 491 pages of the Migration Tasmania website.

Addition to Tasmanian Onshore Skilled Occupation List (TOSOL) - Hotel or Motel Manager

Although not in the National Skills Commission Skills Priority List for Tasmania, after receiving industry advice, 141311 Hotel or Motel Manager has been added to the TOSOL.

This means candidates with a skills assessment for this occupation will be eligible for subclass 190 nomination in the Tasmanian Skilled Employment pathway after working in a closely related role for 6 months in Tasmania, or for subclass 491 nomination after 3 months. They may also qualify for additional priority attributes in other pathways.

The TOSOL is updated periodically on the advice of the National Skills Commission as well as the receipt of other industry, employment and government information.

Interim opening - common reasons for not being invited to apply for nomination

In the current stage of the Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination program, candidates must meet the minimum requirements for one of the nomination pathways published on the Migration Tasmania website, and have at least one of the gold or green attributes listed for that pathway.

Candidates who do not meet the minimum requirements or have a green or gold attribute will not be invited to apply for nomination and will not be contacted.

Common reasons candidates have not been invited during this stage include:

- Did not meet minimum eligibility requirements.
 - o Some candidates seeking subclass 190 nomination in the Tasmanian Skilled Employment pathway have had less than the six months employment related to their skills assessment required by that pathway. While green and gold attributes give priority to employment experience of at least three months, this does not over-ride the minimum eligibility requirement.
- Tasmanian Skilled Graduate pathway – job-offer related to skills assessment or Tasmanian study.
 - o Some candidates are relying upon recently commenced employment as a 'job offer'. To be eligible for this priority attribute the employment must not yet have commenced.
 - o Candidates with a job offer but who have not yet commenced this employment must list this on their attached resume.
- Incomplete Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and resumes.
 - o Both EOIs and CVs must list the employment being used to claim eligibility for nomination and priority attributes.
 - o The full EOI details must be attached, not the point score summary table.
- Only skilled employment (ANZSCO skill levels 1-3) roles are eligible for gold or green attributes.
 - o Some candidates are claiming gold or green attributes for employment related to study that does not meet the ANZSCO skill levels 1-3 standard.
 - o For example, driver-store person, aged / individual support worker, extended care assistants and assistants in nursing are classified as ANZSCO skill level 4 roles.
- Skilled employment or business operation related to study.

- o To claim the green attribute for employment or business operation that is related to a graduate's Tasmanian study, the course must have a direct vocational relevance.
 - o For example, this would include an engineering graduate working as an engineer, or a hospitality management graduate working as a front of house manager. It would not include a business management or leadership graduate running a café unless the course had a direct, verifiable and relevant hospitality specialisation.
 - Overseas Skilled Occupation Profiles pathway (Overseas applicants who do not have a job offer).
 - o Candidates seeking nomination in the Overseas Skilled Occupation Profiles pathway must first be contacted by Migration Tasmania through SkillSelect. This contact provides instructions on how to apply for nomination.
 - o An invitation to apply for nomination in this pathway will not be issued if Migration Tasmania has not already made contact through SkillSelect.
- Candidates who meet the minimum requirements but do not have a gold or green attribute will be able to register interest on the Application gateway in October 2022.
Nomination allocation and usage (as at 19 September 2022)

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa:

Nominations – 225 of 2000 places used
Unfinalised nomination applications – 117
Invitations issued – 225

Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa:

Nominations – 250 of 1350 places used
Unfinalised nomination applications – 41
Invitations issued (not including OSOP pathway) – 117
OSOP pathway invitations issued - 441

6) 189/ 491 (family) Invite Round

This round looks targeted again at health , education and other related occupations. In other words not a full round. It looks like not only was this a restricted invite round in terms of occupations but also preference may have been given to offshore applicants in some occupations

We have seen reports of chef being invited offshore for 65 points but not onshore . Based on invites we have seen it seems the Federal govt have prioritised getting offshore people visaed to come to Australia (in some occupations) rather than invitations for onshore people at more points . As those onshore can already work and so help the skills crisis.

The federal government has listed these below as the most in demand future occupations

- Construction Managers
- Civil Engineering Professionals
- Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers
- Registered Nurses
- ICT Business and Systems Analysts
- Software and Applications Programmers
- Electricians
- Chefs
- Child Carers
- Aged and Disabled Carers

As a result it may be that invites continue to be given predominantly to those occupations in the short future . And the state/territory 190/491 programs remain the avenue for other occupations .

7) Investor visa likely to be axed

Article from the Australian Financial review

The federal government's fraud-prone "golden ticket" visa will almost certainly be abolished or radically redesigned, after Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil slammed the contentious scheme as an unproductive use of resources.

Ms O'Neil said on Sunday the \$5 million Significant Investor Visa (SIV) scheme was a drain on the federal budget, setting the scene for the visa to either be axed or remade as part of the federal government's review into the immigration system.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil slammed the "golden ticket" visa scheme as a drain on the budget and an unproductive use of resources. James Brickwood

"It's actually costing us on average for every person because these are people who are generally coming in at quite a late stage of their life, often at the end of their business career, and coming to Australia, basically to settle down and retire," Ms O'Neil told Sky News.

"Now, that's not a productive use, I don't think, of our migration system."

The provisional visa allows a recipient to stay in Australia for up to five years provided they tip at least \$5 million into approved investments and have a genuine intention to hold that investment for the life of the visa.

That is split into different categories, including at least \$500,000 in venture capital and growth private equity funds that back start-ups and small private companies, at least \$1.5 million in approved managed funds that invest in ASX-listed emerging companies, and a "balancing investment" of at least \$3 million in managed funds.

Recipients are eligible to apply for a permanent visa if certain requirements are met.

The scheme has advantages for the applicant, such as no upper age limit and people without functional English being able to apply.

'Prone to fraud'

The Productivity Commission in 2016 called for the scheme, known as the Golden Ticket visa, to be abolished, arguing it was "prone to fraud".

Forcing money into high-risk funds "will benefit fund managers, but is unlikely to deliver a material amount of additional economic activity in Australia", it said.

The Australian Financial Review has previously reported Chinese migrants coming to Australia via the SIV have sought to use gambling wins to meet the \$5 million investment threshold and have used fraudulently obtained secondary "passports of convenience" to bolster their applications.

Ms O'Neil said the number of visas available in the significant investor stream had already been halved, but suggested the government could wind up the program altogether.

"It is a visa program that I think isn't adding value to the country, and it's something that we'll be looking at in the context of the review of the immigration program that I've just announced," she said.

"At the moment, I can't see a lot of reasons to maintain it as part of our program."

More than 2300 SIVs have been granted since the program started in November 2012, according to data from Home Affairs. About 85 per cent were awarded to Chinese mainland applicants, while 5 per cent went to individuals applying from Hong Kong. The next most popular countries were Vietnam, Malaysia and South Africa.

About \$11.8 billion has been invested in complying investments.

Former Department of Immigration senior official Abul Rizvi told the Financial Review he supported abolishing or radically redesigning the SIV.

"In my view, it is fundamentally ... relatively old people buying retirement in Australia," Mr Rizvi said.

Michael Gu's iProsperity Group tapped money from significant investor visas.

The dark edge of Australia's 'golden ticket' visa

"If you look at the level of taxable income they report, and the taxes they pay, they are minimal, yet they are eligible for the rest of their lives for Medicare and social support."

Ms O'Neil also suggested the migration review would lead to a consolidation in the number of visa categories on offer to prospective migrants.

"We've got 70 visa categories. We've got multiple subcategories all with their own different criteria," Ms O'Neil said.

"Whether this is the right way to run the immigration system? I'll give you a clue. It's absolutely not."

8) Working Holiday visa program

A 30% cap increase for the 2022-23 program year

For 2022-23 only, there will be a 30 per cent cap increase to the number of places available to working holiday makers from countries with which Australia has a capped Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa arrangement. This one-off cap increase will commence from 1 July 2022.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/.../whm-program/latest-news>

9) New visa processing time tool for all applications

Remember this is just a broad guide

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

10) Trades Recognition Australia updates

Skills Assessment Opportunity for Migrants

Opportunity for free and fast skills assessment for migrants until June 2023 (Have to have PR already though).

<https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/news/skills-assessment-opportunity-migrants>

Job Ready Program processing time update

The Job Ready Program is experiencing a very high level of demand and there are extended waiting times for application and document processing.

TRA is working to ensure participant progress through the program is not adversely affected by any delays.

We are unable to provide individuals with specific advice on their timing, however when your application is processed TRA will send you a status update.

Please notify TRA if your employment circumstances change.

Updates to Migration Points Advice Program Guidelines

The Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) Migration Points Advice (MPA) Applicant Guidelines have been updated.

The new Guidelines reflect minor changes made to employment requirements. The new Guidelines will come into effect for new MPA applications submitted from 5 September 2022.

If you intend to apply for a MPA after 4 September 2022, you must meet the program requirements as set out in the new Migration Points Advice Applicant Guidelines, August 2022.

Please ensure you read the relevant Guidelines and program information on the TRA website (www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au) carefully before lodging an application.

Applicants with existing MPA program applications currently awaiting an outcome will not be affected by the changes.

11) Student Visa - Nepal

Media Tweet from Immigration expert Abul Rizvi

DHA has virtually shut down the previously booming VET sector student visa applications out of Nepal with approval rate in July of just 7.4%. In June, approval rate was 30.1% & in May was 81.5%. Follows public notice DHA was finding significant fraud in this caseload.

12) VETASSESS update

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/home/updates/post/skills-assessment-migration?fbclid=IwAR3XHwmWPTAbWfg9ttsSNclguas72qs2qBvdHcGqhi4t2mvQcJE-dS7JrW0>

13) News Articles

Government admits Afghanistan humanitarian visa backlog, stops short of lifting visa cap

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/government-admits-afghanistan-humanitarian-visa-backlog-stops-short-of-lifting-visa-cap/9ynde4w85>

'Needlessly complex': report calls for overhaul of Australia's skilled migration program

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/needlessly-complex-report-calls-for-overhaul-of-australias-skilled-migration-program/h70oq5myk>

NSW plea to boost skilled visa places

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7869695/nsw-plea-to-boost-skilled-visa-places/>

New settings to make WA the most attractive State for skilled migrants

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/08/New-settings-to-make-WA-the-most-attractive-State-for-skilled-migrants.aspx>

Anthony Albanese says migration only 'part of the solution' as pressure mounts to address skills shortage

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/anthony-albanese-says-migration-only-part-of-the-solution-as-pressure-mounts-to-address-skills-shortage/x13jtkztl>

Australia's visa backlog and how the new government plans to fix it

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/australias-visa-backlog-and-how-the-new-government-plans-to-fix-it/8c5lph9za>

Immigration will be the most contentious issue at Labor's jobs summit

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/immigration-will-be-the-most-contentious-issue-at-labor-s-jobs-summit-20220819-p5bbct.html>

Immigration fundamentally a 'nation-building' role of government

<https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/politics/immigration-fundamentally-a-nationbuilding-role-of-government/video/ee07832082d74057d714e1ba0c8e39fd>

How Scottish family's deportation hell exposes a MAJOR flaw in Australia's migration system - as Anthony Albanese slams 'absurd' rules

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11139705/Scottish-family-deportation-Prime-Minister-Anthony-Albanese-slams-absurd-migration-system.html>

Australia needs more workers for these jobs. Is migration the answer to solving our skills shortage?
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/australia-needs-more-workers-for-these-jobs-is-migration-the-answer-to-solving-our-skills-shortage/v1l6p8jyo>

Visa backlog a 'hopeless situation': PM
<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7873596/visa-backlog-a-hopeless-situation-pm/>

Immigration Minister: Reduced migration 'an exacerbating cause' of Australia's labour shortages
<https://greekherald.com.au/news/immigration-minister-reduced-migration-an-exacerbating-cause-of-australias-labour-shortages/s>

Jobs Summit an opportunity to fix immigration policy
<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/jobs-summit-an-opportunity-to-fix-immigration-policy,16697>

Government urged to boost Australia's permanent migration cap to make up for pandemic shortfall
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/government-urged-to-boost-australias-permanent-migration-cap-to-make-up-for-pandemic-shortfall/8gdi7mtfn>

Business lobby calls to open temporary skilled migration to all jobs earning more than \$90,00
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/27/business-lobby-joins-unions-in-calling-for-lift-in-minimum-wages-for-skilled-visa-workers>

The simple reason why Australia is suffering a major shortage of workers - and Anthony Albanese says it's Scott Morrison's fault
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11155831/Anthony-Albanese-backs-increasing-permanent-migration.html?>

Mass exodus: Australia faces loss of 600,000 people and skills recovery will be slow, Ceda says
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/31/mass-exodus-australia-faces-loss-of-600000-people-and-skills-recovery-will-be-slow-ceda-says>

Migration deal in sight at summit
<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/migration-deal-in-sight-at-summit-20220831-p5beaw.html>

Labor urged to improve work rights for people on bridging visas amid skilled migration push
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/01/labor-urged-to-improve-work-rights-for-people-on-bridging-visas-amid-skilled-migration-push>

Government lifts migration cap to 195,000, commits \$36 million to fix visa backlog
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/government-lifts-migration-cap-to-195-000-commits-36-million-to-fix-visa-backlog/o79wfv8vb>

Speech at the National Jobs and Skills Summit
<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/speech-national-jobs-skills-summit.aspx>

Australia's migration future
<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/ClareONeil/Pages/australias-migration-future.aspx>

O'Neil calls for cyber security migration visas

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/198927-oneil-calls-for-cyber-security-migration-visas/>

Aged care calls for workforce boost after rise in migration intake

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/aged-care-calls-for-workforce-boost-after-rise-in-migration-intake/kch31vrze>

The government has increased the skilled migrant cap to 195,000. So what do those who want or hold a visa think about it?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-03/skilled-migration-cap-increase-visa-backlog-exploitation-concerns/101400178>

Post-study work rights for international students to boost skills

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/post-study-work-rights-international-students-boost-skills>

Lifting migration was easy – now Australia faces two tougher choices on migrant income and residency

<https://theconversation.com/lifting-migration-was-easy-now-australia-faces-two-tougher-choices-on-migrant-income-and-residency-189952>

Migration changes an extraordinary reversal of Dutton's policies

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/migration-changes-an-extraordinary-reversal-of-dutton-s-policies-20220907-p5bfzx.html>

Immigration Inquiry – A new beginning?

<https://johnmenadue.com/immigration-inquiry-a-new-beginning/>

International Student Accommodation Subsidy

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-jobs-tourism-science-and-innovation/international-student-accommodation-subsidy>

Applicants for permanent residency visas condemn the system as confusing and arbitrary

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-17/how-difficult-it-still-can-be-to-obtain-a-permanent-visa/101436862>

Ok folks,

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 17th October.



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