

Hey everyone

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly visa newsletter.

This captures all the main visa news that we have heard about during the last month. It is free and you can subscribe and unsubscribe through our email address at newsletter@iscah.com

Exciting times continue as 189 invites kick off , albeit mostly for offshore EOIs, and states continue to expand their programs and pathways. Also the Federal budget in 2 weeks time may cast further light on what the Federal government intend to do with the skilled migration program over the next 1 to 3 years

On to this month's news ...



Contents

- 1) WA State Migration
- 2) NSW State Migration
- 3) Tasmania State Migration
- 4) NT State Migration
- 5) Victoria State Migration
- 6) 189/ 491 (family) Invite Round
- 7) Student full work rights until 30/6/2023
- 8) Immigration Minister speech about visa backlogs etc
- 9) Condition 8547 temporary relaxation
- 10) Trades Recognition Australia updates
- 11) News Articles
- 12) New 491 pathway for NSW
- 13) Skill Select 189/491 results 6th October 2022 round

1) WA State Migration

WA invite round 22nd September Official Results

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

2) NSW State Migration

Updated text from the NSW state government website ...

Publishing minimum point scores and skilled work experience requirement

For the 2022-23 program year we have published the minimum point scores and years of skilled work experience requirements for prospective applicants to improve transparency. These requirements have been used to inform NSW's nominations for previous program years.

These are not new requirements for applicants seeking NSW based nomination. As the program is highly competitive, they are based on industry needs, the demand for NSW nomination and the allocation NSW receives from the Australian Government under the State Migration Plan.

These requirements should be used by prospective applicants as a guide for invitation to nomination by NSW and are reviewed periodically to ensure the program continues to meet the skill needs of NSW.

Any changes (if made) are effective immediately and apply to all EOIs regardless of when they were submitted (or amended) in SkillSelect.

3) Tasmania State Migration

Subclass 190 Tasmanian Skilled Employment Pathway - Gold Priority Attribute

To avoid confusion the qualifying work period for the gold priority attribute has been changed from three to six months:

It remains three months for all other attributes.

Subclass 190 and 491 Tasmanian Skilled Graduate Pathway - Job Offer Green Attribute

This attribute has been reworded to clarify its intention to recognise graduate program job offers received prior to completion of study:

Offer for graduate employment program. Must be full-time, received prior to graduation, related to your skills assessment or Tasmanian study and be from a medium or large* Tasmanian business that has been operating in Tasmania for more than 5 years. (Paid training program offers, such as income tax training are not eligible)

We will however apply some flexibility to candidates who have registered their interest before 5 October 2022.

Subclass 190 Tasmanian Established Resident Priority Attributes

This pathway has been updated to include additional priority attributes. The interim registration form has also been updated to include these.

Staged program opening - next stage

The next stage of opening of the 2022-23 Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination is currently scheduled for late October 2022. It will extend to all candidates who meet the minimum requirements, including those who do not have a gold or green attribute.

Nomination allocation and usage (as at 3 October 2022)

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa:

Nominations – 330 of 2000 places used

Unfinalised nomination applications – 347

Invitations not yet accepted or expired – 65

Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa:

Nominations – 293 of 1350 places used

Unfinalised nomination applications – 155

Invitations not yet accepted or expired – 85

4) NT State Migration

Changes have been made to the NT offshore lists

<https://theterritory.com.au/migrate/migrate-to-work/northern-territory-government-visa-nomination/nt-offshore-migration-occupation-list>

5) Victoria State Migration

Updated Victoria statistics

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

6) 189/ 491 (family) Invite Round

A massive 12,200 189 invites were given in the August round. Mostly for offshore applicants with many targeted occupations coming down to the minimum 65 point.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds>

7) Student full work rights until 30/6/2023

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/temporary-relaxation-of-working-hours-for-student-visa-holders>

8) Immigration Minister speech about visa backlogs etc

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/migration-institute-of-australia-national-conference.aspx>

9) Condition 8547 temporary relaxation

The Department have informed that the temporary relaxation of condition 8547 (6 month work limitation) will be in place until 31 December 2022, when it will be reviewed by the Government.

After 31 December 2022, a Working Holiday Maker visa holder may work with an employer up to 6 months, despite any period they may have worked for that employer prior to 31 December 2022.

Therefore there is the potential for Working Holiday visa holders to remain with the same employer until 30 June 2023. Source MIA

10) Trades Recognition Australia updates

The Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) Migration Skills Assessment (MSA) Applicant Guidelines have been updated.

These new Guidelines will reflect changes made to employment requirements. The new Guidelines will be effective for all new MSA applications lodged from 4 October 2022.

If you intend to apply for a MSA after 4 October 2022, you must meet the program requirements as set out in the new Migration Skills Assessment Applicant Guidelines, dated 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 MSA program applications currently awaiting an outcome will not be affected by these changes.

<https://www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au/news/important-changes-updates-migration-skills-assessment-program-guidelines>

11) News Articles

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>

Immigration to Australia still short of pre-pandemic levels

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/immigration-to-australia-still-short-of-pre-pandemic-levels-,16781>

'I can never feel settled': wait time for key Australian work visa more than doubles

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/30/i-can-never-feel-settled-wait-time-for-key-australian-work-visa-more-than-doubles>

'We feel totally ignored': Permanent visa applicants protest over dramatic increase in wait times

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/we-feel-totally-ignored-permanent-visa-applicants-protest-over-dramatic-increase-in-wait-times/chsyvxatk>

The most in-demand occupations revealed as skills shortage strikes more industries

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/the-most-in-demand-occupations-revealed-as-skills-shortage-strikes-more-industries-20221005-p5bng2.html>

2022 Skills Priority List Key Findings Report

<https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/reports/2022-skills-priority-list-key-findings-report>

Australia needs people to do these jobs. Here's what it could mean for visa opportunities

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/australia-needs-people-to-do-these-jobs-heres-what-it-could-mean-for-visa-opportunities/yjv4ilp66>

Visa changes lower the bar for migrants to fill in-demand jobs

<https://www.watoday.com.au/politics/federal/visa-changes-lower-the-bar-for-migrants-to-fill-in-demand-jobs-20221009-p5bobf.html>

VTA CALLS FOR TRUCK DRIVERS TO BE ADDED TO PERMANENT MIGRATION LIST

<https://www.fullyloaded.com.au/industry-news/2210/vta-calls-for-truck-drivers-to-be-added-to-permanent-migration-list>

Australia dependent on skilled migration for IT and nursing

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/video/australia-dependent-on-skilled-migration-for-it-and-nursing/izd2mac6b>

Jaishankar raises visa backlog issue with Australia, says he was assured matter will be resolved by end of 2022

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/jaishankar-raises-visa-backlog-issue-with-australia-says-he-was-assured-matter-will-be-resolved-by-end-of-2022-11434851.html>

12) New 491 pathway for NSW

Regional NSW-based direct pathway

To apply under this pathway, you must:

1. Ensure you are eligible for this visa subclass on the Home Affairs launch website
2. Be currently living and working in their nominated (or closely related) occupation in a designated regional area of NSW, and have continuously done so for the past twelve (12) months for a minimum of 20 hours per week
3. Have a valid skills assessment in an occupation within a unit group that appears on the NSW Regional Skills List and is eligible for the visa
4. Are paid at least the TSMIT level or \$53,900 per annum (full time basis) excluding superannuation
5. Provide evidence for all points claims in your SkillSelect EOI, and where you currently reside, with your application. You must also provide a copy of your SkillSelect EOI

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Ok folks,

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 21st November.



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13) Skill Select 189/491 results 6th October 2022 round

Invitations issued on 6 October 2022

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 6 October 2022.

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	11,714
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	818

Invitation process and cut offs

The highest ranked individuals by points score are invited to apply for the relevant visa. Those 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	10/2022
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	65	10/2022

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds>

(Source: Department of Home Affairs)