

Hiya

Welcome to March's edition of our monthly newsletter. It includes all the articles we have seen relating to migration and visa news.

The Federal comes up on 9th May and that will show how large the 2023/24 migration program will look. This years program continues to show large invites, large approval numbers and reduced backlogs. Long may that continue

On to this month's news...



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1) WA State News

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

2) NSW Updates

11 new occupations added to the NSW state nomination lists;

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

NSW Hunter valley closed for new 491 nominations.

VISA INFORMATION

HUNTER CLOSED FOR 491 VISA APPLICATIONS

Please be advised that RDA Hunter is not receiving any new 491 Visa applications as it has reached its assigned allocation. Please refer to the NSW Government website;

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/visas-and-migration/skilled-visas/skilled-work-regional-visa-subclass-491>

Hunter is still open for 494 Visa application.

3) Update to offshore Northern Territory State criteria -

Update: new offshore GSM nomination criteria

The nomination eligibility criteria for offshore General Skilled Migration applicants has changed. This includes:

- reduced work experience requirement (one year down from 3 years for most occupations)
- more occupations added to the Priority Occupations Stream
- expansion of the Family Support Stream to enable regional provisional (subclass 489, 491 and 494) visa holders and those who hold bridging visas after having applied for regional permanent residency (subclass 887 and 191) visas to support family members applying for nomination.

To learn more, read eligibility.

MigrationNT continues to receive and assess onshore nomination applications under the existing eligibility criteria. Applicants should lodge their applications as soon as possible after meeting the eligibility criteria. Applications may not be assessed prior to visa expiry dates. Those who have visas expiring should seek professional advice on their visa options and ensure that they remain lawful during their stay in Australia.

All applicants must ensure that they meet both the NT nomination criteria and the standard Home Affairs criteria at the time of lodging their nomination application and throughout their application process. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all documents including English test results, skills assessments, etc. remain valid.

<https://theterritory.com.au/migrate/migrate-to-work>

4) Tasmania update on state nomination numbers

Nomination allocation and usage (as at 14 March 2023)

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa:

Nominations – 1269 of 2000 places used

Nomination applications not yet decided – 119

Invitations issued but not yet accepted – 200

Oldest application yet to be processed – lodged 27 January 2023

Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa:

Nominations – 1109 of 2250 places used

Nomination applications not yet decided – 232

Invitations issued but not yet accepted – 244

Oldest application yet to be processed – lodged 3 March 2023

5) Skill assessment - Changes to automotive occupation eligibility requirements for OSAP

Important Changes – Updated requirements for applicants applying to be assessed through the Offshore Skills Assessment Program (OSAP).

From 1 April 2023, automotive trades qualified applicants from the countries of passport detailed below will be able to have their skills assessed through the Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) Migration Skills Assessment (MSA) program, instead of through the Offshore Skills Assessment Program (OSAP). The qualification must be relevant to the chosen occupation.

- Automotive Electrician 321111 – China, Ireland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom
- Diesel Motor Mechanic 321212 - China, Ireland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom
- Motor Mechanic 321211 - China, Ireland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom
- Panelbeater 324111 - Ireland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom
- Vehicle Painter 324311 – China, Ireland, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom

Please check with the Department of Home Affairs (www.homeaffairs.gov.au) before submitting your application, to confirm a skills assessment is required for your visa application, and that TRA is the correct assessing authority for your nominated occupation.

6) Post-study work rights factsheet

<https://www.education.gov.au/extended-poststudy-work-rights-international-graduates/resources/poststudy-work-rights-factsheet>

7) Update on ANMAC skills assessments for Nurses

Assessment wait times: The assessment team is currently assessing applications made on 20 January 2023. Applications are assessed in date order. We do not offer a priority service.

****While you wait for your skills assessment to begin, can you please make sure you have uploaded all relevant documentation to the ANMAC portal. This will minimise delays when your assessment begins.**

- Do you have nursing or midwifery qualifications from overseas – this includes any exams/OSCE's you were required to undertake to obtain registration in the United Kingdom, Ireland or Singapore. Please forward successful completion correspondence to skilledmigration@anmac.org.au This information will be stored on your file.

- If you obtained credits towards your Australian nursing degree please provide this detail in the form of certification or a statutory declaration.

- If you are an enrolled nurse in Australia and have no prior nursing qualifications please provide a statutory declaration declaring the same. If you have overseas nursing qualifications, please upload them to the portal.

- If you are submitting work experience for assessment, please make sure your referee has provided their work email address. This is important because we verify all claims of work experience.

8) Working Holiday Visa – Quota updates

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

9) Further visa options for past 485 visa holders

As well as the extra 2 years available for 485 visas granted in some occupations .. those not benefitting from this may be able to apply for a TWO YEAR 408 pandemic visa as follows ...
"Transitional arrangements are also in place to support other graduates.

Temporary Graduate visa holders in Australia whose visas expired or will expire between 1 September 2022 and 1 July 2023, or Temporary Graduate visa holders who were in Australia throughout the pandemic period and are therefore not eligible for the TGV Replacement stream, may be eligible for the COVID-19 Pandemic Event (subclass 408) visa with a 2-year stay period. You must be working in Australia or have an offer of employment.

You must apply 90 days before your TGV expires, or 28 days after your TGV expires to be eligible for a Pandemic event visa.

If you are granted a 408 Pandemic Event visa, you will not be eligible to then apply separately for an extended TGV. You should evaluate your options carefully before you apply. "

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-graduate-485/>

10) Vetassess update policy on documents and time limits for skills assessments

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/home/updates/post/policy-update-for-documentation-submission>

11) Top 20 occupations by vacant positions from Oct22-Dec22 in Australia

Table 6: Top 20 occupations in demand nationally

1	Registered Nurses	8,377
2	Software and Applications Programmers	6,269
3	Aged and Disabled Carers	4,642
4	Child Carers	4,277
5	Construction Managers	4,230
6	Motor Mechanics	3,924
7	Retail Managers	3,777
8	Chefs	3,725
9	Generalist Medical Practitioners	3,352
10	Metal Fitters and Machinists	3,137
11	ICT Business and Systems Analysts	3,053
12	Civil Engineering Professionals	2,871
13	Electricians	2,839
14	Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers	2,493
15	Contract, Program and Project Administrators	2,392
16	Advertising and Marketing Professionals	2,265
17	Physiotherapists	1,262
18	Gardeners	1,015
19	Mining Engineers	957
20	Database and Systems Administrators, and ICT Security Specialists	942

12) Parent visa processing times blowing out

From Home Affairs website ..

We don't provide processing times for Contributory Parent, Parent, Contributory Aged Parent and Aged Parent visa applications. Applications for these visas are subject to capping and queuing.

We estimate new Contributory Parent visa applications lodged that meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take at least 12 years to be released for final processing.

New Parent and Aged Parent visa applications lodged that meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take at least 29 years for final processing.

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

13) Speech from Immigration minister

Pathways to permanency

We know that in order to get our system back on track, we can't stop at addressing the visa backlog we inherited.

We have to reshape our migration system into one that is fit for purpose and acknowledges that Australia is in a global race for talent.

A pathway to permanency is paramount if we want to continue to attract the world's best and brightest to call Australia home.

One such example is the former Liberal Government's approach to the permanent Skilled Regional visa, subclass 887.

In my time as Minister, I have received thousands of inquiries about the status of 887 visa applications from people living in regional communities across Australia on provisional and bridging visas.

In many senses, these people have had their lives placed on hold due to the deliberate decision not to process their visa applications.

Under the former Liberal government, the number of 887 visa applications grew each week, as more applications arrived while only a small number were processed. Fewer than 400 of these visas were finalised in the last three months of the former Government.

There were over 18,000 887 visa applications waiting in the in-tray when we came to Government.

We have placed 887 visas on the priority list, and the Department has now finalised more than 15,000 of these applications.

This Government's commitment to ending the limbo in people's lives includes those who have been found to be owed Australia's protection.

Just over a month ago, the Government announced a pathway to permanency for TPV/SHEV holders.

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/law-council-australia-immigration-law-conference.aspx>

14) News Articles

Addressing skills shortages in key industries and rebuilding the international education sector

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/ClareONeil/Pages/addressing-skills-shortages-in-key-industries-international-education-sector.aspx>

How to improve the migration system for the good of temporary migrants – and Australia

<https://theconversation.com/how-to-improve-the-migration-system-for-the-good-of-temporary-migrants-and-australia-199520>

Principal calls for teaching to be added to approved agricultural industries visa list amid shortage

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-28/principal-fights-to-keep-foreign-teachers-amid-shortage/102029602>

As migration returns to Australia, advocates call for more protections for exploited workers

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-01/wage-theft-migrant-exploitation-visa-immigration-policy/102025028>

Discussed pendency of Australian visa applications: Dharmendra Pradhan

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/discussed-pendency-of-australian-visa-applications-dharmendra-pradhan-123030200786_1.html

Meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/meeting-ministerial-advisory-council-skilled-migration-28022023.aspx>

Skilled migration system needs overhaul to address labour shortages

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/workplace/skilled-migration-system-needs-overhaul-to-address-labour-shortages-20230303-p5cp61.html>

Reducing the number of visas is not the way to fix visa system

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/reducing-the-number-of-visas-is-not-the-way-to-fix-visa-system,17297>

The quiet visa change bringing good news to Australia's skilled workers

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/quiet-visa-change-bringing-good-news-to-skilled-workers/umr7hku9>

Coalition to oppose Pacific visa 'lottery' to bring more workers to Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-07/pacific-visa-lottery-opposed-by-coalition/102063516>

'Over the moon': Perth family of Down syndrome boy granted permanent residency after minister intervenes

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/over-the-moon-perth-family-of-down-syndrome-boy-granted-permanent-residency-after-minister-intervenes/3noh76hix>

The Exploitative and Discriminatory Nature of Australian Migration Laws

<https://thewire.in/rights/the-exploitative-and-discriminatory-nature-of-australian-migration-laws>

The Stats Guy: Record-breaking migration is reshaping an ill-prepared nation

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/finance/2023/03/18/the-stats-guy-record-breaking-migration-reshape-nation/>

Proposal on changed migration direction

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/productivity-commissions-migration-reform-ideas-a-curates-egg,17345>

Ok folks
That's all for this month, stay safe
See you all on Monday 16th April 2023.



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