

Hey everyone

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly visa newsletter.

Many are waiting for the state governments to open their 491 and 190 programs again for the 2023/24 program year. Last time there was no July 2022 invites as the Federal government did not seem to have organised themselves quick enough after winning the May 2022 federal Election. The overall 190 allocations are the same total so I expect each state to get approximately the same number as last program year

It is unlikely that the Federal government will yet get back to a normal monthly invitation round for 189 and 491 family visas. So we will have to wait and see what they do with the invite program. Although again the budget numbers seem large again.

On to this month's news...



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1) Salary required for 191 visa application

The Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa in the Regional Provisional Stream is the pathway to permanent residence for eligible holders of the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491) and Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (subclass 494) visas.

Please be advised that there is no minimum income requirement for the Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191), as there is no legislative instrument in place specifying a minimum income threshold for this visa.

Primary applicants must provide notices of assessment issued by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for three income years out of the five years of their eligible visa. Primary applicants who have already lodged should check and ensure their application provides these three notices.

The Australian Government is committed to a simpler migration system that serves our national interest and which helps migrants already living and working in Australia with the skills that Australia needs to thrive by providing clarity on their prospects for permanent residence.

For further information please visit the website of the Department of Home Affairs: Immigration and citizenship (homeaffairs.gov.au)

(Source: department of home affairs)

2) VETASSESS

Temporary Graduate (Subclass 485) visas

June 2023 - VETASSESS has resumed conducting skills assessments for students applying for a Temporary Graduate (Subclass 485) visa. This is a temporary visa that allows international students to live, study and work in Australia once they have finished their studies.

In July 2022 the Australian Government suspended the requirement for international students to submit a skills assessment for a Subclass 485 visa.

The Government has reinstated this requirement from July 1, 2023.

If you lodged an application with the Department of Home Affairs for the Graduate Work stream between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 you do not need a skills assessment

VETASSESS Newsletter

https://mailchi.mp/vetassess/asktheexpertswbinarjune2022_email02-1794006

3) TRA

Important Changes to the Job Ready Program (JRP) from 1 July What is changing?

From 1 July 2023, the Job Ready Program Registration and Eligibility (JRPRE) will cease to be part of the JRP and will no longer be available on the TRA Online Portal. Instead, the Provisional Skills Assessment (PSA) program will be reintroduced and replace the JRPRE. The PSA will be a separate program to the JRP while remaining a pre-requisite for the JRP. The PSA will be available on the TRA Online Portal from 1 July 2023.

How will these changes affect you?

If you are a current JRPRE applicant there is no change but please read the news item regarding the reintroduction of the PSA.

Existing JRP participants and prospective applicants are advised to familiarize yourself with the updated guidelines and take note of changes that may affect you. It is strongly recommended to thoroughly read the JRP FAQs and the new JRP Applicant Guidelines.

These changes will apply to all participants from 1 July 2023, including existing and future applicants. TRA will continue to provide support and guidance to both current and prospective participants, ensuring a smooth transition and clarity about updated requirements.

Reintroduction of the Provisional Skills Assessment (PSA) Program from 1 July

What is changing?

The Provisional Skills Assessment (PSA) program will be reinstated from 1 July 2023, replacing the Job Ready Program Registration and Eligibility (JRPRE) program. On this date the PSA program will become separate to the Job Ready Program to make the pathways and purpose of each program clearer. Program guidelines and the online application portal will be updated from 1 July 2023 to reflect the two programs. Applications for the new PSA will be taken from 1 July 2023 through the TRA Online Portal

Why are we changing?

The Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs) temporarily waived the skills assessment requirement for the Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485) on 1 July 2022. This waiver will cease from 1 July 2023. The new PSA supports these changes and is a pre-requisite for applications to the Job Ready Program.

How will these changes affect you?

Successful PSA outcomes can be used to apply to Home Affairs for a Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485). A successful PSA outcome also means you meet the pre-requisite requirement to participate in the JRP, however you must apply for the JRP within 3 years from the date of your PSA outcome.

For existing JRPRE applicants currently being assessed or waiting to be assessed, no action is required. Your application will continue to be assessed and on completion you will receive a PSA assessment outcome letter.

Prospective applicants planning to submit your PSA application after 1 July 2023, should thoroughly review the new PSA Applicant Guidelines and PSA FAQs before proceeding with your application.

4) Visa application fees increase 1st July 2023

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00831/Download?fbclid=IwAR3ftrchgCRM5GOOfuN2DVYQiTLp69elr5FKu6c3ItIs2dSj7mLU5PIYBhw>

5) New citizenship application fees from 1 July 2023

From 1 July 2023, new citizenship application fees will apply. Fees are increasing to reflect the cost of processing applications. On 1 July each year, indexation will be applied to citizenship application fees based on the consumer price index (CPI).

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article>

6) New Zealand citizens update for family member options

On 22 April 2023, the Australian Government announced a direct pathway to Australian citizenship for New Zealand citizens living in Australia.

From 1 July 2023, New Zealand citizens who have been living in Australia for four years or more will be eligible to apply directly for Australian citizenship. They will no longer need to first apply for and be granted a permanent visa. This means all New Zealand citizens who hold a permanent visa or a Special Category (subclass 444) visa (SCV) are eligible to apply directly for citizenship (by conferral).

These changes only apply to citizenship applications submitted on or after 1 July 2023. If you are a New Zealand citizen, you can check on the day you want to apply to confirm your eligibility.

Withdrawing your application

New Zealand citizen SCV holders with a pending Partner, Parent, Child or Other Family type visa application, who on 1 July 2023 may be eligible to apply for citizenship by conferral under the new direct pathway for Australian citizenship for New Zealand citizens, may wish to consider withdrawing their application.

Applicants should consider:

their individual circumstances

impact on family members and their pending visa applications, visas they hold, and/or their future visa options in Australia

the benefits of permanent residence

the timeframes for processing citizenship applications.

Applicants would remain temporary residents during citizenship processing.

For further information on how to withdraw your visa application see: [You want to withdraw an application](#)

Refunds

The direct pathway to citizenship for New Zealand citizens living in Australia does not entitle holders or applicants for any Partner, Parent, Child or Other Family type visa, who are holders or would otherwise hold an SCV, a refund of their Visa Application Charge (VAC). There are very limited circumstances in which a VAC may be refunded. For further information about refunds, see the Department's website: [Getting a refund](#)

Family members of New Zealand citizens

The backdating of permanent residence for SCV holders will impact children born to SCV holders. From 1 July 2023, any child born in Australia on or after 1 July 2022 to an SCV holder may automatically acquire Australian citizenship at birth. From 1 July 2023, children who meet these circumstances can apply for evidence of citizenship.

Eligible family members of SCV holders will continue to be able to apply for, and be granted, a New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (subclass 461) visa.

Family members who already hold a Subclass 461 visa will continue to hold this visa for the remaining period of its validity, which could be up to 5 years. See your visa conditions, including its expiry date, in your grant letter or in VEVO.

Family members of SCV holders who acquire Australian citizenship, however, will no longer be eligible to apply for a Subclass 461 visa from the citizenship acquisition date.

New Zealand citizens who obtain Australian citizenship through the new direct pathway can visit the Department's website to explore visa options to sponsor their family members. Relevant visa options to remain in Australia may include Partner and Child visas.

Impacted family members of New Zealand citizens who get Australian citizenship through this pathway may also wish to explore their visa options.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article>

7) Extra 2 years on 485 visa

The changes are intended to provide an additional two years stay in Australia for persons who hold qualifications that are specified by the Minister in a legislative instrument. For example, whereas any degree under the Australian Qualification Framework conferred or awarded by an Australian education institution (also specified in legislative instruments) will qualify the holder for the first PSW visa (and subsequent visas, if any are held as outlined above), only certain degrees will be listed for the purpose of eligibility for the additional two years. This will include a wide range of qualifications across medicine, health care, engineering, and information technology.

The applicant must hold a qualification specified, or of a kind specified, by the Minister, in a legislative instrument. It does not have to be the qualification that led to the grant of the first Temporary Graduate visa in the Post-Study Work stream. It could be a different qualification that the applicant obtained as a result of study in Australia at any time.

If a person already holds a first PSW visa, or a PSW Regional visa or Replacement visa, they can apply, on or after 1 July 2023, for another PSW visa, at no cost (a 'nil' VAC). That additional visa will be granted for the time remaining on the visa they hold plus an additional two years.

List of courses that allow for an extended 485 visa

https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2023L00916?fbclid=IwAR1RTSDaaUxqWzT0m0wDPQA9Q_bygcK5orN8qXZew8SmevndlfkRVdfsMM

8) Tasmania State migration update

Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program Update - 5 July 2023
Application Gateway expected to be available by 4pm on Friday 7th July 2023

2023-24 Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program

The Migration Tasmania Application Gateway is currently undergoing maintenance and updates and is not currently available to submit Registrations of Interest or lodge applications for nomination. It is expected to be available again by 4pm on Friday 7 July 2023.

We will advise via our website and in a future update if the Gateway is available before this time.

New features of the Skilled Migration State Nomination Program for 2023-24

Only minimal changes have been made to the program for 2023-24. New minimum eligibility requirements and priority attributes will apply to ROIs and applications submitted from 3 July 2023. In cases where new requirements are likely to be beneficial, candidates may wish to withdraw their current ROI and submit a new one once the Gateway is available.

Changes include:

- Extending eligibility for subclass 190 nomination to all occupations in the Tasmanian Skilled Employment pathway
- An updated Tasmanian Onshore Skilled Occupation List
- Changes to requirements for massage therapists
- Changes to income thresholds based on updates to Australian median and average earnings and the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold
- Minor changes to priority attributes
- More detailed policy guidance in the Additional Information, Exclusions and Definitions section of the Migration Tasmania website

The service fee to apply for nomination has increased to \$330 (including GST). There is no charge to submit a Registration of Interest.

Applications lodged before 1 July 2023

Applications for nomination that have been lodged but not decided before 1 July 2023 will continue to be processed against the requirements that were in place at the time of application. If approved, they will be nominated in SkillSelect after the Australian Government provides 2023-24 program year nomination allocations.

Registrations of Interest submitted before 1 July 2023

Registrations of Interest (ROIs) submitted before 1 July 2023 will remain valid for the 2023-24 program year. If invited to apply for nomination the requirements and settings that were in place at the time of ROI submission will apply.

Applications lodged after 1 July 2023

The Australian Government has not yet confirmed nomination allocations for the 2023-24 program year. Successful applications for Tasmanian nomination lodged after 1 July 2023 will be nominated in SkillSelect after the 2023-24 program year allocations are confirmed.

Support and Resources for Skilled Migrants

Are you aiming to upskill and develop your career?

The Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is offering free employability assessments and subsidised training for all onshore permanent residents with an eligible skills assessments. The program includes:

- one employability assessment
- one check-in session
- one coaching session
- one personalised plan to develop your employability skills
- up to \$3,000 to cover skills training.

Do you want to enhance your job readiness?

Jobs Tasmania's Job Ready Fund provides up to \$750 to support migrants who have been residing in Tasmania for more than 6 months to get a job. The assistance can be used for expenses such as White Card accreditation, work boots, protective clothing or tools or training.

The Career Connector service provides personalised career advice, connection to local Jobs Hubs, employment opportunities, service providers, and other programs. The service is available to anyone who has been residing in Tasmania for more than six months.

Free face-to-face Career Coaching, Career Coaching Online Learning Modules and industry information is available from the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania. These are open to Tasmanian Nominated Skilled Migrants and their family members, current and Tasmanian international students and graduates.

Have you recently lost work and do you want to reskill?

The Rapid Response Skills Initiative (RRSI) provides up to \$3,000 for Tasmanian Nominated Skilled Migrants and their family members who have lost work in the last 12 months with suitable training and licenses including:

- occupational tickets and licences
- formal education and training (eg. TasTAFE, other Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers or universities)
- non-accredited training that is recognised by professional bodies, employers, and other authorities in an area of skill and employment demand - approval or otherwise will wholly be at the discretion of Jobs Tasmania.

9) Northern Territory State Nomination update

Update on the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program

The 2022-23 program year has now closed, with all nomination allocations for the Northern Territory (NT) being fully used.

The Australian Government is yet to provide allocations for the 2023-24 program year.

MigrationNT continues to receive and assess nomination applications under the existing eligibility criteria, but nominations cannot be provided until we receive allocations.

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.

10) Student visa work conditions – Reminder

From 1 July 2023, student visa holders can work no more than 48 hours a fortnight while studying.

Student visa holders have no work restrictions when their course of study or training is not in session. This ensures that student visa holders are able to focus on obtaining a quality Australia education and qualification, while remaining able to gain valuable work experience, and contribute to Australia's workforce needs.

Student visa work restrictions were relaxed throughout the pandemic, and completely removed in January 2022. This allowed student visa holders to work over their normal limit of 40 hours per fortnight to address workforce shortages. This ended on 30 June 2023.

The Australian Government has announced that student visa holders already working in the aged care sector on 9 May 2023 can continue to work unrestricted hours in the aged care sector until 31 December 2023.

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

11) You can now learn English with the new AMEPOnline!

This free resource will also help you learn about everyday life in Australia.

- Anyone: you don't have to be enrolled in the Adult Migrant English Language (AMEP) course
- Anywhere: it's available to English learners in Australia and beyond
- Anytime: with five levels to explore at your own pace

Start your own learning journey today:

<https://ameponline.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

12) News Articles

Immigrants come to Australia looking to make a home. The current migration system gets in their way

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-16/australia-immigration-system-failing-potential-migrants/102484696>

Immigration policy about to undergo massive shake-up

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/immigration-policy-about-to-undergo-massive-shake-up,1>

'Landmark' migration review slams years of Coalition mismanagement

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/landmark-migration-review-slams-years-of-coalition-mismanagement-,1>

Migrant groups urge reform of Australia's 'broken' skills recognition process

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jun/19/migrant-groups-urge-reform-of-australias-broken-skills-recognition-process>

Does 'catch-up' explain record net migration in 2022?

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/does-catch-up-explain-record-net-migration-in-2022,17635>

New Zealand to ease migration rules to lure more skilled worker

<https://www.news24.com/fin24/international/new-zealand-to-ease-migration-rules-to-lure-more-skilled-workers-20230620>

Australia's international students cry foul over demands to take \$400 English test multiple times

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jun/25/australia-international-university-students-made-to-pass-400-english-test-several-times>

Coalition immigration policies set to undergo massive changes

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/coalition-immigration-policies-set-to-undergo-massive-changes,17656>

Huge visa change will let unemployed migrants stay in Australia for longer

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12237333/Visa-change-let-unemployed-migrants-stay-Australia-longer.html>

They stayed to support the economy when COVID hit - and now they want permanent residency

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/temporary-visa-holder-petition-australia-they-stayed-during-covid-now-they-want-permanent-residency/405a9bc2-b471-44eb-88fd-34f787ad8990>

Skilled migrants telling peers to go to Canada, US over Australia due to 50-year parent visa processing delays

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-06/migrants-say-parent-visa-delays-make-australia-less-attractive/102567548>

Migration law's health rules labelled discriminatory as UK police officer battles to get WA work visa

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-10/wa-disability-discrimination-police-down-syndrome/102572544>

Albanese Government taking steps to avoid student visa crash

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/albanese-government-taking-steps-to-avoid-student-visa-crash,17702>

Ok folks

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 21st August 2023.



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