

Iscah Migration Newsletter



Edition Number 303 | 25th August 2023

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

Very small number of items for August as we all await the new State program's to open up

On to this month's news...



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1) WA State Migration

New WA state criteria - Features of the 2023—24 program

- no application fee;
- equal invitation ranking for Interstate and Overseas candidates;
- prioritised invitations for candidates with an occupation in a WA industry sector with critical demand for skilled workers; and
- reduced employment requirements for candidates invited through a WA building and construction industry sector occupation.

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/news/2023-24-snmp-program-changes>

2) WA allocated reduced numbers

Article from West Australian newspaper

Premier Roger Cook to urge Federal Government to reverse cuts to WA's skilled migrant allocation

The Premier is calling on the Federal Government to reverse a decision to slash WA's nominated skilled migrant intake by 70 per cent — saying the workers are “desperately” needed to build new homes and fill a range of jobs. The Commonwealth has notified the State Government its allocation for the State Nominated Migration Program would be drastically cut from more than 8000 places to just 2350 this financial year.

The SNMP allows States to specifically decide which overseas skilled workers they need to fill the local jobs in demand.

But the Albanese Government's plan to cut WA numbers has prompted the Premier to write a letter to his Federal leader objecting to the shock decision.

“I will always fight for what is best for Western Australia,” Mr Cook said. “WA is the economic powerhouse of the nation and we desperately need more skilled workers — not less — to meet the demand being driven by our booming economy, specifically in our housing construction industry but also in key areas like health and hospitality.

“If we want to build more houses then we need more workers.”

The Premier is calling on the Federal Government to reverse a decision to slash WA's nominated skilled migrant intake by 70 per cent — saying the workers are “desperately” needed to build new homes and fill a range of jobs. Minister Paul Papalia is pictured on a recruitment drive in the UK. Credit:

Supplied/supplied

WA's skilled nominated visa allocation will drop from 5350 to 1500, while skilled work regional visas will plummet from 2790 to 850, unless the Cook Government can convince Federal Labor to change its mind. And the State will get no migrants from the Business Innovation and Investment Program after receiving 40 last financial year, even though applications for this program are at record highs.

Despite the total allocation being slashed by nearly 6000, demand from prospective migrants remains high, with 5000 expressing interest in WA's Skilled Migrant Employment Register.

The Premier said that while local jobs were his “number one priority”, WA was experiencing a significant uptick in work in the pipeline as well as a backlog of jobs that need to be completed.

“We need a mass injection of skilled workers to get work moving along so we can get more people into homes, more infrastructure built and sustain the highly specialised roles that can’t be filled,” he said. “The Commonwealth needs to review this decision immediately.”

Mr Cook will ask the Federal Government for 10,000 places on the SNMP, the same request made last financial year when 8180 were granted.

It is expected the issue will be raised at a Skills Summit in Perth this week.

The unprecedented demand for workers, particularly in industries such as housing, health and hospitality, continues to be fuelled by a tight local labour market with WA recording an unemployment rate of 3.4 per cent in July — below the national average of 3.7.

The shock SNMP decision by the Federal Government comes in stark contrast to an acute worker shortage which last year saw a Chicken Treat in the Pilbara offer \$130,000 for a store manager and a Broome cafe offer a \$92,000 barista job.

The State Government implemented a raft of changes in response to make it easier for skilled migrants to come to WA, including scrapping application fees and reducing English standards and expanding the number of occupations to its priority occupation list from 170 to 286.

Then-Premier Mark McGowan globe-trotted from Rome to Doha to spruik the changes, in hopes to fill the roles in a diverse range of occupations — a far cry from when he first became Premier in 2017 and sought to remove WA from the Regional Skilled Migration Scheme to put “West Australian jobs first”.

While more workers are needed to build new homes, the Catch 22 is that the State lacks the homes to house these would-be workers.

The West on Friday revealed that Perth was experiencing its worst ever housing shortage, with properties for sale in Perth dropping by 24 per cent over the year.

(Source: West Australian newspaper)

3) VETASSESS

Vetassess update on Priority Processing

From July 31 our Priority Processing service will change so that applicants with evidence of urgent need will receive priority when places are allocated.

Applicants without an urgent need can still apply for Priority Processing. Once places are allocated to those with an urgent need, any remaining slots will be offered to other applicants in the queue on a first-come-first-served basis.

Urgent reasons for an applicant to apply for Priority Processing are:

- They have received an invitation from the Department of Home Affairs or an Australian state or territory government, which has an expiry date
- Their visa expires within eight weeks and they are unable to obtain another visa
- They are turning 33, 40 or 45 within eight weeks
- Their English test result (IELTS or PTE) expires within eight weeks
- Their Partner Skills Assessment or English test result expires within eight weeks.

4) TRA

Provisional Skills Assessment (PSA) outcomes for Job Ready Program Registration and Eligibility (JRPRE) successful applicants.

If you received a JRPRE outcome between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 and applied for a Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485) with the Department of Home Affairs before 1 July 2023, you do not need a 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. If you received a JRPRE outcome between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, and did not apply for a Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485) before 1 July 2023, you may be eligible for a PSA outcome based on your previous JRPRE assessment. To be eligible for a PSA outcome you must:

- have a successful JRPRE outcome,
- not be participating in the Job Ready Program (JRP) and
- provide confirmation of your Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485) application (including lodgement date) or your 'Request Checklist' from the Department of Home Affairs indicating a skills assessment is required.
- Job Ready Program Processing Times
- 10 August 2023
- The TRA Job Ready Program (JRP) is experiencing a high number of applications. As a result, the average processing times are longer than expected.
- TRA does not expect this to affect how long it will take to complete all stages of the JRP.
- As at August 2023, the average processing times are:

Program engagement through JRE application assessment and follow up of eligible JRE participants:

Up to 6 months from application
If you applied for Job Ready Employment before February 2023 please contact us.

General document processing:

2.5 months from upload

JRWA Completion:

Up to 4 months from application
If you submitted a JRWA application after June 2023 the RTO will contact you within 60 days. If you have not been contacted by the RTO or are unable to attend your assessment please contact us.

JRFA outcome:

45 days from application

5) English Language Changes for Home Affairs visa applications

English Language Changes for Home Affairs visa applications

^From 26 July 2023 TOEFL iBT will no longer be offering English language tests for Australian visa purposes until further notice.

*From 14 December 2022, IELTS One Skill Retake (OSR) will be available for certain test takers. OSR allows test takers to retake one of the four test components in either reading, writing, speaking or listening (once only).

For Australian visa purposes, the Department will accept IELTS test results that include OSR, with the exception of applications for subclasses 476, 482, and 485, which need scores from a single sitting/attempt.

6) News Articles

Treasury's net migration forecasts and the 'big Australia' furore?

<https://johnmenadue.com/treasurys-net-migration-forecasts-and-the-big-australia-furore/>

What is the real cause behind Australia's rental crisis?

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/what-is-the-real-cause-behind-australias-rental-crisis/7oatersux>

Australia's visa rules for people with HIV don't 'meet community expectations', says minister

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/australias-visa-rules-for-people-with-hiv-dont-meet-community-expectations-says-minister/ouazwfulm>

'They will never be granted the visa in their lifetime': the families waiting decades to settle parents in Australia.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/31/they-will-never-be-granted-the-visa-in-their-lifetime-the-families-waiting-decades-to-settle-parents-in-australia>

Abolish permanent parent migration in the name of compassion

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/226683-abolish-permanent-parent-migration-in-the-name-of-compassion/>

Parents may wait up to 40 years to join family in Australia. Is a visa lottery the answer?

<https://theconversation.com/parents-may-wait-up-to-40-years-to-join-family-in-australia-is-a-visa-lottery-the-answer-210631>

More than 100,000 people have applied for this visa. So why are there calls to scrap it?

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/more-than-100-000-people-have-applied-for-this-visa-so-why-are-there-calls-to-scrap-it/i4fy05jpf>

Business lobby rejects Coalition's 'disingenuous' claims Labor pursuing big Australia policy

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/aug/10/business-lobby-rejects-coalitions-disingenuous-claims-labor-pursuing-big-australia-policy>

Ok folks

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 17th July 2023.



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