

Iscah Migration Newsletter

20th July 2015 | Edition Number 205

Hiya Everyone,

Well a new program year and hopefully those waiting for visa grants or just starting on the whole visa pathway, obtain success in the next 12 months. The program numbers are still strong and the occupation lists hardly changed at all on the 1st of July, which was a bit of a surprise.

The might Freo Dockers are still rolling along on top of the ladder, can't wait for the finals in September. My 9 years old's soccer team is top of their ladder as well so he is having a bonza sporting life at the moment. Not sure where he gets the enthusiasm from ;-)

Anyhow on to the latest news ...



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1) Australia's 2015/2016 Migration Programme

Up to 190,000 permanent migration places will be available in 2015-16 as announced by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection as part of the Budget on 12 May 2015.

The number of permanent places available will remain the same as last year. This includes up to:

§ 128,550 places for skilled migrants, including employer sponsored, general skilled and business categories;

§ 57,400 places for family migrants sponsored by immediate family members; and

§ 565 places for special eligibility migrants, who include former permanent residents who have maintained close business, cultural or personal ties with Australia.

Additionally, at least 3,485 permanent Child visa places will be available outside the managed Migration Programme.

What has changed?

Whilst the overall size and composition of the programme remain the same as last year there are changes in how the programme will be managed affecting the Child category visa and Orphan relative visas. Child category visas (excluding Orphan Relative) will no longer be counted under the managed Migration Programme. This is in response to the Government's commitment to reform and improve the processes relating to inter-country adoption. The Child category will continue to be carefully monitored while it transitions to a fully demand-driven model by 2019-20.

Orphan Relative visas will now form part of the Other Family category within the Migration Programme with 400 places allocated to Orphan Relative visas.

For more details about the 2015-16 Migration Programme read the Ministerial Media Release or Fact Sheet 20 – Migration Programme planning levels.

Here is a breakdown of the planning levels for each visa category:

2015-16 Migration Programme

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Employer Sponsored | 48,250 |
| Skilled Independent | 43,990 |
| State/Territory & Regional Nominated | 28,850 |
| Business Innovation & Investment Programme | 7,260 |
| Distinguished Talent | 200 |
| Total Skill Stream | 128,550 |
| Partner | 47,825 |
| Parent | 8,675 |
| Other Family | 900 |
| . Orphan Relative | (400) |
| Total Family Stream | 57,400 |
| Special Eligibility Stream | 565 |
| Total managed Migration Programme | 186,515 |
| Child (outside the managed Migration Programme) | 3,485 |
| Total permanent migration places | 190,000 |

Source: DIBP

2) Accountant numbers slashed

The number of places for Accountants has been SLASHED from over 5000 places to just 2525 this program year.

The effect of this is that most independent skilled visa applicants (189 and 489-relative sponsored) who apply as Accountants will require 65 points or more. DIBP have announced that they will stagger their numbers over the program year, and those on 60 points may find they have a long wait or may miss out altogether.

(Source: DIBP, and Iscah comment)

3) South Australian State Migration Plan

The new South Australian State migration plan (for 489 and 190 sponsorship) has been released. Look at the occupation lists here

<http://www.migration.sa.gov.au/skilled-migrants/state-nominated-occupation-lists>

4) New SOL and CSOL Skilled lists

New Skilled Occupation List released here :

<https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2015L01059>

- Accountant remains on the skilled list.
- Urban regional Planners, Dentist and Dental Specialist has been removed
- Cabinetmaker and PanelBeater are added

Also the RSMS/187 skilled list has been released here:

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2015L01018>

There are no obvious omissions from the previous requirement to have a skill level 1,2,3 occupation and so what was eligible for RSMS before 1st July 2015 still looks eligible under this new list.

Note that Primary School Teacher and Child Care Group Leader were ACCIDENTLY omitted from these new lists and have now been added back on.

(Source: DIBP)

5) Changes for ENS/RSMS Exemptions

Ministers of Religion occupation

From 1 July 2015, the occupation of Minister of Religion (ANZSCO 272211) will be ineligible for both the Direct Entry Stream and the Temporary Residence Transition stream of the Subclass 186 Visa and Subclass 187 Visa, or the Temporary Work (Skilled) Subclass 457 Visa.

Religious organisations must sign up to the available Minister of Religion Industry Labour Agreement before lodging an employer nomination for Subclass 186 Visa under the Agreement Stream. For the Subclass 457 Visa, religious organisations must also sign up to the Minister of Religion Labour Agreement before a nomination for a temporary worker can be lodged.

From 1 July 2015, exemptions will no longer be available for Ministers of Religion for the age, skill and English language requirements under the Direct Entry and the Temporary Residence Transition streams of the Subclass 186 and Subclass 187 Visas. Applicants must meet the requirements as outlined in the Minister of Religion Industry Labour Agreement.

If an employer nomination for a Minister of Religion is lodged before 1 July 2015 and is subsequently approved after this date, the corresponding visa application can be lodged for the relevant stream of the Subclass 186 or Subclass 187 Visa. However, the exemptions to age, skill and English language available to Ministers of Religion will no longer apply.

Information on the key features of the Minister of Religion industry labour agreement, and on how to request a labour agreement, is attached.

Age exemption for eligible medical practitioners in regional Australia

To attract and retain vital health services in rural areas, there is an exemption to the age requirement for eligible medical practitioners who are 50 years of age and over, work in regional Australia and who wish to apply for the Subclass 186 Visa and Subclass 187 Visa.

From 1 July 2015, the age exemption available to medical practitioners in regional Australia will no longer require employment with the same employer while holding a Temporary Work (Skilled) Subclass 457 Visa or a Medical Practitioner (Temporary) Subclass 422 Visa.

Instead, medical practitioners applying for a Subclass 186 or Subclass 187 Visa must demonstrate at least four years employment in the nominated occupation. These medical practitioners must demonstrate that at least two years of the required four years employment was located in regional Australia and the nominated position will also be located in regional Australia.

More information about exemptions to age, skill and English language is available on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's website at www.border.gov.au.

(Source: DIBP)

6) New SOL and CSOL Skilled lists

DIBP have changed their homepage to www.border.gov.au

As a result a lot of previously easy to find DIBP pages have either been relocated or no longer there. Below are some commonly used links from the new DIBP website ...

Homepage - <http://www.border.gov.au>

E Visitor online application – <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visi/Visi/evisitor-online-application>

Find a visa – <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1>

Visitor visa online applications – <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-/Visitor-e600-visa-online-applications>

Applications, forms and booklets – <http://www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/forms>

Pricing estimator - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Visa-1>

Our service standards - <http://www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards>

eVisitor (subclass 651) - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651->

Application forms - <http://www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/forms/application>

Visa labels - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Visa>

Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/417->

Skilled Occupations List (SOL) - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists/SOL>

Visitor visa (subclass 600) - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600->

SkillSelect - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Skil>

Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/190->

Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601) - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601->

Employing legal workers - <http://www.border.gov.au/EmployingAndSponsoringWorkers/Pages/Employing-legal-workers.aspx>

Visitor visa (subclass 600) Tourist Stream: document checklist - [http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-/Visitor-visa-\(subclass-600\)-Tourist-Stream-document-checklist](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-/Visitor-visa-(subclass-600)-Tourist-Stream-document-checklist)

ImmiAccount - <http://www.border.gov.au/immiaccount>

Online services - <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Onli>

7) New English requirements for health Professionals

NEW English language requirement for health professionals from 1st July 2015 ...

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Standards/English-language-skills.aspx>

8) Business Skills changes and passmark

The Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) was created to attract high quality investors and entrepreneurs to Australia. It currently includes the Investor visa, the Business Innovation visa, and the Significant Investor visa (SIV). From 1 July 2015 it will also include the Premium Investor visa (PIV).

On 15 May 2015, the Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP and Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Honourable Michaelia Cash announced the new complying investment framework for the SIV and PIV. In order to be granted a SIV or a PIV, an applicant will need to make an investment that complies with the complying investment framework.

The framework is designed to encourage investment in innovative Australian ideas and emerging companies. You can view the media release here and details on the new framework here.

Along with the new complying investment framework, the government intends to make a number of changes to the BIIP from 1 July 2015.

New flexible residency arrangements will be introduced for the SIV. From 1 July 2015, eligibility for the permanent SIV will require either the primary applicant to reside in Australia for 40 days per year OR the secondary applicant (spouse or de facto partner) to reside in Australia for 180 days per year. This residency requirement will be per year and will be calculated cumulatively over the period of the provisional visa. For example, 160 days over four years for a primary applicant or 720 days over four years for the secondary applicant (spouse or de facto partner).

Also from 1 July 2015, Austrade will become an eligible nominator for the SIV, in addition to State and Territory governments. Austrade will also be the sole nominator for the PIV.

Aside from changes to the SIV and the PIV, there are two changes that apply only to the Investor and Business Innovation streams. These are:

The reintroduction of role swapping, which will allow a secondary applicant to apply to fulfil the primary criteria for the permanent visa on behalf of the primary applicant

The reduction of the pass mark for the points test from 65 to 50 points.

Note: DIBP Announcement on Business Skills passmark :

The Department previously announced that the pass mark for the points test for the BIIP would be reduced from 65 points to 50 from 1 July 2015.

This change has now been postponed pending further consultation and stakeholder engagement.

(Source: DIBP)

9) Semi skilled migration – Newspaper article

The Abbott government is being urged to introduce a migration program for “economically challenged” areas, including South Australia and Tasmania, to boost population growth and revive regional towns. A proposal being pushed by several industry groups would allow states and regions with entrenched below-average economic performance to take semi-skilled foreign workers to meet labour shortages and stimulate growth.

Independent South Australian senator Nick Xenophon will introduce legislation to change the Migration Act after parliament resumes next month.

Initial modelling suggests the new zones could attract about 40,000 additional economic migrants and create between 1.3 and 1.6 jobs for every job filled.

Agricultural groups say the proposal could also apply to regional areas struggling to fill vacancies under existing migration programs that do not allow for semi-skilled workers.

National Farmers Federation manager of workplace relations Sarah McKinnon said the 457 visa program and the seasonal worker program used by backpackers did not accommodate semi-skilled workers.

Without an agriculture-related degree, foreign workers are ineligible for 457-visa sponsorship by a farm employer.

“Across industry there is a need for this particular level of skill that we can’t always find in the local labour market and there is no visa that provides for it,” she said.

The push has also been backed by business groups in South Australia, where unemployment is at a national high of 8.2 per cent, and is being considered by the Tasmanian Liberal government. Both states could qualify under the low-growth criteria being advocated.

Migration consultant Mark Glazbrook, who has commissioned economic modelling of the potential stimulus of targeted migration, said more than 20 industry groups supported the move.

He said weak population growth in smaller states and regional areas created the need for more flexible migration to cater for “economically challenged” areas.

The combined population growth of Tasmania, South Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory is about half the growth of Western Australia.

Peak horticultural growers’ group Ausveg said the challenge would be to identify a migration zone that covered regional areas most in need. “Many farms struggle to find labour, it is a huge concern for industry that they don’t have access to that labour force to harvest the fruit and vegetables that we consume,” Ausveg deputy chief executive Andrew White said.

Senator Xenophon said the program would help address the jobs crisis facing South Australia, where unemployment is at a 15-year high.

“This program will be a win-win for struggling areas of the nation — boosting the local economy and boosting jobs in the process,” he said.

National Baking Industry of Australia’s business development manager Mark Dennien welcomed proposed changes provided workers met language and skills standards.

He said many regional bakeries struggled to attract and retain apprentices, with a dropout rate of up to 60 per cent.

“The industry is in a bit of a decline ... Bakers in small towns get to the point where they can’t grow and some of them die.”

(Source: www.nickxenophon.com.au /The Australian newspaper)

10) Q & As from Iscah's Facebook page in July

Q1) Hi, how are you? just need an enquiry i had applied for 187 visa onshore in march and i am going to withdraw my work visa. can I work anywhere or do I have any work conditions on 187 bridging visa

A) If the ONLY visa you now hold is a bridging visa A related to a 187 application, then you can work for ANYONE.

Q2) I want to know .. Has the accounting seats already filled for the year 2015-16... As I would be finishing my py in January 2016... Is there any hope??? I really appreciate your help.

A) The Accounting places have just opened up again and will be staggered through the 2015/2016 year up until 30th June 2016. I think there will still be places available in January 2016 but likely you will need 65 points

Q3) Hi sir/madam my 457 visa granted in early July but all the flights are already full from India to Melbourne until next month so my question is after my visa grant in how many days I have to come to Australia?

A) If it is a 457 visa then there is NO initial arrival date. As long as the position remains available for you, it is perfectly fine to arrive even 2/3 months after the visa is granted.

Q4) Hi there I have 5555 on academic ielts, does this work for apply PR (186) after holding a 457 visa for 2 years ?

A) Yes this is ok as long as the test results are less than 3 years old

Q5) Hi how are you just need to ask that if we lodge the nomination and application together at same day so the same case officer look the visa application also who will approve the nomination OR it will look different Case officer thank u

A) A centralised "team" look after applications now. So it could well be a different case officer looks at the nomination compared to who looks after the visa application.

Q6) Hi just would like to know that if it is possible to change our current health insurance to another health insurance company in my 457 period of time?

A) Yes that is ok

Q7) How much will you charge for this and do u have an office in Melbourne?

A) Our office is in Perth but we offer Skype consultations for \$220. Please contact our office on reception@iscah.com or call 08 9353 3344 to arrange a Skype or face to face consultation to discuss your options.

Q8) Is there any differences between submitting EOI for 189 onshore and offshore? Does submitting onshore speed up the process for getting the invitation?

A) There is no differentiation between on and offshore applications, processing times are the same.

Q9) Just wondering if im on a 489 visa can i get a 190 visa if i have enough points?

A) Yes, you can lodge an EOI at any time you have the points and skill assessment.

11) Skill Select Invitation Round – 6th July 2015

DIBP have still not publicly released the results of this round. Below is the information on numbers that were allocated.

As soon as we see them we will publish them here www.iscah.com and here www.facebook.com/iscah.migration

New Skill Select invitations after 1st July 2015 :

Invitation rounds will be held once monthly from July 2015, dates of rounds will be advised in advance of round. The maximum numbers of invitations to be issued in the month of July 2015 invitation round are as follows:

6 July 2015

Skilled - Independent (subclass 189) 2300 invitations
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489) 30 invitations

Note: This will not have any impact on state or territory government nominations for subclass 489 - Skilled Regional (Provisional) (state or territory nominated) visas and nominations for these visas can continue as normal.

(Source: DIBP)

Okay folks all done for another month.

Stay fit healthy and happy and see
you all on Monday 17th August 2015!!




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