

Hiya

Welcome to November's edition of our monthly newsletter
We collect all the new and opinions we have come across
for the last month and offer any extra insights we think you
will find useful

Lots of politics being played at the moment with the
migration program amid very severe skills shortages being
experienced across all industries. It is a complicated time for
the government and hence the migration numbers

On to this month's news...



Contents

- 1) Northern Territory update
- 2) Job ready Program processing times
- 3) Some great statistics on Visa application numbers
- 4) Student Visa work rights
- 5) Labour market testing for company sponsored visas
- 5) Iscah Tiktok visa videos
- 6) Skilled Migration program – media article
- 7) Application fees to Home Affairs/Immigration
- 8) Review of Medical costings for visa applicants
- 9) Employer Sponsored changes from 25th November 2023
- 10) More Northern Territory news – DAMA
- 11) NSW 491 update
- 12) NSW reasons for State sponsorship refusals
- 13) ACT/Canberra update
- 14) WA invite results November 10th round
- 15) Speech by Immigration minister about the migration program
- 16) Media article on the effect of migration on housing and inflation
- 17) Media article on falling migration
- 18) Links to media articles on migration and visas

1) Northern Territory update

Please note: due to insufficient nomination allocations provided by the Australian Government for the current program year (2023-24), the NT Government is unable to accept new subclass 190 nomination applications at present. Those who meet relevant criteria will be offered a subclass 491 nomination.

NT GSM nomination applications for 2023-24 now open for subclass 491

The NT Government will begin accepting new applications for nomination under the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) subclass 491 visa program from 23 October 2023.

Applications will be assessed under new eligibility criteria as published on this website.

A summary of key changes to eligibility criteria are as follows:

NT Graduates who hold a Temporary Graduate subclass 485 visa valid till at least 1 July 2024, or are eligible for such visa will not be eligible for nomination in this program year.

NT Residents who have not worked in their nominated or related occupation for at least 6 months in the NT will only be considered for nomination if they have been working in the NT for 6 months in a critical sector (health, aged and disabled care, education and childcare, hospitality).

The Priority Occupation Stream for offshore applications will be limited to 54 occupations listed on the new NT Offshore Migration Occupation List.

Please see full eligibility criteria.

Onshore applicants should make their applications well ahead of any 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.

It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure that they meet visa eligibility criteria, including maintaining valid skills assessments and English test results.

(Source: NT government)

2) Job ready Program processing times

The Job Ready Program is experiencing a high number of applications and average processing times are currently longer than expected.

We do not expect this to affect how long it will take to complete the Job Ready Program. Please note the Job Ready Program requires a minimum 12 months of full-time (or part-time equivalent) paid employment. As at October 2023, the average processing times are:

Job Ready Employment Application:	Up to 6 months from online submission date. If you applied for Job Ready Employment before April 2023 and have not received any updates, please contact us.
Job Ready Workplace Assessment:	Up to 5 months from online submission date. If you applied for a Job Ready Workplace Assessment application after September 2023 the RTO will contact you within 60 days. If you have not been contacted by the Registered Training Organisation within 60 days, please contact us. If you are unable to attend your assessment, please contact your Registered Training Organisation."
Job Ready Final Assessment:	Up to 1.5 months from online submission date.
General document processing:	Up to 2.5 months from online submission.

This information should be used as a general guide only. Individual circumstances may vary.

If you have any concerns about your visa, you should contact the Department of Home Affairs via www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

For further information about the Job Ready Program, please continue to check the TRA website, the FAQs and Guidelines.

(Source: TRA)

3) Some great statistics on Visa application numbers

https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/programs-subsite/files/administration-immigration-programs-11th-edition-addendum.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1E0_dk5mIDw4JeOLungcXtf95Nvl7_Z7kcMCalC8FsSHSgqMD1IVxKZEc

4) Student Visa work rights

The Home affairs information page has been updated with more clarity about how many hours can be worked and how that is calculated

https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/temporary-relaxation-of-working-hours-for-student-visa-holders?fbclid=IwAR21bR_vgyY0G-0vGmPhxL5tYMaZQeP1Jfx9b-4IAhacQ2accPwIJhp7koU

5) Labour market testing for company sponsored visas

This information has been sent on behalf of Skilled Visas Program Branch, Department of Home Affairs.

The Department can confirm that the advertising and acceptance of applications or expressions of interest over two or more non-consecutive periods does not satisfy the labour market testing condition, even if the total period in which applications or expressions of interest were accepted is greater than four weeks in duration.

The Department has adopted this position because it considers that the use of the term 'duration' in both subsection 140GBA(6AB) and subsection 8(5) of LIN 18/036 demonstrates an intention for the labour market testing to occur over a continuing period of time, rather than separate non-consecutive periods. Further, the temporal language in subsection 8(5) indicates that the duration of the labour market testing is fixed from the date of the publication of the first advertisement and continues to run until the conclusion of the four week period.

Some practical examples of what does and does not satisfy the requirement under subsection 8(5) of LIN 18/036 are as follows:

Two overlapping advertisements

For example, two advertisements are run on the same platform: one ad runs from 2 May 2023 to 24 May 2023 (21 days); and the second ad runs from 23 May 2023 to 14 June 2023 (21 days).

This would comply with the LMT requirement because it is possible to ensure, through the use of overlapping advertisements, that applications or expressions of interest can be accepted (and, therefore, labour market testing occurs) for a continuing period of at least four weeks from when an advertisement for the position is first published in accordance with subsection 8(5) of LIN 18/036.

Two back-to-back advertisements

For example, two advertisements are run, the first from 2 May 2023 to 24 May 2023 (21 days) and the second from 25 May 2023 to 5 June 2023 (12 days). This will not comply with subsection 8(5) as the LMT is not being carried out over a continuing period of time.

(Source: Home Affairs)

5) Iscah Tiktok visa videos

Visa Processing Times video

<https://www.tiktok.com/@iscahmigration/video/7294453718399913217>

Iscah Video on medicals and police clearances for your visa application

<https://www.tiktok.com/@iscahmigration/video/7300058856154057985>

6) Skilled Migration program – media article

Article from the Australian newspaper today about the skilled migration program
The Albanese government will target top foreign-born talent for the long haul in its upcoming migration strategy, as a new OECD study shows skilled migrants boost the productivity of local workers.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O’Neil’s response to the expert panel’s migration review delivered in March, due within weeks, is also expected to tighten entry for temporary migrants who have surged into the country after borders were reopened to foreigners in November 2021.

There are 331,000 more international students and foreign workers here than the pre-pandemic high of September 2019, leading to world-leading population growth that is putting pressure on housing supply and consumer inflation.

New figures from the Department of Home Affairs show that in the two years to the end of last month, the number of temporary visa holders in Australia with work rights – including students, graduates, working holiday-makers, skilled and unskilled workers, and New Zealand citizens – has risen 692,500.

At the start of this month, there were almost 2.3 million people on temporary visas with work rights, or about one in six of the nation’s entire labour force of 14.6 million.

In the past financial year, the stock of people on temporary visas (not including visitors and aircrew) rose 424,000, more than twice the number of enduring settlers.

Looming restrictions on demand-driven temporary entry, as Canberra addresses visa integrity issues and rejects more student applications, will lead to a fall in migrant inflows in coming years, a senior government source told The Australian.

In recent days, Home Affairs published the final outcome for the permanent migration program in 2022-23, with 73 per cent of the 195,000 places filled in the skilled stream, a reversal from the previous two years when migration dried up due to the pandemic and the family stream raised its share of places.

In 2022-21, when the permanent program welcomed 160,000 people, only half were in the skilled stream.

The federal government announced in May that the planning level for the 2023-24 permanent program would be set at 190,000 places, with 72 per cent designated for the skilled stream.

As the expert panel found, while Australia mainly relies on the annual permanent migration cap to manage migrant numbers, it “is a poor tool for driving predictability of overall migration flows”.

Canberra’s former top bureaucrat Martin Parkinson, who led the migration review, said government needed to consider the optimal size and composition of migrant intakes, temporary and permanent, over the medium to long term in the best interests of Australia.

“What we’ve done, without ever setting out to do it – and I’m sure if the Australian public had been asked they would not have agreed to it – is we’ve created a guest worker program, with a permanent underclass of people who are temporary migrants,” Dr Parkinson told The Australian.

“They have no pathways to permanency, they have no idea what their status is, but we also don’t force them to leave.”

7) Application fees to Home Affairs/Immigration

From Wednesday, 8 November 2023, the Department of Home Affairs will be mandating 3 Domain Secure (3DS) for Australian cards. This means that if you or your clients make payments through ImmiAccount using an Australian card, the cardholder's bank may require them to enter an authentication code which is sent to their phone or their email address. If your, or your client's card is not set up with the bank for 3DS, then you will receive the below error.

"Error performing card authentication. Please use other card/payment method"
You or your client will need to contact the bank to enable 3DS. This can often be done via online banking or over the phone.

Please note further queries should be directed to your relevant banking institution.

(Source: Home Affairs)

8) Review of Medical costings for visa applicants

Review of Australia's visa Significant Cost Threshold (SCT)

In most cases, we require visa applicants to meet the Migration Health Requirements. For the majority of visa applicants, completion of a Health Declaration is sufficient to satisfy the health requirement. We require all other visa applicants to undertake an immigration medical examination to determine if they meet the health requirement. This includes all provisional and permanent visa applicants.

The aims of the migration health requirement as set out in the Migration Regulations 1994 are to:

- protect the Australian community from public health and safety risks
- contain public expenditure on health care and community services
- safeguard the access of Australian citizens and permanent residents to health care and community services that are in short supply, (currently this is dialysis and organ transplants).

Learn more about meeting the Migration Health Requirements.

The Significant Cost Threshold is the underpinning policy to 'contain public expenditure on health care and community services'. The Significant Cost Threshold is the cut-off amount where we determine a visa applicant's estimated health and community service costs to be 'Significant' and therefore do not meet the Migration Health Requirement. The Significant Cost Threshold is currently \$51,000.

The Australian Government established the Significant Cost Threshold policy in 1995. We determined that significant costs should be interpreted as a cost that is 'higher than average annual health and community services costs for an Australian'.

Whilst we have since updated the Significant Cost Threshold amount on a number of occasions to align with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, the definition of 'significant' has remained unchanged.

Learn more about the Significant Cost Threshold.

The Department seeks the views of the Australian public on the policy settings for the Australian visa Significant Cost Threshold. The Department seeks views on:

- how the Australian visa Significant Cost Threshold is calculated
- how 'significant' is defined in the Australian visa Significant Cost Threshold
- the implications of special education as a costing policy definition of 'community service'
- the impact of the migration health requirement on non-citizen children with a disability born in Australia to people on temporary visas
- any other matters in relation to the Migration Health Framework.

An overview of the current and proposed policy settings can be viewed at Discussion Paper - Review of Australia's visa Significant Cost Threshold (SCT) (300KB PDF).

You can send your submission to this discussion paper to

health.requirement.review@homeaffairs.gov.au

Submissions will close on Friday 17 November 2023 by COB.

(Source: Home Affairs)

9) Employer Sponsored changes from 25th November 2023

Fact Sheet on changes to Employer Nomination Scheme from 25/11/2023

Expanding pathways to PR for temporary skilled workers

The government is dedicated to implementing changes to Australia's migration system to ensure temporary skilled workers have a pathway to PR.

To support this, the Department of Home Affairs is currently working on changes to the:

- Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) (TSS) visa
- Temporary Residence Transition stream (TRT) of the Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) (ENS) and Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187) (RSMS) visa subclasses.

These changes are expected to commence from 25 November 2023* (subject to the approval of regulation changes).

Why are the changes being made?

Current pathways to PR for temporary skilled visa holders are often limited, which has led to a growing number of 'permanently temporary' visa holders in Australia.

To attract the skilled workers Australia needs, the government plans to create clear pathways to PR for all TSS visa streams. This will provide more certainty to employers and TSS visa holders as well as simplifying the nomination process.

These changes are a first step to provide more equitable access to PR for all TSS visa holders while the government continues work on reforms to the skilled visa programs following the development of the Outline of the Migration Strategy and in response to the Review of the Migration System 2023.

Who will these changes apply to?

Changes to the TSS visa will apply to new applications lodged on or after 25 November 2023*.

Changes to the Temporary Residence Transition (TRT) stream nomination requirements will apply to new ENS/RSMS nomination applications and applications that are yet to be finally determined as at 25 November 2023*.

While the changes will increase access to PR for temporary skilled workers, migration program planning levels will not change.

What will be changing?

Changes to the TSS visa

Changes from 25 November 2023*

All short-term stream TSS visa applications can be lodged in Australia

• Limits on the number of Short-term stream TSS applications visa holders can make in Australia will be removed. Applicants who wish to lodge a third or more Short term-stream TSS visa can do so from onshore.

• Short term stream TSS holders with visas expiring before the changes will need to travel outside Australia to lodge a third short term-stream TSS application.

Changes to nomination requirements for the TRT stream of the ENS and RSMS visa subclasses.

Changes from 25 November 2023*

Eligible visa requirements for ENS/RSMS nominations

- Employers will be able to nominate holders of all TSS visa streams, including Short-term and Labour Agreement streams.

The nominated person will need to have held their TSS (or subclass 457) visa(s) for 2 out of the 3 years before nomination.

- The RSMS visa will continue to be restricted to transitional 457 workers and transitional 482 workers.

Nominated occupation requirements

- Nominated occupations will no longer be assessed against skilled migration occupation lists.
- The nominated occupation will need to be listed in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) and the nominated worker will need to continue to work in the occupation nominated for their TSS visa(s).

Work experience requirements

- The period in which TSS visa holders are required to have worked in a position with their sponsoring employer (or in the occupation for medical practitioners and certain executives) will be reduced to 2 out of the 3 years before nomination.

Changes to visa requirements for the TRT stream of the ENS and RSMS visa subclasses

Changes from 25 November 2023*

Age exemption requirements

- Changes will be made to age exemptions for regional medical practitioner applicants and high income earning applicants aged 45 years and over to allow for a two-year pathway.
- COVID-19 related age exemptions that will become redundant as a result of the two-year pathway, will be ended.

(Source: Home Affairs)

10) More Northern Territory news – DAMA

You are receiving this email as a key stakeholder in the NT Designated Area Migration Agreement II (NT DAMA II) program.

I'm writing to share some important news with respect to the program.

As you may have heard via the media, the head agreement between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth that governs NT DAMA II has been extended by one year, ensuring its continuity through to 13 December 2024.

The extension also comes with some important changes, which will make it easier for NT employers to access the program. These changes are now in effect and are detailed below:

1. New occupations

The following 11 new occupations have been added to the NT DAMA eligibility list, bringing the total number of eligible occupations to 135:

ANSCSO Occupation Skill level English concession TSMIT concession

254421 Registered Nurse (Medical Practice) 1 No No

254499 Registered Nurse nec 1 No No

241213 Primary School Teacher 1 No No

241311 Middle School Teacher 1 No No

241411 Secondary School Teacher 1 No No

241511 Special Needs Teacher 1 No No

241599 Special Education Teachers nec 1 No No

261313 Software Engineer 1 No No

442111 Prison Officer 4 No No

411714 Parole or Probation Officer 2 No No

342311 Business Machine Mechanic 3 Yes No

2. New Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) concession

The TSMIT concession for eligible occupations has been amended from the earlier 10% concession to a reduced TSMIT of \$55,000 excluding superannuation and non-monetary benefits. This means that monetary salary of \$55,000 must be provided to meet the reduced TSMIT requirement. The TSMIT concession types 2, 3, and 4 which allowed for non-monetary benefits to be included in the threshold no longer apply.

Employers must continue to demonstrate that the salary entitlements provided to overseas workers are no less than those provided to equivalent Australian or permanent resident workers (market salary). This means that where a TSMIT concession applies, sponsored workers must be paid at least the reduced TSMIT of \$55,000 or the market salary whichever is higher.

For occupations that do not have a TSMIT concession, the sponsored worker must be paid at least the market salary (i.e. salary that is provided to equivalent Australian or permanent resident workers), and that market salary must be at least \$70,000.

3. Simpler and more streamlined permanent residence pathway

In order to be sponsored for permanent residence through the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) subclass 186 visa program, the sponsored overseas worker must:

- Be nominated to work in an occupation specified on the NT DAMA eligibility list
- Have worked in the NT for 2 years on a full-time basis (or part-time equivalent of 2 years' full-time) in the ENS-nominated occupation or a closely related occupation in the same skill level

- Have complied with conditions of the visa(s) held
- Have a skills assessment for the nominated occupation, and meet any additional skills requirement as specified on the NT DAMA occupations list (which will soon be published on our website). Skills assessments previously obtained (e.g. for the purposes of obtaining a TSS visa) can be utilised for this purpose. Skills assessments are a time of decision requirement for ENS applications made through the NT DAMA.

This means that nominated workers no longer need to hold a TSS visa at the time of being nominated for permanent residency, and can be nominated after 2 years of full-time work in relevant roles in the NT while holding any visa with work rights.

Those holding a subclass 494 visa granted through the NT DAMA continue to have access to permanent residency through the subclass 191 visa program after 3 years of living and working in the NT.

Existing English and age concessions

Existing concessions to English language and age requirements will continue to apply.

Application process and occupation ceilings

The application process for NT DAMA II remains the same. However, please note that given the one-year extension, MigrationNT can only endorse ceilings for the first year of new labour agreements. Businesses which already have valid labour agreement and need additional ceilings can be provided ceilings for years that commence before 13 December 2024 (e.g if a business entered into a new labour agreement on 10 October 2021, it can be provided ceilings for its 3rd year – commencing 10 October 2023 and for its 4th year – commencing 10 October 2024).

When do the changes take effect?

The changes outlined above will apply to labour agreement requests made to the Department of Home Affairs after 2 November 2023. MigrationNT will also apply these changes to existing and new endorsement applications.

Our online endorsement application form will be updated within the coming week to reflect the changes.

More information

We will update our website with full details of the changes in the coming week. MigrationNT will also be holding information sessions throughout the Territory. Dates and venues are currently being finalised.

What happens after the one year extension?

We intend to negotiate a new NT DAMA (NT DAMA III) in the new year. The one year extension will enable these negotiations to be informed by the outcomes of the national migration strategy (which is expected to be released by the Australian Government before the end of this year), and undertake full consultations with all stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued interest in the NT DAMA program, and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

11) NSW 491 update

https://www.nsw.gov.au/visas-and-migration/skilled-visas/skilled-work-regional-visa-subclass-491?fbclid=IwAR1A2gR0-okax5aHKUaEnPwImcvzab_P3Eep4SXAOLa7NulfTlifmnX-tjs

12) NSW reasons for State sponsorship refusals

Common Reasons Applications Are Declined

Before applying for a NSW nomination make sure you meet our eligibility criteria. Failing to do so will result in your application being declined. Here are some common reasons are declined by our office:

Modification of SkillSelect EOI Post-Invitation: It is crucial to note that any modifications made to your SkillSelect EOI after receiving an invitation will lead to the decline of your application. This is a strict policy with no exceptions. We verify the last modify date of the EOI during the application assessment to ensure compliance.

Residency: To be eligible for NSW nomination, you must meet our residency requirement. Failure to meet this requirement will result in your application being declined.

Skilled Employment Claims: If you claim employment before you are deemed skilled by NSW, your application will be declined. For details on when you can claim skilled employment, refer to our 'Common Questions About Skilled Visas' page.

Points Claims: You must provide evidence that you were eligible to claim all points in your SkillSelect EOI.

Genuineness of Employment under Pathway 1: Applicants applying under 'Pathway 1' must genuinely meet the employment requirement. We conduct a thorough assessment of the applicant's eligible employment. Applications that do not meet this criterion will be declined.

13) ACT/Canberra update

Canberra Matrix – Server Issues: the Canberra Matrix is experiencing technical difficulties. We are seeking to resolve these as soon as possible. For those of you receiving a notification that the ACT Nomination Migration program is temporarily closed, this is incorrect. The ACT Nomination Migration program remains open. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

(Source: ACT government)

14) WA invite results November 10th round

<https://iscah.com/wa-invite-results-from-10th-november-2023/>

15) Speech by Immigration minister about the migration program

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/address-anu-migration-update-15112023.aspx>

16) Media article on the effect of migration on housing and inflation

(Source: watoday.com.au)

Is immigration pushing up inflation and housing costs?

Former treasurer and outgoing Future Fund chair Peter Costello says migration levels are now “extremely high”, putting pressure on housing and inflation.

In a recent speech, Costello said migration was supporting economic growth but needed careful management.

His comments came after Immigration Minister Andrew Giles intervened in the debate about “big Australia”, pointing out skilled migrants were needed to build new homes.

The Coalition has signalled immigration will be a policy battlefield.

How we got here

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government shut the international border, turning the steady stream of international student and migrant arrivals to a trickle.

With the welcome mat out again, by March this year, the net number of people moving to the country (arrivals minus departures) through the previous 12 months had reached a record 454,400.

And it's remained high – official data shows net long-term arrivals were about 542,000 in the year to September.

How is the migration level set

The federal government sets caps on permanent visas. It plans to approve about 137,000 skilled visas for 2023-24, as well as 52,500 family-related visas, taking the planned migration level to about 190,000.

But that does not include temporary visas, such as student ones – which are demand-driven and have made up the bulk of long-term arrivals since the border reopened.

Why it matters

Australians have been struggling to cope with rising interest rates and high inflation for more than a year.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has said the government is working to ease pressure on households through measures such as cheaper medicines and energy bill relief.

“Across [these] three areas – cost-of-living relief, getting the budget in better nick, investing in energy and skills and housing – we are helping to put downward pressure on inflation,” he said last week.

But the Coalition argues the surge in migration is making cost-of-living pressures worse.

Opposition immigration spokesman Dan Tehan says record arrivals are fuelling the rental crisis and adding to pressure on government services.

“Australians who can't find a place to live or are struggling to pay multiple rent increases will be asking Labor: Where will all these people live?” he said on Tuesday.

Some perspective

CoreLogic's head of research, Eliza Owen, says migration is high now as more people are entering the country following the lifting of border restrictions, and few are leaving. But that will change.

“Now that we’ve got all of these arrivals picking up again, it means that fast forward two years, and your departures are going to pick up a lot more too,” she says.

“So that means that the net position of migration should settle a lot more.”

Committee for Economic Development of Australia senior economist Andrew Barker says while migrants initially add to demand pressures in the economy – they need housing and furnishings when they first arrive – over time, those effects are offset as they get work.

“It does increase the demand for consumer goods, particularly in the first few months when they’re in Australia, but on the other hand, they also bring skills and labour,” he says.

“That supply benefit of additional labour that migrants bring can dampen the effects on inflation over time.”

What else you need to know

Australia’s rental market is under serious strain, and while inflation is broadly falling, rents have continued to rise.

In September, rental inflation increased to 7.6 per cent, and the Reserve Bank expects tight rental market conditions to keep it elevated for some time.

While Owen and Barker agree migrants are adding to rental demand, they say there are more issues in the market.

Rents rose even when the international border was closed.

“We had about a 16.5 per cent increase in rents while we had no migration coming into the country from overseas,” Owen says, adding a rapid decline in household size during the pandemic, led by share-house break-ups, was largely to blame.

The Reserve Bank estimates that drop in household size increased demand by about 120,000 homes.

“Even if your population doesn’t change, but there’s fewer people living in each dwelling, you need more dwellings to accommodate the same population,” Owens says. Barker says migrants tend to rent when they first arrive, adding pressure to an already tight market. As they settle, they’re more likely to buy, adding demand to the home-buying market.

The main issue isn’t migrants, he says, it’s a lack of housing supply.

Barker says it is crucial to plan for and build enough houses – something migrants can help with, too.

“If we select migrants well and enable them to use their skills ... that can also help us to build the houses and the infrastructure we need,” he says.

17) Media article on falling migration

Newspaper article from "The Australian newspaper"
Giles tells forum migration forecasts to fall by year's end

Immigration Minister Andrew Giles has attacked John Howard's stance on multiculturalism as "so appalling" and accused the former prime minister of "systematically eliminating" funding for cultural groups.

In a major speech to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia migration forum, Mr Giles declared the government was working to put downward pressure on record net-overseas migration levels through phasing out Covid visas and capping the number of hours international students can work.

"There will be an update to the net overseas migration forecasts as is standard before the end of the year," Mr Giles said.

Mr Giles took aim at Mr Howard, who this month said he always had trouble with the concept of multiculturalism and that migrants should be expected to "adopt the values and the practices" of their new home country.

Mr Giles said he was unsurprised to hear Mr Howard's comments on multiculturalism after he "called for a "slowdown" in Asian migration as opposition leader in the late 1980s."

"Because racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia hurt us all – because there is no place for hate in our society. And because our national interest demands it too," Mr Giles said.

"This is why recent comments by the former Prime Minister, John Howard, were so appalling. He has 'always had trouble with multiculturalism'.

"John Howard deprioritised institutional frameworks to support our multicultural society. The Howard Government's first Budget systematically eliminated funding to anything related to multiculturalism."

Mr Giles said the government would publish updated migration forecasts before the end of the year.

He said the high levels of migration in the past year was due to a rebound from the years of Covid border restrictions.

"At its lowest point, we had a net loss of 85,000; the first since World War II," Mr Giles.

"The rebound from those historically low numbers include some migrants coming to Australia now, who would otherwise have come here to study or work when the border was closed.

"For example, we had multiple groups of international students (that is first, second, and third year students) arriving at the same time for the start of the 2023 academic year."

18) Links to media articles on migration and visas

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8391149/new-australian-pacific-visa-scheme-gets-green-light/?cs=14231>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/pressure-on-government-as-net-migration-yet-to-peak,18001>

<https://theconversation.com/a-migration-review-could-close-some-disability-discrimination-loopholes-but-not-for-people-already-waiting-or-refused-visas-215894>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/government-between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place-on-permanent-migration-program,18017>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-30/visa-delay-means-korean-family-needs-to-leave-australia/103021360>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/management-of-student-visas-has-government-in-a-pickle,18038>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12691189/Ben-Fordhams-brutal-wake-call-Anthony-Albaneses-government-bone.html>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/501513/could-migration-be-canberra-s-trump-card-in-the-pacific>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/both-major-parties-shirk-responsibility-for-migration-management,18044>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-11-05/how-australia-is-failing-migrant-women/103055504>

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australian-universities-eye-india-presence-as-minister-champions-in-country-education-20231101-p5egq6.html>

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/china-australia-agree-multi-entry-074426664.html?>

<https://johnmenadue.com/high-court-launches-full-frontal-assault-on-indefinite-immigration-detention/>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/as-tourism-explodes-visa-due-diligence-is-key,18070>

<https://scroll.in/article/1059000/in-first-bilateral-pact-on-climate-mobility-australia-to-offer-tuvalu-residents-migration-pathway>

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/we-need-migrants-to-build-more-homes-immigration-minister-20231110-p5eizs.html>

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/top-economist-chris-richardson-calls-for-lower-migration-to-cope-with-housing-crisis/news-story/7a2e3a9ad7aad455ff308d6dfdefa0d1>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/133295991/migration-hits-record-levels-but-kiwis-still-leaving-in-droves>

Ok folks

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 18th December 2023.



Steven O'Neill (Iscah Manager - MARN 9687267)

 iscah.migration


 iscahmigration

 iscah.com

 Phone: 08 9353 3344

 Fax: 61-8-9353 3350

 E-mail: newsletter@iscah.com

 Iscah Migration
Suite 14 (Kewdale Business Park)
133 Kewdale Road, Kewdale
Perth Western Australia, 6105
PO Box 75 Welshpool BC 6986



Registered Migration Agent 9687267