

Iscah Migration Newsletter
Monthly Edition Number 313
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Hiya

Welcome to our latest collation of visa news we have seen over the last month
Hopefully you find it interesting

If you have any visa questions please email us to query@iscah.com
On to this month's news ...

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1. Working Holiday Updates

Subclass 417 - visa arrangements for UK passport holders

UK passport holders can be granted up to three separate Working Holiday visas without having to meet any specified work requirements.

These arrangements apply to all Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications lodged by UK passport holders on or after 1 July 2024.

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

Subclass 462 - visa pre-application process

In the 2024-25 program year, the Government will implement a visa pre-application (ballot) process with a AUD25 registration fee for the following high-demand Work and Holiday (subclass 462) countries: China, Vietnam and India.

This pre-application process, also known as a 'ballot', provides an equitable, streamlined and transparent means of randomly selecting applicants from partner countries where the number of registrations significantly exceeds the number of places available in a program year.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/whm-program/latest-news/new-work-and-holiday-subclass-462-visa-pre-application-process>

2. VETASSESS opens office in Saudi Arabia

VETASSESS has a new office in Saudi Arabia which will deal with customer inquiries, verification, and technical interview support in the Middle East.

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/news/vetassess-opens-office-in-saudi-arabia>

3. Changes to the Temporary Graduate visa program – proposed 1 July 2024

The maximum eligible age for Post-Higher Education Work stream applicants will reduce to 35 years of age or under at the time of application. Masters (research) and doctoral degree (PhD) graduates and Hong Kong and British National Overseas passport holders will still be eligible if they are under 50 years of age.

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

4. Increase in the Temporary Skilled Income Threshold (TSMIT) to \$73,150

From 1 July 2024, the TSMIT will increase from \$70,000 to \$73,150. New nomination applications from this date will need to meet the new TSMIT of \$73,150 or the annual market salary rate, whichever is higher.

This change will not affect existing visa holders and nominations lodged before 1 July 2024.

These changes are in line with the Government's commitment at the Jobs and Skills Summit in September 2022.

5. Canberra Matrix Invitation Round: 21 May 2024

The ACT has a fixed number of nomination places available each month (pro-rata against the annual allocation). The highest ranked Matrix in each occupation were invited to apply for ACT nomination. The cut-off for selection depended on the remaining monthly allocation, the date and time of Matrix submission, occupation cap and demand. The greater the demand for an occupation, the higher the rank of the Matrix score invited.

The minimum ranking score is an indication only and not a guarantee that an invitation was issued. Invitations will not be issued if you have an active application in the system; or if you have previously received ACT nomination.

Canberra Matrix submissions in occupations in critical sectors may be prioritised.

Canberra residents

Matrix nominating Small Business Owners

190 nominations: 4 invitations

190 minimum matrix score: 125

491 nominations: 6 invitations

491 minimum matrix score: 105

Matrix nominating 457 / 482 visa holders

190 nominations: 8 invitations

491 nominations: 2 invitations

Matrix nominating Critical Skill Occupations

190 nominations: 54 invitations

491 nominations: 110 invitations

Overseas applicants

Matrix nominating Critical Skill Occupations:

190 nominations: 16 invitations

491 nominations: 94 invitations

6. South Australia's skilled migration Registration of Interest (ROI) applications for onshore applicants have closed for the 2023-2024 program year.

State nomination is a highly competitive process and South Australia received more than 12,000 ROIs for the nomination allocation of 2,300 places this financial year.

All ROIs received will be processed by 30 June 2024.

If you are successful and receive an invitation to apply for state nomination, please submit your state nomination application as soon as possible.

ROIs in the online system that have not yet been submitted will be deleted.

If you do not receive an invitation to apply for state nomination this program year, you can submit another ROI for consideration in 2024-25.

Offshore applicants can continue to submit a SkillSelect Expression of Interest (EOI) for consideration and, if successful, will be directly invited to apply for South Australian state nomination.

7. Skilled Migrant Job Connect Subsidy program now available in the Migration WA Portal

The Skilled Migrant Job Connect Subsidy program (the Subsidy) is the second service available through the State Government's newly launched Migration WA Portal.

The Migration WA Portal allows migrants to submit a Subsidy registration, claim request, and supporting documents at a convenient save-as-you-go pace, through easy-to-follow prompts. We understand the cost to undertake skills assessments, gap training, and occupational licensing can be a barrier for onshore migrants.

That's where the Subsidy can assist, by providing reimbursements of up to \$7,500 to offset these costs so that onshore migrants can gain employment in WA in an occupation that aligns with their overseas qualifications, skills, and experience, providing more skills for the WA economy.

Delivering much needed support to the State's skilled workforce, the Subsidy is removing barriers and connecting onshore migrants to employment in WA.

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/news/skilled-migrant-job-connect-subsidy-program-now-available-migration-wa-portal>

8. Tasmania close State migration program

2023-24 Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program Update June 2024

The 2023-24 Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program is now closed to new Registrations of Interest (ROI).

If you have been invited to submit an application for nomination but you have not yet lodged, you can continue to do so before the invitation expiry date.

No further invitations to apply for nomination will be issued this program year.

Migration Tasmania will continue to assess applications for nomination that have been lodged but not yet decided, however only few nomination places remain and so not all applicants will be nominated this program year.

Once all nomination places are used, any applications that are approved will be nominated after Tasmania receives its nomination allocation for the 2024-25 program year.

ROIs that have been allocated a green or gold pass will continue to be held in the Application

Gateway and considered for an invitation to apply for nomination when the 2024-25 program opens. Information on the 2024-25 program will be published on this website and in our newsletter when it becomes available.

If you have any questions about the program, your ROI or your application for nomination, please contact Migration Tasmania at skilled@migration.tas.gov.au

9. The Victorian Government has filled all allocated visa places for the 2023-24 program year.

Registrations of Interest will no longer be accepted or selected for 2023-24.

In 2023-24, the Australian Government allocated Victoria 3,300 skilled visa nomination places, which included 2,700 Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) and 600 Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa places.

Information on the 2024-25 program will be published on the Live in Melbourne website when available.

10. Vetassess update on assessments

Reopening to new applications in Chef and Fitter (General) occupations

A reduction in times for trades assessments has meant we are able to reopen for new applications in three paused occupations.

From Wednesday, June 12 we will accept new applications for the occupations of

Chef (Commercial Cookery), ANZSCO Code 351311, and

Chef (Asian Cookery), ANZSCO Code 351311

Fitter (General), ANZSCO Code 323211.

This applies to Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 applications under OSAP and TSS programs.

We suspended applications for these occupations in September 2023 to focus on processing current cases.

We continue to discuss with Trades Recognition Australia a date for reopening to new applications for

Electrician (General), ANZSCO Code 341111

Metal Machinist (First Class), ANZSCO Code 323214.

11. Ending 'visa hopping' in the migration system

A key commitment in the Migration Strategy, released last year, was to restrict 'visa hopping' - ending the loopholes that allow students and other temporary visa holders to continuously extend their stay in Australia, in some cases indefinitely.

As noted in the Migration Strategy, the numbers of international students staying in Australia on a second, or subsequent student visa has grown by over 30 per cent to more than 150,000 in 2022–23. Peter McDonald, a renowned Australian demographer, recently said that severely curtailing visa hopping by accepting fewer visa applications from people already in the country would better manage population growth than cuts to the permanent migration intake.

The Government has already taken action to address this, by using no further stay conditions on visitor visas and through the Genuine Student requirement implemented in March which has stopped thousands of students from hopping from student visa to student visa unless there is credible course progression. This complements more than a dozen other policies already implemented that are helping restore integrity in the international student system, such as ending unrestricted work rights and the former Government's COVID visa.

On 1 July, the Albanese Government is taking this a step further.

Firstly, Visitor Visa holders will not be able to apply for Student Visas onshore. The visitor to student pathway has become increasingly prevalent, with over 36,000 applications since 1 July 2023 to the end of May 2024.

This measure closes a pathway that has been used to attempt to subvert the Government's strengthened offshore student visa integrity measures.

Secondly, Temporary Graduate Visa holders will not be able to apply for Student Visas onshore. In their recent Graduates in Limbo report, the Grattan Institute found that 32 per cent of Temporary Graduate Visa holders are returning to study when their visa expires in order to prolong their stay in Australia.

This change makes it clear that graduates should be finding skilled jobs and becoming permanent residents, or departing the country when they are more likely to become 'permanently temporary'. These changes support a range of other changes that are being implemented for Temporary Graduate visa holders on 1 July. These include significantly shorter post-study work rights, reduced age limits from 50 to 35 years of age, and increased English language requirements which were implemented in March.

Together, these changes will continue to reduce net overseas migration, with the Government on-track to halve net overseas migration by next financial year.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security Clare O'Neil

"The migration system we inherited was completely broken, and our goal is to build a smaller, better planned, more strategic migration system that works for Australia.

"Our Migration Strategy outlines a clear plan to close the loopholes in international education and this is the next step in delivering that plan.

"We need a migration system which delivers the skills we need, but doesn't trade in rorts, loopholes and exploitation."

<https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/ClareONeil/Pages/ending-visa-hopping-migration-system.aspx>

12. News

Coalition defends migration cut, Labor spruiks its own

<https://www.northweststar.com.au/story/8633951/coalition-defends-migration-cut-labor-spruiks-its-own/>

The immigration debate: smoke, mirrors and a dash of xenophobia

<https://johnmenadue.com/the-immigration-debate-smoke-mirrors-and-a-dash-of-xenophobia/>

Dutton is treating voters like gullible idiots on migration

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2024/05/21/peter-dutton-immigration-visas-foreign-students/>

Peter Dutton wants to cut migration for the sake of housing. Here's why that's not a good idea

<https://theconversation.com/peter-dutton-wants-to-cut-migration-for-the-sake-of-housing-heres-why-thats-not-a-good-idea-230298>

Labor's international student cap an 'unprecedented' overreach and 'recipe for chaos', experts warn

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/may/23/labors-international-student-cap-an-unprecedented-overreach-and-recipe-for-chaos-experts-warn>

Dutton's migration cuts on parents, health workers, risks massive backlash from Australia's migrant community

<https://johnmenadue.com/duttons-migration-cuts-on-parents-health-workers-risks-massive-backlash-from-australias-migrant-community/>

Dutton's migration dog-whistle doesn't stack up

<https://www.indaily.com.au/opinion/columnists/2024/05/27/duttons-migration-dog-whistle-doesnt-stack-up>

'Appalling': Foreign students and workers hit back at attacks from Aussies

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/appalling-foreign-students-and-workers-hit-back-at-attacks-from-aussies/news-story/305fe6a021d785d0288502e7e2057654>

Australia's Innovation Visa to replace Global Talent and Business Visas

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/investing-abroad-australia-budget-whats-in-store-for-international-students-and-migrants-3500265/>

Migration has been blamed for the housing crisis, but it's not that simple

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/article/2024/may/30/migration-has-been-blamed-for-the-housing-crisis-but-its-not-that-simple>

Government u-turn on much-criticised minster's decision as immigration saga rages on

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/federal-politics-australia-immigration-detainees-ministerial-direction/afc9a599-c238-4aa5-b800-a965ee92c469>

The \$84 billion question to reform the skilled migration points-tested visa system

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/the-84-billion-question-to-reform-the-skilled-migration-points-tested-visa-system/ib7zxvdbw>

Australians love diversity but say migration 'too high'

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8649486/australians-love-diversity-but-say-migration-too-high/>

Yogis, martial arts teachers make draft fast-track migrant skills list over painters, roof tilers, stonemasons

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/yogis-martial-arts-teachers-make-draft-fasttrack-migrant-skills-list-over-painters-roof-tilers-stonemasons/news-story/2ee4963e0d49a3471313b02244cfe92d>

No quick panacea for government's migration headache

<https://www.indaily.com.au/opinion/2024/06/06/no-quick-panacea-for-governments-migration-headache>

Andrew Giles issues new rules for visa cancellations that make community safety 'highest priority'

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/andrew-giles-issues-rules-visa-004652851.html>

Tightening student visa rules put the squeeze on IDP Education

<https://www.businessnewsaustralia.com/articles/tightening-student-visa-rules-put-the-squeeze-on-idp-education.html>

Universities to have overseas enrolments capped

<https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/politics/universities-to-have-overseas-enrolments-capped/video/aa1f783b22543ea8bec141a63bed9828>

Tough assignment: Australian universities are desperate for more student housing, but not everyone's on board

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jun/09/australian-universities-student-housing>

Non-citizen Andrew Giles wanted to be 'rid of' cannot be deported, court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jun/09/non-citizen-andrew-giles-wanted-to-be-rid-of-cannot-be-deported-court-rules>

EMMA GARLETT: Don't let a prejudiced minority define who we are as Australians. Our nation is not racist
<https://thenightly.com.au/opinion/emma-garlett-dont-let-a-prejudiced-minority-define-who-we-are-as-australians-our-nation-is-not-racist-c-14974686>

How data are helping to reshape Australia's migration system
<https://www.themandarin.com.au/247657-how-data-are-helping-to-reshape-australias-migration-system/>

Government further tightens student visa applications to stop 'visa hopping'
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/government-further-tightens-student-visa-applications-to-stop-visa-hopping/rg8nqtll1>

Australian universities could be knocked from global rankings climb by international student caps, S&P warns
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-13/international-student-caps-university-global-ranking-damage/103971950>

Migration numbers drop a little but not as much as the government expected
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-13/migration-numbers-drop-but-disappoint-government-forecasts/103973366>

Australia's record population surge is being driven by Indian migration: Here's why so many of them are moving here - and what they really think about life Down Under
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13469479/Indian-migration-Australia-Anthony-Albanese-Harris-Park.html>

Despite Dutton's blustering, a long-term net migration policy is essential
<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/despite-duttons-blustering-a-long-term-net-migration-policy-is-essential,18685>

Ok folks

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 22nd July 20042

Kind Regards

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(We luv helping people, contact us to manage your visa application, share our details with a friend if they will find us useful)