

Iscah Migration Newsletter  
Monthly Edition Number 314  
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Hey

Hope you all had a great month

Here is our summary of visa news we have seen over the last month

Any questions please email us to [query@iscah.com](mailto:query@iscah.com)  
On to this month's news ...

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### 1. 482/494 Conditions

Visa conditions 8107, 8607 and 8608 are changing

Holders of these visas who stop working with their sponsoring employer will have more time to find a new sponsor, apply for a different visa or arrange to depart Australia. These visa holders will have up to:

- 180 days at a time, or
- a maximum of 365 days in total across the entire visa grant period.

During this time, visa holders can work for other employers. This includes work in occupations not listed in their most recently approved sponsorship nomination. This will ensure that visa holders can support themselves while they look for a new sponsor.

Unless exempt, a visa holder cannot work for another employer unless they have ceased work with their sponsoring employer. Visa holders must remain in their nominated occupation while working for their existing sponsor.

Sponsors must still let the department know if there is any change in situation within 28 days. This includes ceasing sponsorship or if a visa holder resigns. You can find more information at [Sponsorship obligations for Standard business sponsors](#).

Visa holders must not do any work that is inconsistent with any licence or registration needed for their nominated occupation. This includes any conditions or requirements they are subject to.

The changes apply to existing visa holders, as well as those granted a visa on or after 1 July 2024. Any periods a visa holder stopped working for their sponsor before 1 July 2024 will not count towards the new time periods outlined above.

For more information on visa conditions

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

## 2. Northern Territory News

### **Designated Area Migration Agreement**

Update: one year extension of the NT DAMA and important changes

The NT DAMA II has been extended by 1 year, and it will now remain valid till 13 December 2024. There have also been some important new changes, which will make it easier for NT employers to access the program. The key changes are:

- 11 new occupations have been included, bringing the total number of eligible occupations to 135
- Reduced Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) of \$55,000 for selected occupations
- simpler and more streamlined pathway to permanent residency, enabling overseas workers to be nominated for the permanent subclass 186 visa after working in the NT in eligible occupations for at least 2 years full-time.

<https://industry.nt.gov.au/migration-for-business/northern-territory-designated-area-migration-agreement>

### **Common questions for NT Government visa nominations**

<https://theterritory.com.au/migrate/migrate-to-work/common-questions-for-nt-government-visa-nominations>

## 3. 189 Invitations issued on 13 June 2024

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds>

4. Official Home Affairs 190 statistics as of 30th April 2024

Number of Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa applications on hand by applicant type and by government sponsor as at 30 April 2024			
Visa Subclass	Government Sponsor	Applicant Type	
		Primary	Secondary
190 Skilled - Nominated	Australian Capital Territory	1,630	1,743
	New South Wales	4,272	4,563
	Northern Territory	393	351
	Queensland	1,868	1,378
	South Australia	1,311	1,118
	Tasmania	1,282	851
	Victoria	4,886	4,565
	Western Australia	4,212	2,777
<b>Total</b>		<b>19,854</b>	<b>17,346</b>

5. VETASSESS News

From June 24, 2024 we will stop accepting Temporary Graduate 485 visa skills assessment applications under the current requirements.

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/news/update-on-temporary-graduate-485-visa>

**VETASSESS - Answers by Experts in professional occupations**

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/news/answers-by-experts-in-professional-occupations>

**Updated skills assessment criteria for Quantitative Analysts and Mathematicians**

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/news/updated-skills-assessment-criteria-for-quantitative-analysts-and-mathematicians>

**Reopening to new applications for Electrician (General) and Metal Machinist (First Class)**

<https://mailchi.mp/vetassess/migrationagentsandlawyersaugust23-1795009>

6. AAT Fee Increase

From 1 July 2024, the application fee for review of a migration decision under Part 5 of the Migration Act 1958 will increase to **\$3,496**.

In cases where a 50% fee reduction is granted, the reduced fee will be **\$1,748**.

<https://www.aat.gov.au/news/upcoming-changes-to-application-fees-1>

7. New Visa application fees from 1st July 2024

Most fees have risen by 2.75% except student fees, which have risen to a bumper \$1600 .

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00790/latest/text>

<https://ministers.dewr.gov.au/oconnor/fee-increase-international-students-part-july-1-migration-reforms>

8. New 485 legislation from 1st July 2024

Adds Grad diploma and grad certificate to quals that can count for the 485 visa

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/.../explanatory-statement>

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

9. New Workplace Justice Visa - 408

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/.../explanatory-statement>

The Workplace Justice Visa operates as a new clause in the subclass 408 (Temporary Activity) visa. Under policy, a Workplace Justice Visa may generally be granted for a period to allow the holder the right to remain in Australia for a minimum period of 6 months or up to 12 months (within a maximum available period of 4 years available under the Migration Regulations). The visa is only available to temporary migrants in Australia, and who have certification regarding their workplace exploitation matter from a participating government entity or accredited non-government party. Workplace Justice Visa holders will be able to work in order to support themselves while they pursue workplace justice. Members of their family unit who are in Australia are also able to apply for this visa.

10. Health waiver threshold rises for failed medicals

Has increased from \$51,000 to \$86,000 from 1st July 2024

11. New legislation setting salary levels for temporary work visa (currently the 482 visa)

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/.../JC013557.pdf;fileType...>

Summary - Source MIA

- Provide that labour market testing be completed within six months prior, updating the timeframe from four months prior, to the sponsor of a skilled migrant worker lodging a nomination.

Legislate income thresholds for the proposed new temporary Skills in Demand visa:

- a Specialist Skills Income Threshold (SSIT) of \$135,000 for highly skilled specialists; and
  - a Core Skills Income Threshold (CSIT) of \$73,150 for persons that are nominated for occupations that are in national shortage or where Australia has committed to providing access to our labour market in relation to that occupation through international trade agreements.
- provide the annual indexation of the income thresholds that would be implemented on 1 July each year. The indexation will reflect changes in the trend figure for Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE).
  - provide that the income threshold for an applicant with essential skills will be worked out in accordance with the Migration Regulations, unless the Minister has specified an amount in writing that an employer must pay in relation to the applicant.
  - provide for the publication of a register of approved standard business sponsors and accredited sponsors who have nominated skilled workers for entry to Australia, including the sponsor's business name, Australian Business Number and postcode, the number of individuals nominated under the sponsorship approval process and the occupations of the nominated workers.

The Act will commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation or 6 months and 1 day after the Act receives royal assent.

## 12. WA News

### **Western Australia Designated Area Migration Agreement Program**

In July 2024, the [Western Australian Designated Area Migration Agreement \(WA DAMA\)](#)[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) was established in response to the strong demand that still exists from employers to fill jobs in key areas of demand in Western Australia.

The WA DAMA will be the fifth DAMA for WA, complementing the existing Goldfields, Kimberley, Pilbara and South West DAMAs. Endorsement applications to access the WA DAMA are now being accepted.

For more information on the WA DAMA, and to submit an Endorsement application please visit the [Designated Area Migration Agreement page](#), or contact Migration Services on 9224 6540 or email [migration@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:migration@dtwd.wa.gov.au).

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/news/western-australia-designated-area-migration-agreement-program>

### **State Nominated Migration Program**

Following successful negotiations with the Commonwealth Government Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs), Western Australia will be allocated 5,000 state nominated migration places for the 2024-25 program year.

Invitation rounds for State nomination for the 2024-25 program year will begin once the Western Australian Government formally receives its allocation from Home Affairs.

Further news and updates regarding Western Australia's 2024-25 State Nominated Migration Program (SNMP) will be published once more information becomes available.

### **WA skilled migration: 10,000 new workers approved in new deal between Federal and State governments**

WA Minister for Training Simone McGurk has welcomed a revised migration program which will allow 10,000 skilled workers into the state. Credit: Andrew Ritchie/The West Australian

WA has scored a massive victory against Canberra after the Albanese Government folded and agreed to allow 10,000 overseas skilled workers to come west to help address crippling labour shortages in key areas.

In a stunning about-face, Federal Immigration Minister Andrew Giles has buckled to repeated requests from the Cook Government to increase the number of places available under a Commonwealth migration program that had slashed numbers from 8140 places in 2022-23 to just 2350 in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Earlier this year, a frustrated Roger Cook said calls for more allocations on the State Nominated Migration Program had fallen on deaf ears with the Premier revealing he had written to the Prime Minister pleading WA's case for more overseas skilled workers.

The breakthrough came earlier this week when the State and Federal Governments agreed on a new deal which will see 5000 skilled migration places available under the State Migration Program and another 5000 places under a newly established WA Designated Migration Agreement. regional and metropolitan areas to sponsor workers from overseas when standard temporary or permanent visa programs are not available.

WA's SOS for overseas skilled workers will target occupations in the State's beleaguered building industry such as electricians, plasterers, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, wall and floor tilers, glaziers and bricklayers. The period will be for the financial year starting on Monday, July 1.

Cardiologists, clinical psychologists, dentists, midwives, occupational therapists, registered nurses, sonographers, speech pathologists and surgeons are among the other occupations that qualify.

"Western Australia is the economic powerhouse of Australia and that makes our State an attractive place to live, work and play," Mr Cook said.

"We are committed to continuing to create quality local jobs for local people, but to keep our economy strong and build homes we need to bring in skilled workers.

"My Government is particularly focused on boosting our construction workforce to speed up delivery of homes, and this agreement with the Commonwealth sends a signal to overseas markets that Western Australia is open for business."

Mr Giles said the new agreement "works to get the balance right between bringing migration back to sustainable levels and addressing labour shortfalls in key areas like healthcare and construction".

"Our Government is committed to working with our counterparts to rebuild a migration system that works for all Australians, which recognises the unique skills needs and opportunities of WA," Mr Giles said. "These changes sit alongside the Government's efforts to bring migration back down to normal levels."

The WA Government is desperate to get more skilled workers into the State, particularly in the building industry which is struggling to keep up with demands of a growing population which is set to hit three million by the end of this year.

There were just 2409 properties available for rent in Perth at the end of May, with the average rent now at \$650 a week, while new figures show there are now 20,284 applications for government housing in WA.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA chief economist Aaron Morey said the Federal Government needed "to heed" requests from WA for more skilled migration places.

WA Training and Workforce Development minister Simone McGurk — who has been lobbying the Commonwealth for more skilled worker places — said securing places for 10,000 skilled workers would help WA “fill the many positions that can’t be filled locally”.

“Our Government has worked incredibly hard over the last 12 months to press our case that our State often runs counter-cyclical to the rest of the country and cuts to the State Nominated Migration Program were detrimental to our economy,” Ms McGurk said.

(Source The West Australian newspaper)

### 13. Queensland to cop skilled migrant cut amid boost to smaller states

The number of skilled migrants allocated to Queensland will be cut this year despite the rest of the country receiving almost 10,000 more workers as part of an Albanese government shake-up of its immigration system.

Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania will be the big winners out of the federal government’s move to re-profile its state-nominated visa schemes. They will each receive at least an extra 1500 permanent skilled migrant visa nominations in 2024-25.

Federal Immigration Minister Andrew Giles said the move, which will result in almost 10,000 more skilled migrant spots provided to the states, was designed to address skills shortages in areas of the country most in need.

“Our approach is fairer and will get the skilled workers our country needs, turning the page on a decade of a broken system,” he said.

“The Albanese government is ensuring skilled workers can bring their knowledge and skills to areas across the country that need it the most – without contributing to further backlogs, delays, and waitlists.”

However, Queensland will see its state-nominated permanent skilled migration allocation reduced from 900 to 600 spots, and temporary visas reduced from 650 to 600.

The reduction comes after Queensland Premier Steven Miles backed federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton’s proposal to slash migration in a bid to ease the pressure on housing earlier this year. Mr Miles said the federal Coalition had taken up his own policy for a halving of overseas arrivals. Meanwhile, SA will receive an extra 1900 visas, while Tasmania and WA will each receive an additional 1500. WA will also receive an additional 1000 temporary spots as the state struggles with severe housing shortages.

In total, the federal government will grant 26,000 visa places under the state-nominated schemes, 14,000 short of what was requested.

The state-nominated program represents about half of all skilled migrant visas handed out by Australia each year. The remaining half are determined directly by the federal government.

The federal government wants to address the disparity of where permanent skilled workers are located, after Tasmania, the ACT and Northern Territory attracted less than 1 per cent of those visa holders last financial year.

The ACT and NT will also see a major proportional increase in the number of permanent and temporary visa allocations. The NT will increase from 650 to 1200, while the ACT will increase from 1200 to 1800.

“Unlike the former Liberal government, we understand that a one size fits all approach to migration doesn’t work,” Mr Giles said.

WA Premier Roger Cook lauded the government’s move on Sunday, saying it was an acknowledgement that the mining state was in a unique position compared to the rest of the country. Perth’s vacancy rate is hovering well below 1 per cent.

Queensland recorded a population growth rate of 2.6 per cent in the 12 months to December 2023, above the national average of 2.5 per cent, according to the state government.

Meanwhile, WA grew by more than 3 per cent during that period, with its population tipped to exceed 3 million within the next year.

About 5000 additional skilled migrant places will be created under a newly established WA Designated Area Migration Agreement, while the State Nominated Migration Program will increase from roughly 2300 to 5000.  
(Source – Financial Review)

#### 14. News

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>

'Virtually impossible' for migrant workers to hold employers accountable for unpaid wages

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/virtually-impossible-for-migrant-workers-to-hold-employers-accountable-for-unpaid-wages/x7qs1p9ns>

Australians get the benefits of migration, even the doubters

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australians-get-benefits-migration-even-doubters>

International medical graduates struggle to get qualifications recognised

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/podcast-episode/international-medical-graduates-struggle-to-get-qualifications-recognised/3t0teh6ui>

Job threat for Australian university staff as claims international student cuts are being weaponised

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jun/26/australia-university-staff-international-student-cuts-labor-policy>

'You're not welcome here': Australia's treatment of disabled migrants

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cyr70ezev2mo>

NZ Net Migration Loss To Australia In 2023

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK2407/S00320/net-migration-loss-to-australia-in-2023.htm>

Aneeta's violent husband tried to sabotage her Australian visa application. She's one of hundreds to secure one anyway

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jul/07/aneetas-violent-husband-tried-to-sabotage-her-australian-visa-application-shes-one-of-hundreds-to-secure-one-anyway>

Canada tops the list of ideal migration destinations, followed by Australia

<https://www.khaama.com/canada-tops-the-list-of-ideal-migration-destinations-followed-by-australia/>

International students anxious as visa deadline looms

<https://www.indaily.com.au/news/2024/06/18/international-students-anxious-as-visa-deadline-looms>

Labor commits to strengthening regional migration

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/labor-commits-to-strengthening-regional-migration,18709>

Regional Australian universities flag international student fears due to migration changes

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-28/international-students-regional-universities-migration-policy/104030410>

Australian election fought on immigration could cause 'civil unrest', former department official warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jun/19/australia-election-immigration-policies-labor-liberal-coalition>

Steep rise in international student visa fees push students to look beyond Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-04/international-students-react-to-hike-in-student-visa-fees/104052728>

Dutton and Albanese have addressed migration more than a hundred times so far this year

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2024/07/15/immigration-peter-dutton-anthony-albanese-numbers/>

Australia's study visa grants drop sharply amid stricter migration policies

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/education/australia-s-study-visa-grants-drop-sharply-amid-stricter-migration-policies-4762959.html>

International students should make up no more than a third of university cohort, RMIT vice-chancellor says

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jul/02/international-student-cap-labor-rmit-percentage>

Visa delays continue to plague Australian universities

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/visa-delays-continue-plague-australian-universities>

Skilled worker boost to ease labour shortages

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook-Labor-Government/Skilled-worker-boost-to-ease-labour-shortages-20240629>

Ok folks

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

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