

Iscah Migration Newsletter
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Hey

Welcome to another packed visa newsletter on all the changes we have seen over the last month.

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On to this month's news ...

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1. State Migration numbers for 2024/25

2024–25 state and territory nomination allocations - State 190 visa 491 visa

ACT 1000 800

NSW 3,000 2,000

NT 800 800

QLD 600 600

SA 3,000 800

TAS 2,100 760

VIC 3,000 2,000

WA 3,000 2,000

Total 16,500 9,760

2. WA State Migration

The Western Australian State Nominated Migration Program (SNMP) 2024-25 program year is now open.

For the SNMP 2024-25 program year, the Western Australian government will continue to waive the \$200 application fee.

A new feature of the 2024-25 SNMP includes additional employment contract arrangements for candidates invited through the General Stream – WASMOL – Schedule 1.

Invitation rounds for the 2024-25 program year are anticipated to be held the first week of each month, commencing in August 2024.

The 2024-25 SNMP criteria, program requirements and information on how to apply for WA State Nomination is available;

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/news/2024-25-state-nomination-migration-program>

3. Victoria State Migration

The Australian Government has allocated 5,000 skilled visa nomination places to Victoria for the 2024-25 program.

Victoria's is now open and allocation consists of:

- Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) – 3,000 places
- Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – 2,000 places

More information on the 2024-25 program, including eligibility requirements and program dates, will be published on the Live in Melbourne website when available.

Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP)

The Australian Government has permanently ceased the Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) (subclass 188) visa program from July 2024.

We remain open to nomination applications for:

- Permanent visa nominations (subclass 888), and
- extensions for the Business Innovation and Significant Investor streams.

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/news-events/news/2024/victorias-2024-25-skilled-migration-program-is-now-open>

4. South Australia's skilled migration nomination allocation for 2024-25

The Commonwealth Government has confirmed visa nomination allocations for South Australia's skilled migration program for 2024-25. South Australia is now open

South Australia has received an allocation of 3,800 nomination places for 2024-25, which consists of:

- Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa - 3,000 places
- Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa – 800 places

This is an additional 1,500 nomination places compared to the 2023-24 program year.

Further information about South Australia's 2024-25 skilled migration program will be announced in the coming weeks.

<https://www.migration.sa.gov.au/news-events/south-australias-skilled-migration-nomination-allocation-2024-25>

5. Northern Territory update

Northern Territory Offshore Migration Occupation List

This list is only applicable for those applying for NT nomination from outside Australia, under the Priority Occupation stream. If you are currently living in the NT or living overseas and applying under the NT Family Stream or the NT Job Offer Stream, you can nominate any occupation on the national eligibility list for the subclass 491 visa on the Home Affairs website.

Please note: Offshore applicants will generally only be offered a nomination for a subclass 491 visa.

MigrationNT is continuing to receive and assess onshore applications for nomination. Offshore applications will be reopened on Wednesday 15 August 2024 but only for the NT Family Stream and Job Offer Stream. Due to the significant volume of applications received to date, the Priority Occupations Stream will remain suspended for the time being. Existing offshore applications made under the Priority Occupations Stream will continue to be assessed. However, please note that there are likely to be significant delays in assessing these applications.

6. Tasmanian update for State Migration

2023-24 Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program Update

2023-24 Program Allocations

The Australian Government has provided Tasmania's skilled nominated visa allocation for the 2024-25 program year.

A total of 2860 nomination places have been issued this year as part of Tasmania's allocation of state and territory nominated visa categories. These include:

- Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa: 2,100 places
- Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa: 760 places

Tasmania's Skilled Migration State Nomination Program will reopen to new Registrations of Interest in the coming weeks, with details to be announced soon.

If you have lodged an application for nomination but have not received an outcome, Migration Tasmania will continue to process your application against the requirements in place at the time you lodged your application. If approved, applicants will be nominated in SkillSelect.

Subclass 491 applicants seeking subclass 190 nomination

Applications for subclass 491 nomination that have been lodged but not yet decided will not be considered for subclass 190 nomination. If you wish to be considered for subclass 190 nomination you will need to withdraw your current application and register for subclass 190 when the 2024-25

program opens. A new invitation to apply for subclass 190 nomination will depend upon the level of interest and the number of pro-rata places available at the time.

More information, changes and updates here;

https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/news/2024-25_program_open_to_rois

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

7. NSW brief update

2024-25 Program Year Update

The NSW skilled nomination program will reopen in the coming weeks. We will publish Information as it becomes available.

8. Administrative Review Tribunal to commence in October

The Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) will commence operations on 14 October 2024. The new, fit-for-purpose federal review body will replace the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

<https://ministers.ag.gov.au/media-centre/administrative-review-tribunal-commence-october-19-07-2024>

9. Sponsored Parent visa 870

Sponsored parents Sc 870 - as the first five years for these visas are coming to an end, the Department is becoming more aware that the requirement for these parents to go offshore to reodge a second Sc 870 may not be feasible in certain circumstances and are looking at this issue amidst other parent visa reform. The Department indicated that the Parent visa section will willingly engage with members in any cases that meet the current exceptional circumstances for lodging a second application onshore. Source Home affairs/MIA

10. Update on 482 Genuine Temporary Entrant criteria

Changes to Sc 482 Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) policy

Effective 2 August 2024, the updated Sc 482 visa policy regarding Short Term Stream Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirements is much simpler and it considers GTE to be met unless there are concerns against it (in other words, the default position now is that GTE is met unless there are specific concerns).

In addition to that, the factors that may give weight to GTE not being met have been reduced significantly. Most notably, having a string of temporary visas (including other 482 ST visas) or not having left Australia for prolonged periods is NOT listed as a factor against GTE within the current policy. Members should note that the policy highlights that the factors listed within policy are not exhaustive and the Department is not limited to these when determining whether an applicant meets the GTE requirements.

Factors that may add weight to GTE not being met within the current policy are:

the applicant has failed to comply with the conditions of a previous visa(s) and/or had a previous visa cancelled or is being considered for cancellation except where a Subclass 457 or TSS visa was cancelled following cessation of employment and the applicant was offshore;

there are substantive inconsistencies in the information provided by the applicant in their TSS visa application that cannot be reconciled (for example: occupation/s declared in previous applications, incoming passenger cards, Form 80 etc.);

the applicant has made two or more unsuccessful TSS applications (that is, applications that have been refused or withdrawn), in particular, where:

- the nominated occupation has changed per application; and/or
- the nominated occupation is not consistent with their previous employment or studies in Australia;

the applicant is in a cohort of clients identified in statistical, intelligence and analysis reports on migration fraud and immigration compliance compiled by the Department; and the applicant or their family member has an immigration history of concern, that is, an applicant who has a history of visa refusal, or non-compliance with immigration requirements in another country.

(source MIA)

11. An Australia for all: the Multicultural Framework Review

The Australian Government is pleased to release the report of the Multicultural Framework Review, the first major examination of the state of our Australian multiculturalism in a generation.

This comprehensive independent report, published [today](#), assesses the health of our multicultural society, and makes recommendations to strengthen it for generations to come.

Australia's last major review of multiculturalism was more than half a century ago.

Since then, we have transformed into a nation which welcomes people from nearly every country on Earth. More than half of us are born overseas or have at least one parent who was.

In preparing the report, a Panel of three eminent Australians – Dr Bulent Hass Dellal AO, Ms Nyadol Nyuon OAM and Ms Christine Castley – travelled the country and consulted with more 1430 individuals and 750 organisations, including community groups, in more than 200 consultation events.

The 796 submissions received for the Review were received in all community languages, by written submission, audio or video message. This was a new and innovative approach to fielding submissions. Of those, 126 – nearly one sixth of total submissions – were in languages other than English.

We have made the executive summary available in 33 languages on the Home Affairs website, ensuring that all individuals no matter their English language proficiency have the opportunity to access the outcomes of the review.

To complement the release of the Review and the Government Response, the Albanese Government has committed more than \$100 million to support a stronger multicultural Australia.

The funding will enable investment in language services, support for increased community engagement and allow multicultural organisations to improve amenities, and strengthen their ability to serve both members of their own community and the broader society.

The Multicultural Framework Review will influence our understanding of multiculturalism and shape future policy outcomes for years to come.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Andrew Giles:

“Multiculturalism is one of the great successes of modern Australia, but there is still much work remaining to ensure all communities feel safe and can be proud of who they are, regardless of their religious, ethnic or cultural background.

“The Review writes a new chapter in our multicultural story, and will inform how we can work together to achieve a vibrant, prosperous multicultural future.

“Our shared values of respect, unity, and compassion will underpin our multicultural nation, and the report reflects how these principles can guide us towards peace and understanding.

“Our diversity is our greatest strength, and this review showcases an Australia that we can build together as one united nation.”

12. Department of Home Affairs’ Financial Operations Branch.

Please be aware that from 1 August 2024, the Department of Home Affairs will no longer accept payments from Diners Club cards and Discover cards. The National Australia Bank limited, which acquired Citigroup's consumer banking business including Diners Club Pty Ltd in Australia ('Diners Club') in June 2022, recently advised the Department about their intention to end the Diners Club Merchant Agreement by no later than 15 September 2024. As Discover card payments are processed through the same merchant, the Department will also no longer accept payments from Discover cards. A decision may be made in the future to commence a new merchant agreement directly with Discover and if so, you will be informed.

13. VETASSESS

FAQ - Answers by experts in professional occupations - August 2024

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/news/answers-by-experts-in-professional-occupations-august-2024>

14. Latest Student visa statistics

2023-24 program year in review . In the 2023-24 program year:

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- there were 580,193 student visa applications lodged globally – a 1.75 per cent decrease when compared to 2022-23 when 590,304 applications were lodged; and
- 485,124 student visa applications finalised globally – a 29 per cent decrease when compared to 2022-23 when 687,642 applications were finalised.
- the grant rate for applications lodged in Australia was 83.7%, a decrease from 98.2% in the 2022-23 program year; and
- the grant rate for applications lodged outside Australia was 78.3%, a decrease from 80.4% in the 2022-23 program year.

On 30 June 2024, there were 608,262 student visa holders in Australia – compared to 568,753 student visa holders in Australia on 30 June 2023, an increase of 6.95 percentage points. Of the 608,262 student visa holders in Australia, approximately 368,601 (61 percent) are studying in the Higher Education sector, followed by approximately 164,382 (27 percent) studying in the Vocational Education sector.

(Source Home Affairs)

15. Foreign student caps to cost 14,000 jobs, universities warn

(Article from Australian newspaper)

A crackdown on international student enrolments will cost jobs, Universities Australia has warned a Senate inquiry.

Universities will sack 14,000 staff as a result of federal government rationing of international students, a Senate inquiry has been warned.

Universities Australia chief executive Luke Sheehy slammed the government's "rushed policy" to limit the number of international students that can be enrolled at each university and private training college, starting in January next year.

Mr Sheehy told a Senate inquiry into the government's draft legislation on Tuesday that visa grants to higher education students have fallen 23 per cent in the past year – the equivalent of nearly 60,000 students.

He said the cut was "creating significant financial anxiety and pain for universities".

"It would represent a \$4.3 billion hit to the economy and could cost the university sector alone over 14,000 jobs," he said.

"Using students as cannon fodder in a poll-driven battle over migration and housing simply doesn't add up.

"The government has taken a sledgehammer to the international student education sector."

A loss of 14,000 jobs would equal 10.7 per cent of the university workforce nationally.

Luke Sheehy, Universities Australia chief executive, has warned of job cuts.

Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia deputy chief executive Felix Pirie said some private training colleges were already sacking staff.

He said he had canvassed 10 or 12 providers who "have all started making redundancies, and two plan to close campuses in the next three months".

He said that capping international enrolments to 40 per cent of students – an idea that has been floated but not confirmed by the federal government – "would be a job killer for Australians working in those providers".

Independent Higher Education Australia chief executive Dr Peter Hendy said caps on foreign students would send some private training colleges broke.

"They would go under ... it would be a catastrophic event for those involved," he said.

Home Affairs Department data shows that 201,907 student visas were approved in 2023/24 to study in Australian universities – down from 261,317 the previous financial year.

The drop in visa grants follows the federal government's announcement in January that it would limit international student numbers, and crack down on fraud and exploitation.

The government's draft legislation – which federal Education Minister Jason Clare wants to implement in January next year – has been referred to a Senate inquiry.

Visa grant rates have also been affected by Ministerial Direction 107, by former Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil, forcing Home Affairs to prioritise visas for students enrolling in the most reputable educational institutions.

16. Migrant worker protections

The *Migration Amendment (Strengthening Employer Compliance) Act 2024* amended the *Migration Act 1958* to introduce new laws to tackle migrant worker exploitation. The laws deter employers and others in the labour chain from using a person's migration status to exploit them. They help create a level playing field for businesses doing the right thing.

Starting from 1 July 2024, the new laws aim to:

- reduce temporary migrant worker exploitation
- increase employer compliance.
- improve workplace justice outcomes.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/employing-and-sponsoring-someone/migrant-worker-protections>

17. News

Net movement of Australian Citizens reverses in 2023-24

<https://johnmenadue.com/net-movement-of-australian-citizens-reverses-in-2023-24/>

Dutton's abysmal record on immigration integrity

<https://johnmenadue.com/duttons-abysmal-record-on-immigration-integrity/>

Migrant workers have long been too scared to report employer misconduct. A new visa could change this

<https://theconversation.com/migrant-workers-have-long-been-too-scared-to-report-employer-misconduct-a-new-visa-could-change-this-235415>

Cabinet reshuffle leaves controversial student visa policy in a state of uncertainty, former immigration department official says

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-29/cabinet-reshuffle-leaves-student-visa-policy-uncertainty/104152846>

Tony Burke's new 'super portfolio': Immigration and home affairs shift hands in reshuffle

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/tony-burke-s-new-super-portfolio-immigration-and-home-affairs-shift-hands-in-reshuffle-20240728-p5jx55.html>

The Coalition's home affairs experiment was doomed to fail. Tony Burke has a huge job on his hands

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/jul/30/liberal-coalition-department-of-home-affairs-tony-burke-peter-dutton-mike-pezzullo>

Albanese's cabinet reshuffle is a chance to reset the rhetoric on immigration and multiculturalism

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/article/2024/jul/31/anthony-albanese-labor-cabinet-reshuffle-immigration>

Skill shortage due to skill migration says Prof Glover

<https://www.fijitimes.com.fj/skill-shortage-due-to-skill-migration-says-prof-glover/>

Australia made 9 changes to student migration rules over the past year. We don't need international student caps as well

<https://theconversation.com/australia-made-9-changes-to-student-migration-rules-over-the-past-year-we-dont-need-international-student-caps-as-well-235964>

Migration is actually vital to create jobs and boost wages

<https://www.northweststar.com.au/story/8715737/catherine-scarth-diverse-immigration-shaping-australias-future/>

June temporary entrant figures point to fall in net migration

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/june-temporary-entrant-figures-point-to-fall-in-net-migration,18839>

Foreign students 'cannon fodder' in migration debate

<https://www.northweststar.com.au/story/8719931/foreign-students-cannon-fodder-in-migration-debate/>

International education levy 'preferable to visa chaos'

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/international-education-levy-preferable-visa-chaos>

New data on why male migrants experience poor health in Australia

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/video/new-data-on-why-male-migrants-experience-poor-health-in-australia/h26d0nczr>

Parents are waiting more than 30 years for an Australian visa. The new home affairs minister needs to act

<https://theconversation.com/parents-are-waiting-more-than-30-years-for-an-australian-visa-the-new-home-affairs-minister-needs-to-act-236312>

Five myths poisoning Australia's migration debate

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/252563-five-myths-poisoning-australias-migration-debate/>

Ok folks

That's all for this month, stay safe

See you all on Monday 16th September 2024

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