



Iscah's Analysis of the Skill Select Round of 15th February 2017

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Overall Skilled Program – What do you do when the Pro rata policy means that you cannot get your targeted 1600 places each round for the 189 visa and 200 places for the 489 visa . And you are probably around 5000 invites behind where you should be to reach your program grants this financial year ?

Simple, you have 3 invitations in March 2017 (instead of the normal 2) and you up the target to 2000 (189 invitations) for each of those rounds.

There is NO chance that skill select will find 6000 eligible EOIs to give invitations to in March with the current Pro rata restrictions. It is almost like there is a complete disconnect between the Education department (who administer the skill select system and DIBP who make the pro rata policy settings.

So what is going to happen in March. Here are 3 possible scenarios :

- 1) The 3 rounds are processed as per normal and results in around 3000 invitations being issued, with 1686 of these being the pro rata allocation.
- 2) DIBP in an attempt to get to the targeted 6000 invitations decide to invite not just one lot of Pro rata invitations each round in March but instead 2 or 3. This will have the effect of reaching the occupational ceilings for those occupations even quicker and so closing them off for the program year earlier. It may also mean a few 489 family sponsored applicants are given invitations in pro rata occupations through a loophole in the system. Similar to what happened in September 2016 to 100 then very lucky applicants.
- 3) DIBP actually decide to relax the pro rata policy in some or all of the occupations in last ditch attempt to meet their program targets for this financial year

Accountants – Our estimate is 4,000-6,000 in the backlog for this application at 60, 65 and 70 points. Just 6 more rounds will see the invitations up to 2492 (out of 2500). So it will effectively close for most people in the first round of May, with just 8 places left for the 2nd round on probably May 17th.

The invitation date at 70 points went backwards 17 days to the 27th August 2016. This must hurt a lot of people who were already frustrated with it crawling along at just a day a time each invite before that.

Even more frustrating is the mismanagement of the invitations by the Department of Education who continue to invite initial and recycled Accountant EOIs that are no longer necessary as people already have an invite as Auditors. Further it seems these ‘wasted’ invitations are not being reused again and so the 2500 ceiling is not being fully utilised. We have highlighted this to the DIBP policy section 5 times now with no response.

A 70 point EOI lodged now will take over 15 months for an invite if it that occupation stays on the skilled occupation list in July 2017.

Accountants 70 points EOI dated 27/08/2016

Auditors – With the 3 invitation rounds in March 2017, places will now run out in the second invitation round of May 2017 for this occupation. With many Accountants lodging EOIs as Auditors and some brave souls swapping their EOI listed occupation from Accountant to Auditors (This has dangers be careful), this occupation is also slowing to a crawl.

A 70 point EOI lodged today should now take around 12 months, again only if the occupation remains on the SOL an July 2017.

The last 60/65 point invitation was back on 27th July 2015.

Auditors 70 Points EOI dated 11/11/2016

Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers – There are approximately 900 EOIs in the system at 60 and 65 points uninvited so pressure is growing to gain the 17 places each round.

As predicted in the last round this was going to jump to 70 points and it has unfortunately. An EOI at 65 points is now likely to take more than 12 months to get an invitation. 60 points are light years away unless DIBP change their policy.

Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers 70 points EOI dated 13/02/2017

Electronics Engineers – Around 230 EOIs in the system at 60 points still waiting for an invite. The invitation mark is still 60 points and so those at 65/70 should get an immediate invitation. Whilst those at the bare 60 lodging today will probably wait 8-12 months

Electronics Engineer 60 Points EOI dated 07/11//2016

ICT Business Analysts – A crawl at 65 points suggests it may soon rise to 70 points.

With three invitation rounds in March this ceiling will be reached in late April 2017.

An EOI lodged today at 65 points will now take over 12 months unless DIBP change their policy.

ICT Business and System Analysts 65 points EOI dated 14/07/2016

Software and Applications Programmer – About the only steady occupation at the moment with invitation rounds and the backlog keeping pace at 65 points

An EOI lodged today at 65 points will likely be invited in 4-6 weeks. The last 60 point invitation was for EOIs lodged on 12th December 2015 if they ever get down there again.

With the triple invitations of March, the places to last now until the first round in May 2017

Software and Applications Programmers 65 points EOI dated 04/01/2017

Computer Network Professionals – Around 1300 EOIs in the queue at 60 and 65 points at the moment. An EOI lodged today at 65 points should get an invite in around 4 months. The last 60 point invite was 17/08/2016 just before it turned Pro rata

This occupation will use all its 1426 places by the 29th March !

Computer Network Professionals 65 points EOI dated 19/12//2016

Other Engineering Professionals – Around 750 uninvited EOIs in the system (60/65 points) for this occupation. An EOI lodged at 65 points today will take around 8-10 months under current policy. There are only enough places for just over 3 rounds and so this should close early April 2017.

Other Engineering Professionals 65 points EOI dated 01/12/2016

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