

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 251 | 20th May 2019

Hey Everyone,

Well that all worked well huh!!

There everyone was lined up for a Labor government winning the Federal Election, which would have meant a much more healthy migration program, and then they lose ha

So back to the Libs small Australia small migration program, small vision, for the next 3 years and we do the best with the hand we have all been dealt. We will continue to bring you up to date with all the latest news on the migration numbers, state programs and the new 491 and 494 visas. As well as any other important changes in the visa news sphere

Also get ready in the next couple of weeks for some super exciting news of an Iscah product, which is an essential to keep up to date with all your visa options in the skilled visa sphere.

Remember to if you want top quality professional help with your application, email us to migration@iscah.com at any time.

On to the latest updates ...



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1) Student Ombudsman

For students having issues with their Education provider, excellent help can be provided by the Overseas Students Ombudsman.

Details are here of some of their newsletters and examples of the help they can give ...

http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/publications/industry/overseas-students/all-updates



2) Permanent Migration falls rises but Temporary visas rise

Government has cut the migration program ceiling from 190,000 to 160,000 per annum but at the same time is forecasting net migration to rise from 241,700 in 2017 to 259,600 in 2018 and 271,700 in 2019. This was after it forecast a steady decline in net migration in the 2018 Budget. This is likely the result of changes to temporary skilled entry policy, working holiday makers and a continuing rise in visitors changing status after arrival including record numbers applying for asylum.

It should be noted that the migration program reflects the number of permanent or provisional visas granted while net migration is the number of people arriving in Australia and remaining here for 12 months out of 16 irrespective of visa type or citizenship, less the number of people who had been counted in the resident population and then depart Australia for 12 months out of 16.

Visa Category	Visas
Employer Sponsored including Regional Sponsored Migration	30,000
Scheme (RSMS)	
Skilled Independent (including long-term New Zealand	18,652
citizens accessing expedited permanent residence)	
Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (new provisional	9,000
employer sponsored regional visa replacing RSMS)	
Skilled Work Regional (new provisional state/territory	14,000
nominated visa replacing state/territory nominated sub-class	
489)	
State/Territory Nominated (existing permanent residence visa	24,986
sub-class 190)	
Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP)	6,682
Global Talent (new high skill temporary entry visa with	5,000
relatively open pathway to permanent residence – likely part	
of new sub-class 482 that replaced former sub-class 457)	
Distinguished Talent	200
Total Skill Stream	108,682
Partner	39,799
Parent	7,371
Other Family	562
Total Family Stream	47,732
Special Eligibility	236
Child (estimate not subject to a ceiling)	3,350
Total Program	160,000

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The 30,000 places for Employer Sponsored migration is down on the outcome of 35,582 visas in 2017-18. The existing backlog of applications in these categories should make the 2019-20 planning level readily achievable. However, as applications for employer sponsored migration in 2017-18 fell by 27.1 percent compared to 2016-17, and as the RSMS will be closed to new applications, demand in this category can be expected to decline in subsequent years, especially following the changes made in 2017-18 when the sub-class 457 visa was abolished and requirements for employer sponsored permanent migration were tightened significantly. Further tightening of employer sponsored temporary entry as proposed by the ALP would lead to additional fall off in the application rate for permanent employer sponsored migration. Note over 80 percent of visa grants in permanent employer sponsored categories are to people already in Australia on long-term temporary visas (ie already counted in net migration). Grants of employer sponsored permanent visas thus make relatively little contribution to net migration.

The Skilled Independent allocation of 18,652 will also be readily achieved as it also now includes long-term New Zealand citizens who have an expedited pathway to permanent residence. The New Zealand citizens obtaining this visa make no contribution at that time to net migration having already been counted many years earlier.

If this visa is to be kept to its planning level, the Minister will need to release places slowly and only to applicants scoring very highly on the points test. The proposed minor changes to the points test would assist some applicants reach the pass mark the Minister sets.

Even after including New Zealand citizens, the planning level of 18,652 for this visa category is less than half that in recent years (2017-18 – 39,137; 2016-17 – 42,422; 2015-16 – 43,994; 2014-15 – 43,990; 2013-14 – 44,984). Given these migrants now have a four year wait for access to social welfare, some reduction in this category is sensible to reduce the risk of destitution.

As around half of the migrants entering in this category are offshore at time of visa grant, the reduction in this category will have a greater negative impact on net migration.

The new Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional visa will start from 16 November 2019. While this visa is open to a wider range of occupations than the RSMS which it replaces, potential applicants may be deterred by the fact this visa will be a three year provisional visa with no guarantee of permanent residence if they lose their job during those three years. The 9,000 place planning level for this visa in 2019-20 appears very ambitious, especially given the many extra requirements now in place for all employer sponsored visas. Note around 80 percent of RSMS visa grants were traditionally to people already in Australia on a long-term temporary visa. If this new visa follows the same pattern, it will have little impact on net migration at time of visa grant.

The 14,000 places for the new Skilled Work Regional visa in 2019-20 also appears ambitious given the significantly increased requirements of the pathway to permanent residence. The key will be whether state/territory governments are prepared to make sufficient use of this new visa and whether sufficient applicants with the requisite skills and experience make an expression of interest for state/territory government nomination. Note the Victorian and ACT Governments made little use of the provisional state/territory nominated visa this new visa replaces. Take up of this visa will be heavily reliant on extra nominations particularly by the NSW and Queensland governments.

The state/territory nominated direct permanent visa planning level of 24,986 and the BIIP planning of 6,682 should both be readily achievable as there is significant excess demand for these places. It should be noted, however, that the combined planning level for the new state/territory provisional visa plus the state/territory permanent skilled visa is well in excess of the rate at which state/territory governments were nominating skilled migrants in 2018-19. The Commonwealth Government is relying on an overall significant



boost in state/territory nominations in 2019-20. If the labour market weakens, state/territory governments will be reluctant to do so.

Inclusion of an allocation of 5,000 places for the new Global Talent stream of the existing Temporary Skill Shortage visa (Sub-Class 482) is a new phenomenon. These visas have never before been included in the permanent migration program. By doing so, the Government is effectively cutting the migration program by a further 5,000 places. Given the very slow take up of this new visa stream to date, it is likely the 5,000 places may not be filled.

In the Family Stream, the key will be the intention to maintain the Partner category at 39,799 places against the background of a backlog exceeding 80,000. This is not sustainable either morally or legally, noting that s87 of the Migration Act does not allow Government to cap spouse visas. The legality of the Government's method of delaying grant of Partner visas by slowing the rate at which processing officers are appointed to cases is also questionable.

Whoever wins government in the May election will need to deal with the excess demand for Partner visas and the likely shortfall in the new regional visas. If the overall planning level is held at 160,000, the balance of the program would shift towards the Family Stream if the Partner visa backlog is accommodated. The shift in the balance is likely to attract criticism from the business community which will want the Skill Stream maintained if not increased.

Abul Rizvi was a senior official in the Department of Immigration from the early 1990s to 2007, when he left as deputy secretary. He managed the migration program from 1995 to 2007

(Source: https://johnmenadue.com)



3) TRA Skills Assessments

Update on TRA processing of skills assessments -

Processing delays

The ongoing high demand for Provisional Skills Assessments (PSA) has caused an increase in the time it takes to complete PSA application assessments, which is around 90 days currently.

Agents can assist to reduce processing time by ensuring that all applications are submitted 'decision ready' which means all necessary documentation is included. The evidence required in the application should clearly support: The applicant's qualification or work experience claim,

Ensure qualifications include the formal transcript and,

Employment information includes supervisor or employer contact details that can be clearly associated with the business.

Incomplete or unclear information is a primary reason for delays and may result in an application being made unsuccessful. Supplementary information will be requested if needed for clarification but reducing the need for multiple exchanges will assist to speed up the process. Agent Digest – Student Visa Program | 3

Processing timeframes are also affected by a large number of general enquiries, particularly those simply seeking a status update. Applications are processed in order of receipt and TRA will not consider any requests to expedite the processing of an application. The high volume of general enquiries has a net effect of slowing assessments down. Agents in particular are asked to assist by reducing email traffic and understanding the processes in place.

Submission timeframes

There has recently been a change in the time allowed by TRA for application documents to be submitted to us after the applicant has registered and paid online. From 1 April, 2019, the period has been reduced to 14 days to align TRA timelines with the requirements of the Department of Home Affairs.

The role of Migration Agents

We have noted increased engagement by migration agents across the whole of TRA's Job Ready Program (JRP). Agents should note that under the JRP Program Guidelines, a migration agent or representative can act on behalf of an applicant only for Step 1 (PSA) or Step 4 (JRFA) of the JRP.

For steps 2 (JRE) and 3 (JRWA), all correspondence must be with the applicant. Any documents provided to us by an agent instead of the applicant will not be processed and will be returned to the sender.

(Source: TRA)



4) NEW DAMA Information from Warrnambool in Victoria

Warrnambool in Victoria have uploaded new factsheets on their company sponsored visa DAMA process here

https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/designated-area-migration-agreement-dama

5) Update on 489 sponsorship for Northern Rivers in NSW

The Northern Rivers Region of New South Wales - update for 489 Includes Ballina, Byron Bay, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed LGA's. Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers assesses applications from prospective skilled migrations for the NSW Government nominated Skilled Regional 489 sub-class visa for Northern Rivers region of NSW.

We are currently inviting Expressions of Interest for sponsorship of Skilled Regional 489 Visas from qualified applicants with the following skills:

- •Early Childhood (ANZSCO 2411-11, Minimum of 12 months work experience in Australia)
- •Agricultural Technician (ANZSCO 3111 11, Minimum of 18 months work experience in Australia)



6) Indians now 3rd largest group of Migrants

The Indian population in Australia has exponentially grown in the last two years according to the latest figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The ABS's preliminary estimates suggest there are 592,000 Indians living in Australia as of June 2018. This is a 30 per cent jump compared to Census 2016 figures which recorded 455,389 Indians living in Australia. India with 592,000 people moved into third place dropping the New Zealand born (568,000) down to the fourth place.

India now accounts for 2.4% of the Australian population and the median age of an Indian migrant is revealed to be 34 years, same as those born in Australia.

India has been Australia's biggest source of migrants since 2016.

While 33,310 places of 162,417 permanent places in 2017-18 were granted to Indian citizens, 38,854 visas of 183,608 places went to Indian citizens in 2016-17.

The number of Indian students studying in Australia too ascended to a seven-year high in 2018. According to November 2017 figures, close to 70,000 students were studying in Australian universities and colleges.

Over 7 million migrants were living in Australia as of June 2018, with people born in England continuing to be the largest group of overseas-born residents.

ABS Assistant Director of Migration Statistics Neil Scott said new figures showed that in 2018 just over 29 per cent of Australia's resident population was born overseas.

"Australia's multicultural society is made up of migrants born in every country around the world. Although almost 18 million Australians were born here, our society is continuing to become more culturally diverse over time", Mr Scott said.

China ranked second on this list with 651000 people born in China residing in Australia today.

These figures include temporary visa holders like international students and those on temporary work visas.

The 2016 Census revealed that along with population, Indian languages too had grown in Australia. Hindi came out as the top Indian language spoken at home in Australia with 159,652 speakers, with Punjabi a close second at 132,496.

Hindi and Punjabi have made it to the top ten languages spoken in Australia.

The other languages which have seen a big jump are Tamil (73,161), Bengali (54,566), Malayalam (53,206), Gujarati (52,888), Telugu (34,435), Marathi (13,055) and Kannada (9701).

Other languages recorded in the 2016 census were Konkani language (2,416), Kashmiri language (215), Oriya (721) and Sindhi spoken by 1,592 speakers across Australia.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)



7) PTE testing verification

We have seen reports that some agents have been requested by DHA to verify PTE test results that are between 2 and 3 years old. (DHA accept results up to 3 years old for skilled visas)

We asked PTE for verification of this issue and they gave the following information ...

".. We haven't had any changes to our score verification process. The Department of Home Affairs accepts PTE Academic scores for up to three years from testing date.

Test takers should always digitally assign their PTE Academic scores from their PTE Academic account so that the DHA representative can view the scores from our online database (which they can view for up to three years). Most people pick the automatically send their scores when they click through the registration steps, however many forget to do so and I would like to think that an agent would help a client through the process and not just complete it for them.

DHA do often contact our support team directly if they are unable to view a score report when they know the score report is older than two years and hasn't been assigned. Our customer support team assists them further with the verification.

We are in the process of trying to make score verification easier for institutions and hope that in the near future it will be an easier process for all those involved..."

(Source: Pearson/PTE Australia)



8) Canberra Matrix invitation round

Number of invitations issued: 225

Matrix score range:

- All Matrix submitted with 135 to 70 points;
- 65 point Matrix submitted on or before 31 March 2019

The next invitation round will be held on or before 24 May 2019.

(Source: ACT Government)

9) RDA Central West 489 update

RDA Central West Skills Occupation list 2018-19 update - OCCUPATIONS CLOSING on 10th May 2019 at 9:30 am:

- Child Care Centre Manager (ANZSCO 134111)
- General Practitioner (ANZSCO 253111)
- Registered Nurse â€" Mental Health (ANZSCO 254422)



10) Unofficial Skill Select results for 9th May 2019

Unofficial Skill Select Results for Skill Select Round of 9th May 2019 -

You are welcome to share this on your FB page or with your FB friends if they find it useful.

iscah estimated invitation dates after Skillselect round of :	EOI points score	All EDIs to this effect date we believe have been invited			PAST DOPA date		
9th May 2019	65 points	70 points	75 points	80 points	85 points © iscah2018	90 points	Without Wasted Invites
2211 Accountants	6/10/2015	24/10/2016	18/10/2017	24/08/2018	9/03/2019	01/05/2019*	
2212 Auditors (no invites seen yet this round)	27/07/2015	26/12/2016	s 26/09/2017	19/07/2018	10/03/2019		
2334 Electronics Engineer (no invites seen this round)	18/09/2017	13/12/2017	7/12/2018	11/03/2019	10/04/2019		
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © Iscah 2018	27/04/2017	2/07/2018	a 24/02/2019	22/03/2019*	06/05/2019*		
2339 Other Engineer Profs (no invites seen this round)	3/01/2017	30/10/2017	6/11/2018	9/03/2019	10/04/2019		
2611 ICT Business Analysts (no invites seen this round)	11/08/2016	13/09/2017	9/10/2018	9/03/2019	10/04/2019		
2613 Software Applications Programmer @ iscah 2018	18/04/2017	23/01/2018	0 13/02/2019	12/03/2019	26/04/2019*		06/04/2018 @ 70 points
2631 Computer Network Prof. (no invites seen this round)	4/03/2017	6/09/2018	1 8/03/2019	14/01/2019	10/04/2019		
ALL the other NON-pro rata occupations (no invites seen)	28/09/2017	8/12/2018	8/03/2019	15/03/2019	10/04/2019		
Assumptions - Approximately 100 invitations (Split 60 Pro Rata and 40 Non Pro Rata)							
* Israih estimates of CHANGED DATES from the latest round have an asterix next to them * and are in dark GREEN							

(Source: Iscah)



11) Estimate on when you may get your 189 invitation

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from TODAY - 11th May 2019. Depending on when you lodged your EOI, what the effect date is and the occupation. It includes EOIs 3,6,9, and 12 months already lodged

Assumptions						
100 invitations in June 2019						
18,652 for the 2019/2020 year as published, le	ess around 2000 for	NZ citizens				
1.6 applicants on average per application me	ans around 10,400	invites (870 a month)				
Allowing for 30% wasted invitations = 1130 p	er month. Split 60%	i pro rata, 40% non pro rata				
Iscah Estimated waiting period for an EOI inv	ite - 189 visa	EOI Lodged		mar and a second		Copyright Iscah 2019
as at 11 May 2019		today (11 May 2019)	3 months ago (11/02/19)	6 months ago (11/11/18)	9 months ago (11/08/18)	12 months ago (11/05/18)
2211 Accountants	85 points	11/09/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	invited	invited
	75 points	EOI expires before invite				
	70 points	EOI expires before invite				
	65 points	EOI expires before invite				
© Iscah	100000000000000000000000000000000000000					
2212 Auditors	85 points	11/08/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
The state of the s	80 points	not before May 2020	invited			
	75 points	EOI expires before invite				
	70 points	EOI expires before invite				
	65 points	EOI expires before invite	EDI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite
0	40 points	cor expires service aixine	cor expires perior minute	con expires service minute	EOI ENPOES VEINTE MAILE	cor expires service aixing
2334 Electronics Engineer	25 points	11/07/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
234 December Digneer	85 points 80 points	11/09/2019	invited	DOM:	invited	invited
			CONTROL	invited invited	invited	invited
	75 points	not before May 2020 EOI expires before invite	not before May 2020	The second secon		
	70 points		EOI expires before invite			
	65-points	EOI expires before invite				
	Mil college	as her female	to the same of	To the second	Total Co.	The same
2335 Ind, Mech, Production Engineers	R5 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	11/07/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	11/11/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before May 2020	invited			
	65 points	EOI expires before invite				
© Iscah						
2339 Other Engineering Professionals	85 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	11/08/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	11/11/2019	invited	invited
	70 points	EOI expires before invite				
	65 points	EOI expires before invite				
© Iscah						
2611 ICT Business Analysts	85 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	11/08/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	invited	invited
	70 points	EOI expires before invite	EDI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite
	65 points	EOI expires before invite				
0						
2613 Software Applications Programmer	85-points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	11/07/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	11/11/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	ECI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite
	65-points	EOI expires before invite	ECI expires before invite			
0	The second second					
2631 Computer Network Professionals	85 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	11/07/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	11/08/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	invited	invited
	65 points	COI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite			
0	P. St. College	The same of the sa	The second secon	The same of the sa	The state of the s	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE
ALL other NON pro rata occupations	85 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	80 points	11/07/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	11/08/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before May 2020	not before May 2020	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	EOI expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	ECA expires before invite	EOI expires before invite	ECI expires before invite



12) New information on South Australian DAMA company sponsorships

Immigration SA has released further information relating to South Australia's Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMA) which is now available:

- Details of the DAMA Occupation Lists
- Information relating to Employer Eligibility

We also encourage you to read through the Designated Area Migration Agreements FAQs.

Further details relating to the DAMA application process and how to apply will be released by 1 July 2019.

www.migration.sa.gov.au/news-events/news-releases/update-to-south-australian-dama?

(Source: South Australian State government)



13) Western Australia State 190/489 invitations for May 2019

WA State (190/489) Invite results for 17th May 2019

The profile of the last invited EOIs from the 17th May 2019 SNMP Graduate Stream invitation round.

Last invited EOI – Visa subclass 190

Bachelor Degree

5 Australian Work experience

0 Overseas work experience

10 English points

65 Total points

EOI submission date 09/05/2019

Last invited EOI – Visa subclass 489

Bachelor Degree

0 Australian Work experience

5 Overseas work experience

20 English points

85 Total points

EOI submission date 15/04/2019

During the selection and ranking process the number of invitations issued to applicants with the nominated occupation 221111 Accountant (General) was restricted, due to the high representation of this occupation in the eligible EOIs. The profile of the last invited EOI with this nominated occupation was as follows.

190 – Accountant

PhD / Masters

O Australian work experience

0 Overseas work experience

20 points for english

85 points

EOI submission date 25/09/2018

This occupation remains available for nomination, however, this may change for future rounds. Any change in the status of the occupation will be communicated via the Migration Portal.

Things to note:

- During the ranking process work experience was considered by points indicated in eligible EOIs and factored in both on and offshore work experience, with priority given to eligible EOIs with Australian work experience;
- For the selection and ranking process we use the date that the EOI was first created (initial submitted date), not the 'Date of Effect'.

(Source: WA State Government)



14) DHA official Skill Select results for 11th April 2019

Invitation process and cut off points

The highest ranked clients by points score are invited to apply for the relevant visa. For clients who have equal points scores, the time at which they reached their points score for that subclass (referred to as the date of effect) determines their order of invitation. Expressions of Interest with earlier dates of effect are invited before later dates.

Visa subclass	Min Points Score	Date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	80	15/03/2019 9:40 am
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	80	12/10/2018 6:31 am

Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 11 April 2019 invitation round.

Due to high levels of demand, and in keeping with previous years, the below occupation groups will be subject to pro rata arrangements to ensure availability of invitations across the program year.

SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent visas (subclass 189) and then the remaining to Skilled – Regional (Provisional) visas (subclass 489). If all places are taken up by subclass 189 visas then there will be no invitations issued for subclass 489 visas in these occupations.

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	90	10/04/2019 10:04 pm
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	85	14/12/2018 4:04 pm
2334	Electronics Engineer	80	11/03/2019 4:54 pm
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engi	ineers 80	07/03/2019 3:45 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	80	31/12/2018 8:56 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	85	10/04/2019 2:49 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	80	12/03/2019 3:40 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	80	14/03/2019 6:56 pm

(Source: DHA)



OK folks, see you all on Monday 17th June Be good.



Steven O'Neill (Iscah Manager - MARN 9687267)

f iscah.migration

iscahmigration

iscah.com

Phone: 08 9353 3344

Fax: 61-8-9353 3350

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