

Iscah Migration Newsletter

15th September 2014 | Edition Number 195

Hiya Everyone

Welcome to another bumper edition of our free monthly newsletter on all the news and changes related to Australian visas !

This comes out on the 3rd Monday of each month and backcopies are available on our website at www.iscah.com. If you want to unsubscribe or be added to the mailing list please email us at newsletter@iscah.com. Also any suggestion bouquets or bricks are always welcome.

On to the news for September ...



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1) DIBP Nail their 190,000 Target

The Australian Government's target of attracting 190 000 new migrants in the latest financial year has been achieved, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Scott Morrison said today.

Australian industry benefited with the majority of the permanent migration visas (128 550 places) granted within the skill stream. Minister Morrison said this equates to nearly 68 per cent of the programme.

'The skill stream is targeted towards helping fill identified skill shortages in the Australian economy,' Minister Morrison said. 'In 2013-14, occupational professionals accounted for more than 63 per cent of visas granted in the skill stream, followed by technicians and trades workers with 22 per cent and managers with 9 per cent of skilled stream visa grants. These results are a major boost to the Australian economy.'

More than 60 per cent of skilled migration visas were delivered within the employer sponsored (47 450 places), business innovation and investment (6160 places) and state and territory government nominated (24 656 places) categories.

The family stream, which prioritised the reunion of partners and children this programme year, had a final outcome of 61 112 places, representing about 32 per cent of the migration programme. The partner category delivered 47 752 places (or 78 per cent) of the family stream, and the child category delivered 3850 places. The remaining family stream places were granted within the other family (585 places), contributory parent (6675 places) and parent (2250 places) categories.

'Delivery of a well-managed migration scheme demonstrates our capacity to carefully structure our programmes to deliver the size and composition required to meet the needs of the Australian economy,' Minister Morrison said.

A detailed report on the 2013-14 migration programme is available on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website at

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/statistics/statistical-info/visa-grants/>

(Source: DIBP)

2) Processing times for “Other Family” visas

Other family visa queue

The Australian Government has reduced the number of places available under the Other Family category from 585 in the 2013-14 financial year to 500 in the 2014-15 financial year.

Most of the 500 Other Family visa places will be allocated to the Carer visa category with fewer places allocated to the Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visa categories. This reflects the priority that is given to the Carer visa by the Australian Government in managing the Migration Programme.

Processing priorities

Processing priorities for Other Family category visa applications are determined by the government.

See: Changes to family stream processing for applicants sponsored by illegal maritime arrivals

To ensure equity, all Other Family visa applications are first assessed against the relevant criteria in the order they are lodged. Applications that meet the relevant criteria are then assigned a queue date and placed in the global queue.

The processing time for an application to reach queue status varies depending on the complexity of the individual case, how quickly you respond to requests for further information and caseload sizes at the individual processing office.

Queuing information

After a visa application has been queued, we do not usually contact you again until the application is released from the queue. Once released from the queue, applications will be considered for final processing as a place in the Migration Programme becomes available.

At final processing, you must continue to meet the relevant criteria and satisfy any outstanding requirements for the visa application to be granted. These include health, character, assurance of support (for Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visas) and payment of the second instalment of the visa application charge.

Delays in final processing There was a significant reduction in the number of visa places made available by the Government for Other Family visas in the 2013-14 programme year from 1285 to 585.

A large number of applications had already been released from the queue in 2012-13 but due to the reduction in visa places for the following year, in many cases final processing has not been able to progress. This relates to Carer visa applications with queue dates to 31 March 2013 and to Aged Dependent Relative and Remaining Relative visa applications with

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queue dates to 30 June 2011.

This delay in final processing remains for the 2014-15 programme year.

If you have been notified of being released from the queue, but your application has not been finalised, you will be contacted again by us only when final processing of your application can resume.

As at July 2014, final processing for Carer is currently progressing for applications with a queue date up to 28 June 2012. For Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative final processing is progressing for applications with a queue date up to 21 January 2010.

This information will be updated only when final processing dates are extended.

Once the number of visa places that are available in the current year is reached, applications that have been queued and released for final processing, but are not yet finalised, will be considered for a place in a subsequent year.

Waiting times for Other Family

Waiting times for Other Family are calculated each year and may vary due to a number of factors including:

- changes in planning levels
- number of visa lodgements,
- withdrawals and refusals
- Migration Review Tribunal remits
- Ministerial Intervention cases
- processing directions

It is currently estimated that Carer visa applications that were lodged in 2014 and meet the criteria to be queued, are likely to take approximately four and one half years to be released for final processing (calculated from 14 August 2014).

Based on current Planning Levels and the allocation of the majority of the Other Family places to the Carer visa category, it is currently estimated that Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visa applications that were lodged in 2014 and meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take approximately 56 years to be released for final processing (calculated from 14 August 2014).

Applications lodged in and outside Australia

If you lodged an application before 2 June 2014 for an Other Family visa in Australia you will need to meet health and character requirements for the visa before you are placed in the visa queue.

If you lodged an application before 2 June 2014 for an Other Family visa outside Australia you will not need to meet health and character requirements before you are given a queue date. However, health and character checks must be successfully completed before an Other Family visa can be granted

(Source: DIBP)

3) IELTS easier and no Advertising – 457 Review out

The government have released the long awaited 457 report and the recommendations. It is expected that most of these recommendations will be implemented asap. Further details shortly.

Here is the link and then below that are the key recommendations ...

<http://www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Documents/reviews/streamlined-responsive-457-programme.pdf>

Report Recommendations :

Recommendation 1 (Core solutions – page 49)

1.1 That, in lieu of the existing Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration, a new tripartite ministerial advisory council, which is not necessarily prescribed in legislation, be established to report to government on skilled migration issues.

1.2 That the new ministerial advisory council be supported by a dedicated labour market analysis resource.

Recommendation 2 (Core solutions – page 49)

2. Acknowledging that, as the OECD has pointed out, employer-conducted labour market testing is not “fully reliable”, and in the Australian context has proven ineffective, that the current legislative requirement for labour market testing be abolished.

Recommendation 3 (Core solutions – page 49)

3.1 That the Consolidated Sponsored Occupations List be retained as a list of occupations which are at Skill Level 3 and above, and that the Consolidated Sponsored Occupations List should be able to be amended by two means: first, the addition of skilled occupations which can be shown to exist in the community but which may not be on the ANZSCO list; and, second, the refinement of the Consolidated Sponsored Occupations List in cases where there may be integrity or appropriateness concerns. Any occupations not on the list, which are usually referred to as semi-skilled, may be addressed as part of the Labour Agreement regime.

3.2 That the new ministerial advisory council provide advice on those occupations where some concern exists and recommend additional requirements or limitations on occupations and/or regions.

Recommendation 4 (Market Salary Rate – page 52)

4. That the market rate framework continue to operate as a core component of the 457 programme, but that the earnings threshold above which there is an exemption from the need to demonstrate the market rate should be aligned with the income level above which the top marginal tax rate is paid (currently at \$180 000).

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Recommendation 5 (Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold – page 54)

5.1 While there is an argument for abolishing the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold, that it nevertheless be retained to allow for streamlining within the wider programme, and that concessions to the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold be afforded under Labour Agreements, Enterprise Migration Agreements and Designated Area Migration Agreements, as appropriate.

5.2 That the current Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold be retained at \$53 900 p.a. but that it not undergo any further increases until it is reviewed within two years.

5.3 That the two roles currently performed by the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (that is, acting as a determination of the eligibility of occupations for access to the scheme and as an income floor) be more clearly articulated in the 457 programme, and that consideration be given to accepting the eligibility threshold as up to 10 per cent lower than the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold.

5.4 That the government give further consideration to a regional concession to the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold, but only in limited circumstances where evidence clearly supports such concession.

5.5 That in circumstances where the base rate of pay is below the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold, the current flexible approach adopted by the department, taking into account guaranteed annual earnings to arrive at a rate that meets the minimum requirement of Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold be continued and made more visible to users of the programme and their professional advisors.

Recommendation 6 (Training benchmarks – page 57)

6.1 That the current training benchmarks be replaced by an annual training fund contribution based on each 457 visa holder sponsored, with the contributions scaled according to size of business.

6.2 That any funding raised by way of a training contribution from sponsors of 457 visa holders be invested in:

- a) training and support initiatives, including job readiness, life skills, and outreach programmes for disengaged groups, particularly youth who have fallen out of the school system;
- b) programmes allowing employers to take on apprentices/trainees from target groups, including Indigenous Australians and those in rural and regional areas;
- c) mentoring programmes and training scholarships aimed at providing upskilling opportunities within the vocational training and higher education sectors that address critical skills gaps in the current Australian workforce. Target sectors include those industries, such as nursing and the IT sector, that rely heavily on 457 workers; and,
- d) training and support initiatives for sectors of critical national priority. Target sectors include industries experiencing significant increase in labour demands, such as the aged care and disability care sectors.

6.3 That funds raised through the training contribution be dedicated to this training role and that the government reports annually on how these monies are spent by the Department of Industry.

6.4 That there be a new sponsor obligation to ensure that the cost to the sponsor of the training contribution cannot be passed onto a 457 visa holder or third party.

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Recommendation 7 (English language requirement – page 63)

7.1 That the English language requirement be amended to an average score. For example, in relation to International English Language Testing System, the 457 applicant should have an average of 5 across the four competencies (or the equivalent for an alternative English language testing provider).

7.2 That greater flexibility be provided for industries or businesses to seek concessions to the English language requirement for certain occupations on a case by case basis, or under a Labour Agreement, Enterprise Migration Agreement or Designated Area Migration Agreement, as appropriate.

7.3 That consideration be given to alternative English language test providers.

7.4 That consideration be given to expanding the list of nationalities that are exempt from the need to demonstrate they meet the English language requirement.

7.5 That instead of the current exemption which requires five years continuous study, five years cumulative study be accepted.

Recommendation 8 (Genuine position requirement – page 67)

8.1 That there be targeted training for decision-makers in relation to the assessment of the genuine position requirement.

8.2 That before decision-makers refuse a nomination on the basis of the genuine position requirement, the sponsor be invited to provide further information to the decision-maker.

Recommendation 9 (Skills assessments – page 68)

9. That the government should explore how skills assessments could more appropriately recognise a visa applicant's experience.

Recommendation 10 (Sponsorship – page 70)

10.1 That Standard Business Sponsors should be approved for five years and start-up business sponsors for 18 months.

10.2 That as part of the government's deregulation agenda, the department should develop a simplified process for sponsor renewal.

10.3 That the department consider combining as many sponsorship classes as possible.

10.4 That when more detailed information is available, the department should investigate the alignment of overseas business and Labour Agreement sponsorship periods with the general Standard Business Sponsorship approval period.

10.5 That the timeframe for the sponsor to notify the department of notifiable events as set out in legislation should be extended to 28 days after the event has occurred.

10.6 That the department should explore options that would enable the enforcement of the attestation relating to non-discriminatory employment practices.

10.7 That it be made unlawful for a sponsor to be paid by visa applicants for a migration outcome, and that this be reinforced by a robust penalty and conviction framework.

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Recommendation 11 (Fees – page 73)

11. That the government should review the fee structure, especially for secondary visa applicants and visa renewal applications.

Recommendation 12 (Information provision – page 75)

12.1 That sponsors be required to include as part of the signed employment contract:

- a) a summary of visa holder rights prepared by the department; and
- b) the Fair Work Ombudsman's Fair Work Information Statement.

12.2 That improvements be made to both the accessibility and content on the department's website specific to 457 visa holder rights and obligations, and utilising the department's significant online presence more effectively to educate 457 visa holders on their rights in Australia.

Recommendation 13 (A streamlined approach – page 76)

13.1 That consideration be given to creating streamlined processing within the existing 457 programme as a deregulatory measure. To maintain programme integrity, streamlining should be built around risk factors including business size, occupation, salary and sponsor behaviour.

13.2 That should the recommended nomination and visa streamlining outlined in this report be implemented, the department should investigate a redefined accredited sponsor system. Current accredited sponsors should retain their priority processing benefits until their sponsorship ceases; however, no further sponsors should be afforded accredited status until a new system is implemented.

Recommendation 14 (Labour Agreements – page 80)

14.1 That Labour Agreement negotiation times be significantly improved to enable a demand-driven and responsive pathway for temporary migration, where the standard 457 programme arrangements are not suitable.

14.2 That to enable the Labour Agreement pathway to be more open and accessible for additional industry sectors, consideration be given to the development of other template agreements that will address temporary local labour shortages in industries of need.

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Recommendation 15 (Pathways to permanent residence – page 82)

15.1 That 457 visa holders be required to work for at least two years in Australia before transitioning to the Employer Nomination Scheme or Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, and that consideration be given to the amount of time required with a nominating employer being at least one year.

15.2 That consideration be given to reviewing the age restriction on those 457 visa holders transitioning to the Employer Nomination Scheme or Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

15.3 That consideration be given to facilitating access for partners of primary sponsored 457 visa holders to secure permanent residence under the Temporary Residence Transition stream.

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Recommendation 16 (Role of education – page 88)

16. That consideration be given to the allocation of more resources to programmes aimed at helping sponsors understand and comply with their obligations, whether those programmes are delivered directly to sponsors or through the migration advice profession.

Recommendation 17 (Monitoring – page 89)

17. That greater priority be given to monitoring, and that the department continue to enhance its compliance model to ensure those resources are applied efficiently and effectively.

Recommendation 18 (Inter-agency cooperation – page 91)

18.1 That there be greater collaboration between the department and the Australian Taxation Office to uphold integrity within the 457 programme and minimise the burden on employers.

18.2 That a change to 457 visa conditions be introduced to place an obligation on the visa holder to provide the department with their Australian tax file number.

Recommendation 19 (Fair Work Ombudsman – page 93)

19.1 That the Fair Work Ombudsman's current complementary role in monitoring compliance and referral of findings to the department for action should continue.

19.2 That the department should provide information in real time that is both current and in a format compatible with that of the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Recommendation 20 (Fair Work Commission – page 95)

20.1 That the department monitor decisions of the Fair Work Commission, so as to determine if sponsors have breached obligations or provided false and misleading information.

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20.2 That the department require sponsors, when lodging a new nomination application to certify that there has been no change to the information provided to the department in relation to whether the business or an associated entity has been subject to "adverse information" as that term is defined in the legislation.

Recommendation 21 (Sanctions – page 96)

21.1 That dedicated resourcing be made available to the department to enable the investigation and prosecution of civil penalty applications and court orders.

21.2 That the department disclose greater information on its sanction actions and communicate this directly to all sponsors and the migration advice profession as well as placing information on the website.

Recommendation 22 (Systems enhancements – page 100)

22. That the department investigate the feasibility of system improvements that facilitate greater linkages with information held by other government agencies.

(Source: DIBP)

4) Free RSMS/187 Seminar online

Date: Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 9am (Perth time)

Iscah will present a live online seminar on all the issues relating to applying for the 187/RSMS Permanent visa. And at the end we can email out to you all the notes from the presentation.

If you are interested please email us at footy@iscah.com and we will send you the login details next week prior to the online seminar.

5) Priority 5 Applications (176 and 886 visas)

Allocation of Priority Group 5 applications

The remaining unallocated Priority Group 5 applications are family sponsored. Family sponsored applications are part of the State, Territory and Regional Nominated category which has a total planning level of 28 850 visa places for the 2014-15 programme year.

The number of Priority Group 5 applications processed in the 2014–15 programme year will depend on the number of higher priority applications received, and other factors, including the size of the Migration Programme and its composition, and any variation of the Direction.

Current allocation dates for General Skilled Migration applications are available.

www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/estimated-allocation-times.htm

(Source: DIBP)

6) English Language Options

From November 2014 there will be a number of alternative tests for proving your english language to DIBP. These results will be able to be used for the following categories (note 457 is not part of this list yet)

- Distinguished Talent (Australian support) (subclass 124)
- Business Talent (subclass 132)
- Former Resident (subclass 151)
- Business Owner (provisional) (subclass 160)*
- Senior Executive (provisional) (subclass 161)*
- Investor (provisional) (subclass 162)*
- State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner (provisional) (subclass 163)*
- State/Territory Sponsored Senior Executive (provisional) (subclass 164)*
- State/Territory Sponsored Investor (provisional) (subclass 165)*
- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)
- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187)
- Business Innovation & Investment (provisional) (subclass 188)
- Skilled – Independent (subclass 189)
- Skilled – Nominated (subclass 190)
- Work and Holiday (temporary) (subclass 462)
- Skilled – Recognised Graduate (subclass 476)
- Temporary Graduate (subclass 485)
- Skilled – Regional (provisional) (subclass 489)
- Distinguished Talent (subclass 858)
- Skilled – Regional (subclass 887)
- Business Innovation and Investment (permanent) (subclass 888)
- Business Owner (Residence) (subclass 890)
- Investor (Residence) (subclass 891)
- State/Territory Sponsored Business owner (Residence) (subclass 892)
- State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Residence) (subclass 893)

The marks you will need are on the next page

Vocational, Competent, Proficient or Superior

A summary of test score equivalences for all English language tests accepted by the department from November 2011 is provided below.

Later this year we will publish the Cambridge English Advanced (CAF) test score equivalencies that the department will accept from early 2016.

English Language proficiency level	Test component	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	PTE Academic	OET
Functional	Average across test components only	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Listening	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Reading	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Writing	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Speaking	4.5	32	30	n/a
Competent	Listening	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Reading	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Writing	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Speaking	4.5	32	30	n/a
Proficient (for points tested Skilled visas)	Listening	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Reading	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Writing	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Speaking	4.5	32	30	n/a
Superior (for points tested Skilled visas)	Listening	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Reading	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Writing	4.5	32	30	n/a
	Speaking	4.5	32	30	n/a

Note: Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test score equivalencies will be available from January 2015

7) Net Migration expected to rise in this program year !!

DIBP publication on 2014/2015 migration numbers to Australia and expected numbers in each category over the next program year ...

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/immigration-update/nom-june-2014.pdf>

8) Reopening of Old Parent visa and other family visas

There is a chance that the closing of the non contributory Parent visa (that is the cheaper versions), Remaining Relative, Aged Dependent Relative and Carer Visa will be disallowed in Parliament in the next two weeks.

If that happens that may leave a SMALL time period for those interested to again lodge in these categories. It is likely the government will then move to close them again anyhow but at least you get that extra opportunity.

If this is something you are interested in you should get all your paperwork ready as the time period will be very short.

Updates as soon as we hear anything further.

9) We're a diverse mob!

A recent DIBP blog

This post is part of the On the Move blog series. These posts have been prepared by our Economic Analysis Unit.

How many places of birth are represented in Australia? Which local government areas (LGAs) have a majority of their residents born overseas? What language could we all be speaking in 2021? All of these questions and more can be answered with the help of a recently released series of publications called The People of Australia (PoA).

Prepared under the auspices of the former RAC (Research Advisory Committee), the PoA series have been released every five years since 2003. They are based on data from the most recent Census and provide detailed overviews of Australia's population at the national, state and LGA levels. Birthplace, language, religion and citizenship are all covered. With several thousand graphs, tables and maps spread across eleven volumes covering over 4000 pages in total, there is something in here for everyone!

For example, did you know there are 252 distinct places of birth represented in the Australian population? Australia takes out top spot accounting for 15 million of us, while England with 900 000 and New Zealand with 483 000 make up the top three. At the other end of the list Sao Tome and Principe (252nd on the list) has contributed 11 persons.

The PoA can also reveal where all these immigrants live. As detailed in Figure 1, although they are scattered across Australia, of the nearly 600 LGAs only six can claim to have a majority of their population born overseas (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. LGAs with the largest proportions of their populations born overseas, Census 2011.

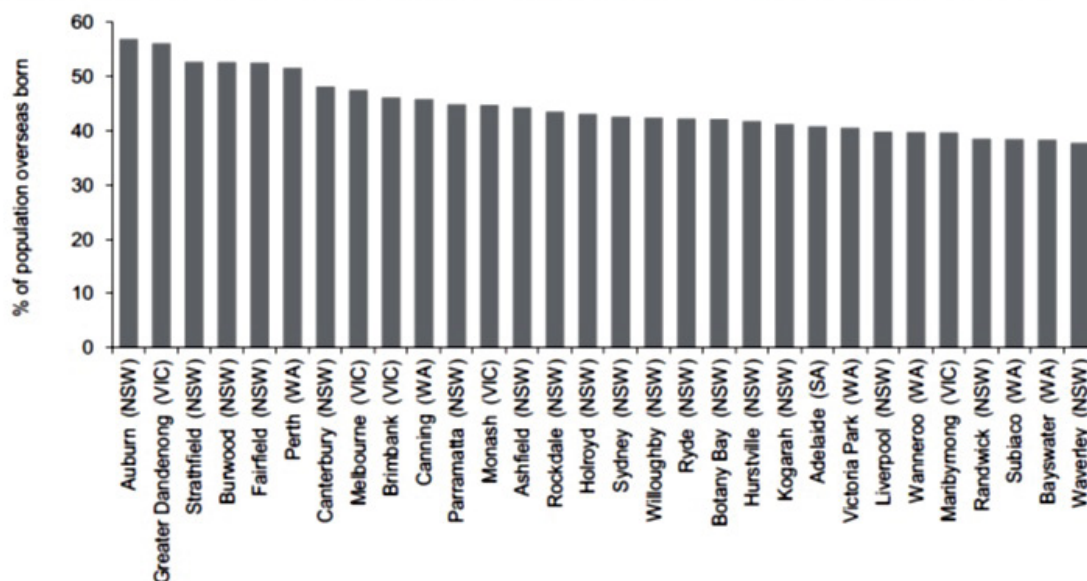


FIGURE 1 - Canberra Stones
(Source: DIBP)

10) Bonus for some Engineering Masters Students

Finally an Australian Engineering Masters is treated the same as a degree for Engineers skills assessments !

In the past the majority of Engineering Masters graduates in Australia who had completed their undergraduate degree overseas had to proceed through a lengthy CDR process with Engineers Australia.

Thankfully Engineers Australia has in their latest update accredited a number of Australian Masters courses to be able to obtain a FULL skills assessment without the lengthy CDR Report.

Bonza !

See list here :

http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/-shado/Education/Program%20Accreditation/140825_pe_last_updated_25_august_2014.pdf

11) Partner Applications – DIBP risk issues document

Partner applications involve a significant subjective judgement on the “genuineness” of a relationship.

As part of the risk assessment that often occurs in DIBP a document has emerged that grades the “risk” of a partner application. DIBP have claimed that this is no longer in use but was in the past used by some DIBP offices to work out whether an application should be processed by a more senior/experienced case officer or not.

It is an interesting profiling document and thanks goes to respected Sydney Migration Agent, Mr Peter Bollard who allowed us to repeat the information in this document, obtained through FOI from a DIBP application

http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Partnerriskprofile.pdf

12) Miscellaneous DIBP Information

Some useful information from DIBP ..

The 457 minimum salary level (TSMIT) will not be raised from \$53,900 for the 2014/2015 program year

The top five countries of origin for GSM applicants for this program year so far are: India, China, Pakistan, the UK and the Philippines;

The top 5 skilled occupation for this program year so far are: Accountant, Registered Nurse, Software Engineer, Cook and Systems Administrator;

The 'onhand' caseload for Pre SkillSelect subclasses has reduced from 98,09...6 at July 2012, to 26,181 at July 2014, a reduction of 73%

Since the introduction of SkillSelect in July 2012, the GSM pipeline for those subclasses has reduced by 42,130 applicants or 43%;

342 primary Significant Investor Visas have been granted, resulting in 1.71 billion dollars being invested in the Australian economy.

(Source: MIA/DIBP)

13) Computing content for ACS assessments

For an Australian Computer Society (ACS) skills assessment one of the requirements is that a qualification has a certain % of related units to the nominated occupation. This is usually 65%. We are often asked which units relate to which IT related occupations.

In tis regards the ACS haev a very useful list below that lists relayed units to each of their assessed occupations ...

http://www.acs.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/7641/ANZSCO-Descriptions.pdf

14) Skill Select Results 29th August 2014

Great news in the last invitation round for the family sponsored 489 visa, DIBP invited 100 applicants instead of the normal 10 and so those at 65 points who lodged their EOI up to 22nd May 2014 have now received an invite.

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 29 August 2014.

NUMBER OF INVITATIONS ISSUED IN THE SKILLSELECT INVITATION ROUND ON 29 AUGUST 2014

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	1250
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	100

During 2014-15 the following number of invitations have been issued:

NUMBER OF INVITATIONS ISSUED DURING 2014-15

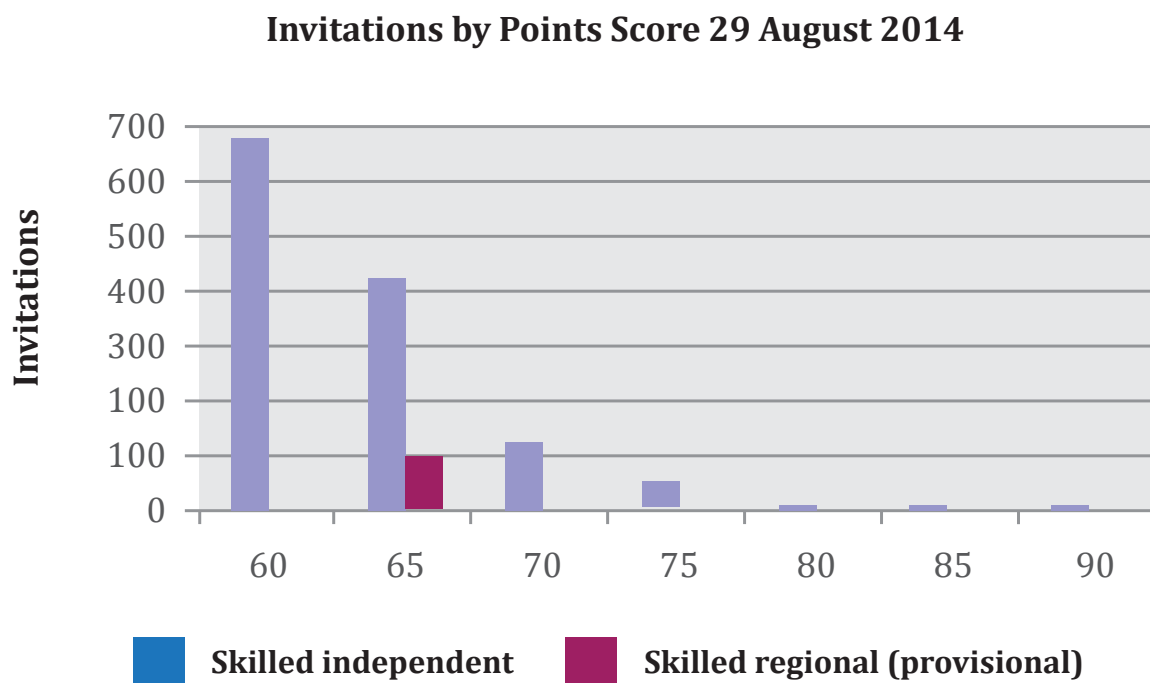
Visa subclass	July	Aug	July
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	2500	2500	5000
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	20	110	130
Total	2520	2610	5130

The above figures do not include invitations issued for state and territory government nominated visa subclasses. State and territory governments nominate throughout the month for specific points tested skilled migration and business innovation and investment visas. Separate results for these visa subclasses are provided monthly.

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29 August 2014 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 29 August 2014 round.



Invitation process and cut offs

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 visa date of effect) determines their order of invitation. Expressions of Interest with earlier dates of effect are invited before later dates.

Invitation process and cut off date by point score

Visa subclass	Points score	Visa date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	60	14/08/2014 3:07AM
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	65	22/05/2014 3:09PM

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Due to the continuing high numbers of EOIs received for the below occupations, invitations for these occupations will be issued on a pro rata basis in each twice monthly invitation round over the 2014-15 programme year. These arrangements are subject to change throughout the programme year. Please also note that SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent (Subclass 189) visas and then remaining to Skilled – Regional (Subclass 489) (Provisional – Family Sponsored) visas. If all places are taken up by Subclass 189 visas then there will be no invitations issued for Subclass 489 visas in these occupations:

- ICT Business and Systems Analysts
- Accountants
- Software and Applications Programmers.

The points score and the visa date of effect cut-off for the above occupation of ICT Business and System Analysts in the 29 August 2014 invitation round is as follows:

Note: Below points score and visa date of effect is for Skilled Independent (subclass 189).

POINTS SCORES AND THE VISA DATES OF EFFECT CUT-OFF FOR THE ABOVE OCCUPATION IN THE 29 AUGUST 2014 INVITATION ROUND

Occupation ID	Description	Points score	Visa date of effect
2211	Accountants	60	30/07/2014 11:56AM
2611	ICT Business and Systems Analysts	60	30/11/2013 10:38PM
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	60	06/08/2014 11:12AM

(Source: DIBP)

Hope you enjoyed all that. Don't forget to "like" our Iscah Facebook page to get more regular updates, enjoy your week and see you all hopefully on Monday 13th October 2014.



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