

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 219 | 19th September 2016

Heyy ,

Welcome to the latest jam packed edition of our monthly newsletter.

I am busy getting ready for my son's 11th birthday (aka my retirement fund) and watching the footy finals. Amazing this time last year the Dockers and West Coast were not playing in the 2nd week of the finals, as we had finished 1st and 2nd and had the week off as a reward for winning in the first week. This year both teams again are not playing the 2nd week of the finals.. .because we are both out already !!!

As they say though, if you get served lemons, go make some lemonade, ha !!
And so on to this week's huge newsletter ...

Hope you enjoy it, and if you want to get on the main mailing list drop an email to us at newsletter@iscah.com



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1) The 100 luckiest visa applicants on the planet

The 1st September 2016 Skill Select round brought up some amazing results and likely 100 of the luckiest people on the planet.

Where to start ? DIBP had intended to invite 1400 applicants for the 189 visa and 100 applicants for the 489 (family sponsored) visa on the 31st August 2016. Due to some sort of DIBP system glitch this was postponed until 1st September 2016 and then the fun and games really started.

Firstly for some reason the pro rata occupations of Accountant, Auditors, Systems Analysts, Software programmers, Other Engineering professionals and Computer Network Professionals, which normally have an invite total of around 527 places, had their invite quotas TRIPLED. This meant that instead of the usual 104 places for Accountants, a juicy 312 invites were given. Similarly Auditors had 165 invites (instead of the normal 55) etc.

This meant that as the DIBP skill select system slowly invited all the 75 point EOIs in all occupation, then the 70 point EOIs and worked their way down to 65 points, they hit their 1400 maximum very quickly on the 189 allocation. While some occupations (Accountants, Auditors and Systems Analysts) closed quickly, some of the tripled pro rata occupations STILL had places left (just Software and Applications programmers, Other Engineering Professionals, Computer Network Professionals). They stopped allocating 189 invites at this point and they were still at an unusual 65 points invitation mark (because of the pro rata tripling this round).

Now bonus time they were still left with 100 places for the 489 relative sponsored visas !! Normally DIBP would not allocate ANY of these places to the pro rata occupations as their policy is that 489s would only get a look in if ALL the 189s had received an invite. Normally there are no pro rata occupations left at this stage. But in the perfect storm of DIBP tripling the pro ratas, some pro ratas not having been filled, and the invite mark not having yet dropped below 65 points in this fluky round, the 100 places have gone almost entirely to 489 family sponsored applicants in the PRO RATA OCCUPATIONS of Software and Applications programmers, Other Engineering Professionals, Computer Network Professionals.

We have already seen one very lucky fellow who lodged an EOI for Software and Applications programmer in August 2016 at 60 (+ 10 relative points) invited on 1st September 2016 for his 489 visa. He would have had no chance without this perfect storm of events as the pro rata occupations are not supposed to receive any invites this program year under current policy if there are any 189s left (which there were).

Good luck to those 100 people (pretty close to all of them would have been pro rata occupations), I doubt DIBP would let this happen again though...

If you or any of your Facebook friends want to keep up to date with all the latest visa news just "like" this page. We bring you all the coolest (or is that hottest ?) visa news every day.

(Source: Iscah comment on DIBP stats)

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2) Queensland reopen 190 state nominations

Queensland State Nomination Policy states that occupations on the Queensland Skilled Occupation Lists (QSOL) may be subject to a program target. This means that the number of nominations that Business and Skilled Migration (BSMQ) will process for a particular occupation category may be capped within a given period.

Due to an overwhelming number of applications, we have now met our targets for the following occupation categories on the QSOL- offshore and interstate list and we are therefore no longer accepting offshore and interstate applications for these occupation categories:

- All ICT occupation categories
- Engineering Technologist

As of Monday 22 August 2016, we will reopen processing for all other occupations on the revised list. (Please see QSOL- offshore and interstate for the updated lists). Expressions of Interest (EOI) which have not yet received an invitation for Queensland State Nomination will not be processed for this round of nominations. QSOLs are reviewed every 6 months. We recommend monitoring the BSMQ website and social media for updates on whether occupations become available for state nomination at a later date. In this case, you will be required to resubmit a new EOI.

Onshore and university post-graduate applications continue to be processed and no changes have been made to those lists. Please see QSOL- based in QLD and QSOL – QLD graduate and for further details. For application criteria please see Fact sheet – Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) and Skilled Regional (provisional) visa (subclass 489).

(Source: Queensland State Government)

3) A five year visitor visa for Parents

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton says his department is working on the details of the long stay visa for sponsored parents but he was unable to give a time-frame for implementation of the program. "The department is working through how that practically would work at the moment... how we can have the right sort of measure in place so that we can have proper compliance with the program," he told the SBS Punjabi radio program.

The Coalition, in the run-up to the July 2 Federal election, had announced a visitor visa for the parents allowing a continuous stay of up to 5 years. This announcement followed Labor's announcement of a parental visa with a continuous stay of three years.

Mr. Dutton says it's important to have a sustainable program in place.

"One of the difficulties we have is the record number of students we are bringing in, the people we are bringing in through the skilled program. Everybody, if you multiply that, wants to bring their family, not only from the Indian community but from the Chinese community and every nationality that's present here wants to bring a grandmother or a grandfather, a cousin, an aunt, an uncle and very quickly we expand the number beyond manageable level," he said.

"We need to have a program which is sustainable which is going to provide those opportunities on a temporary basis to provide support to families to bring somebody out. So we will work through to make sure that we get the program right," he added. Mr. Dutton said the government will make an announcement "as soon as we can".

The issue of a Long Stay Parental Visa gained currency in the run-up to the federal election following a sustained campaign by a few members of the Indian community.

Arvind Duggal, the convener of the Long Stay for Parents Campaign, said he and other community members want this announcement to be implemented very soon. He also said that the finer details of the program will be crucial.

"We welcome what Mr. Dutton has said on this. But we want to know what are the finer details, the conditions of the visa, the bond money etc. It should stay within the means of the hardworking migrants who want to have their parents here with them."

Mr. Duggal had told SBS Punjabi last week that he was struggling to get a response from Mr. Dutton's office to his queries about the implementation of the program. For more news and updates,

(Source: SBS)

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4) Are you a Tasmanian graduate cook ?

Are you an international student who has graduated in Tasmania with a cookery qualification and is working, or wanting to work in Tasmania?

If so, you may be eligible for a Join the Industry grant.

Join the Industry grants

A grants program for international student cookery graduates

Are you seeking a qualified cook or chef?

Is your Tasmanian hospitality business looking for staff?

Or are you an international student who has graduated in Tasmania with a cookery qualification and is working, or wanting to work in Tasmania?

If so, you may be eligible for a Join the Industry grant.

Join the Industry grants cover the cost of migration advice and visa charges for cookery graduates who want to stay on in Tasmania and contribute to the State's booming hospitality industry.

The grants program aims to address skills shortages for cooks and chefs by supporting Tasmanian hospitality businesses to access locally trained talent.

International cookery graduates bring new and innovative ideas to Tasmania's rapidly growing hospitality industry. With a boost in the numbers of tourists from Asia enjoying Tasmania's food and beverages, these graduates also provide unique culinary skills to cater for these growing markets.

Employers wanting to employ a graduate for a minimum of two years can apply through the RSMS scheme

https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/sponsoring_employers/subclass_187_-_regional_sponsored_migration_scheme. The graduate needs to have an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate III including at least two years of on-the-job training, or an AQF Certificate IV (ANZSCO Skill Level 3).

An employment contract for a minimum of one year will enable a graduate to apply for the Job Ready Program (JRP). The JRP is a four step employment-based program for international graduates who require a skills assessment to apply for General Skilled Migration. The program is managed by Trades Recognition Australia, a business unit located within the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Graduates applying for the JRP as a Chef, must hold a minimum Certificate IV in either Commercial Cookery, Asian Cookery or Patisserie and be employed as, and doing the duties expected of, a Chef. More information on the JRP is available at www.tradesrecognitionaustralia.gov.au.

Tasmania's reputation for culinary excellence and world-class food and beverages continues to attract cookery students from around the world and they are making a significant contribution to Tasmania's tourism and hospitality sector.

The Join the Industry grants program is proudly supported by the Tasmanian Government in collaboration with the Tasmanian Hospitality Association and TasTAFE.

(Source: Tasmanian State Government)

5) Student processing facing unacceptable delays

Student visa shift risks \$18bn industry

A new “simplified” visa processing regime is causing catastrophic delays to processing overseas student applications and a big spike in visa rejections, causing universities and English-language colleges to postpone courses and threatening the viability of the \$18.5 billion export sector.

Education providers say that thousands of overseas students, particularly from China, have been caught up in the new system, introduced on July 1.

The delays are not only causing education institutions financial stress but threatening longstanding partnerships, and putting at risk a prestigious scholarship program through which China sends abroad 6000 of its best postgraduates each year.

The Chinese Scholarship Council is so concerned about the delays it is recommending students approved for postgraduate study in Australia seek other host countries, said Australian Council of Graduate Research executive officer Fiona Zammit.

Brett Blacker, executive director of peak group English Australia, which represents English-language colleges, described the current delays and punitive rejections regime as a crisis. “We have members who have hundreds of students waiting for their visas,” Mr Blacker said. “A lot of these students are set to study English courses, then move into foundation courses and degree programs. The knock-on effect of the delays mean they will miss the start date for their next intake.”

The University of NSW is one institution struggling with the delays. Vice president, international, Fiona Docherty, said the university had 350 students due to start next week still awaiting visa approvals.

“We’ve had a 50 per cent increase in applications this year, which is a good problem to have, but delays in processing is not good for our reputation,” Ms Docherty said.

Mr Blacker said the main issue appeared to be with applications from China, which supplies about more than a quarter of all overseas students. Last year there were 645,200 enrolments by full-fee paying international students in Australia on student visas, representing almost a 10 per cent increase on 2014. Education for overseas students is Australia’s third-largest export industry after coal and iron ore, bringing at least \$18.5 billion into the country.

Mr Blacker said the simplified system was wantonly complex and lacking in nuance, applying the same criteria to very low-risk students from Japan, for example, as to high-risk applications from Nepal or Pakistan. Ms Zammit said she was aware of visa applicants waiting nine months for a response. A Department of Immigration and Border Control spokesman acknowledged changes to the visa system had triggered the backlog. He said the department aimed to finalise 75 per cent of complete applications within a month. He said the department would prioritise visa applications lodged more than a month ago. Students arriving in Australia can generally start study on a bridging visa.

(Source: The Australian newspaper)

6) Who you gonna call ?? – Student Ombudsman help

A very important source of help for International students if they have issues with their education provider is the Overseas Students Ombudsmans
They have just released a new help video ..

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/4bEygPNYUoQ>

7) ACT releases new skilled list then closes to overseas applicants

The ACT Government has released a new ACT Occupation List effective, 1 September 2016.
A summary of the list provides the following information:

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/act-occupation-list/>

Applicants living overseas:

Effective immediately (13 September 2016 at 4pm AEST) applications for ACT nomination from overseas residents will not be accepted. If you are living overseas you will not be able to commence an application for ACT nomination of a Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa until the program reopens in 2017.

Applications lodged on or before 13 September 2016 will be processed in queue order.

Canberra residents - This action does not affect Canberra based applicants. You are still able to apply for ACT nomination if you meet the nomination criteria.

(Source: ACT Government)

8) Backpackers not happy with 417 visa tax hikes

Backpackers already turning off Australia as tax hike looms

BACKPACKERS are already starting to give Australia a miss in the face of planned tax changes that will see them hand over a third of anything they earn down under to the government.

The latest International Visitor Survey by Tourism Research Australia showed a seven per cent fall in the time backpackers spent down under.

The downturn is in stark contrast to other overseas visitors who increased more than 10 per cent in the year to June 30, and racked up 5 per cent more nights in Australia

Tourism industry leaders were quick to blame the looming “backpacker tax” for the result and again urged the Federal Government to scrap the proposed change — due to take effect at the start of next year.

Under the change, people on Working Holiday visas will be taxed at a rate of 32.5 cents in every dollar earned, as opposed to current arrangements which see them taxed at about 19 cents in the dollar after they earn more than \$18,000.

WELCOME MAT WITHDRAWN

Australian Tourism Export Council Managing Director Peter Shelley said the IVS results made it clear the government had sent the wrong message to backpackers.

“The word is out on the backpacker tax and we are beginning to see the signs of a change in demand from this market who are spending less time on our shores and therefore less money in our economy,” said Mr Shelley.

“We urge the Federal Government in its current review of the Working Holiday Maker visa, to scrap the proposed tax and reinstate Australia’s position as a leading destination for backpackers.”

Tourism and Transport Forum CEO Margy Osmond said the downturn detected in the IVS was likely to be just the tip of the iceberg.

“We know from a survey of backpackers by Monash University and YHA that the Government is risking a 60 per cent exodus of working holiday makers if the 32.5 per cent tax becomes law,” Ms Osmond said.

“That will smash regional and rural economies that depend on the spending of visiting backpackers and significantly undermine the ability for tourism operators to secure workers.”

REGIONAL IMPACT

Some regions were feeling the backlash worse than others including Queensland’s Sunshine Coast where backpacker numbers were down 5.5 per cent in the year to June, compared with the previous 12-months.

“We will be making strong calls to the Government to abandon the idea of the tax because it is well-known that the backpackers of today are the higher-spend visitors of the future,” said Visit Sunshine Coast CEO Simon Latchford.

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Alice Springs, the Whitsundays and the NSW North Coast also saw significant falls in backpacker numbers with only Tasmania experiencing an increase in the amount of time travellers spent in the state.

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Federal Tourism Minister Steven Ciobo acknowledged there were “mixed results” for backpacker numbers but said overall the industry was booming.

“Australia’s tourism industry is currently growing three times as fast as the rest of the Australian economy,” said Mr Ciobo.

“International tourists spent \$38.1 billion in the financial year, an increase of 14 per cent or \$4.7 billion over the year.”

(Source: www.news.com.au)

9) Quest for PR for Retirement (405/410) visa holders

There is an outstanding lobbygroup (BERIA) who are hoping to secure a permanent visa pathway for holders of the 405 and 410 retiree visas.

Their website is here www.retirementvisa410.com/

And their latest news release is here :

Hello Everyone,

I apologise for the long interval between updates but, as you will see, the team has not been idle. After a good deal of communication from ourselves and other retiree groups, we are today able to confirm and convey the following information.

The Minister for Information and Border Protection is aware of the concerns raised by retiree visa holders (subclass 405 and 410) and has asked the Department to engage the Australian Government Actuary to undertake a review of the costs associated with providing permanent residence to retirement visa holders.

The AGA review will help to assist the Department undertake an analysis of the beneficial economic and social impact made by retirees who live in Australia. As part of this Review, representatives from the Department have met with Retiree organisations including BERIA.&nb sp;

As you might expect, BERIA has made a substantial submission within the meeting we had with the DIBP team.

We are, of course, hopeful that the Department's review will lead to a recommendation that retiree visa holders who will have lived in Australia for over 10 years will have a pathway to permanent residence made available to them. As we have been repeatedly advised, however, the final decision will need to be taken by the whole of government.

Don't give up just yet!

With best regards

David Humphries and the team.

(Source: BERIA)

10) Roley becomes regional

Extra regions have been added to the definition of regional Australia under the Working Holiday Program. This means if you work 3 months in specified work in these areas you may be eligible for a second year on a working holiday visa.

The extra regions are postcodes of 6076 and 6111 in the Perth hills (37km from Perth city), Which adds my home village and secret paradise of Roleystone to regional Australia. !!! OMG that is hilarious !!

(Source: DIBP)

11) Additional requirements for family/partner sponsorships

To address the integrity issues currently experienced in the sponsored family visa program (the program), DIBP have introduced a Bill into parliament that will extend relevant aspects of this sponsorship framework to apply to family sponsored visas with a view to:

- separate sponsorship assessment from the visa application process for family sponsored visas;
 - require the approval of persons as family sponsors before any relevant visa applications are made;
 - impose statutory obligations on persons who are or were approved as family sponsors;
 - provide for sanctions if such obligations are not satisfied;
 - facilitate the sharing of personal information between a range of parties associated with the program;
- and
- improve the management of family violence in the delivery of the program by allowing the refusal of a sponsorship application; and cancellation and / or barring of a family sponsor where inappropriate use of the program or serious offences are detected – especially those involving family violence.

more details will be provided if/when the bill passes and DIBP explain how these additional sponsorship steps will be implemented.

And the official announcement and spin to justify yet more red tape ...

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Partner and family visa checks to address family violence

The Turnbull Government has today reconfirmed its unwavering commitment to addressing violence against women and children with the introduction of the Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016.

The Bill will mandate character checks of sponsors of family visa applications.

Currently police checks are required for sponsors in applications where children are involved and specifically focus on the protection of children.

The legislative changes will expand checks to all sponsors to allow better consideration of the potential for family violence.

They will enable the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to refuse sponsorship applications in circumstances where the sponsor has convictions for paedophilia, other offences against children or offences relating to violence.

In refusing an application, the Department will have to consider a range of factors including the length of the relationship, the type of offence and how recently it occurred, the relevance of the offence to the family relationship and any other mitigating circumstances.

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton said the changes to the Migration Act will significantly strengthen the integrity and protections within the family visa programme.

"Newly arrived migrants are among the more vulnerable people in our community. They are less likely to have an established support network, may not have an English speaking background and are less likely to know how to seek assistance," Mr Dutton said.

"These changes add an important safeguard to the family visa programme and will ensure sponsors are aware of their obligations under Australian law and are appropriately assessed before being approved as a family sponsor.

"Strengthened information sharing provisions will also ensure that both applicants and sponsors can make fully informed decisions before committing to the visa application process."

The Minister for Women Senator Michaelia Cash said the Bill is an important step toward protecting women and children against the very real threat of family violence.

In 2015-16, 529 partner visa applicants claimed they were victims of family violence, compared to 458 claims made the previous year.

"While applicants for a partner visa who seek to remain in Australia on grounds of family violence make up less than two per cent of the partner visa caseload, we are committed to implementing policies to keep women arriving in Australia safe from violence," Minister Cash said.

The changes support the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children by implementing sections of Action Item 11 from the Second Action Plan: requiring additional information disclosure by the Australian husband or fiancé applying for an overseas spouse visa.

(Source: Australian government)

12) New Entrepreneur Visa

Announcement from DIBP:

We are making changes to the visa system as part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda. These changes will help Australia attract and retain the best and brightest entrepreneurial talent and the skilled, talented people Australia needs to drive ideas from research to commercial reality.

On 10 September 2016, we launched a new Entrepreneur visa stream and amended the points test for the skilled migration programme.

The Entrepreneur visa is part of the Business Innovation and Investment visa programme. Entrepreneurs interested in applying for the Entrepreneur visa will need to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in SkillSelect and be nominated by a State or Territory government.

Key eligibility criteria includes:

- Applicants must be undertaking, or proposing to undertake, an entrepreneurial venture in Australia.
- The entrepreneurial venture must not be related to residential real estate or labour hire or involve purchasing an existing business or franchise.
- Applicants must also be under 55 years of age, have a competent level of English, and have at least 30 per cent interest in their entrepreneurial venture.
- There must be one or more funding agreements in place for at least \$200,000 between the entrepreneur or venture and a third party funding body or bodies.
- Sources of third party funding are limited to state and territory governments, Commonwealth agencies, Publicly Funded Research Organisations, and investors registered as a Venture Capital Limited Partnerships (VCLP) or Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnerships (ESVCLP). Agreements outlining funds from a combination of these sources are also acceptable.
- Applicants must have a business plan outlining their plans for their venture in Australia.

An Entrepreneur visa holder can progress to permanent residency after four years if they can meet a measure of success, which includes factors such as business turnover, employment of Australians and ability to obtain significant financial backing.

(Source: DIBP)

13) Extra 5 points for some STEM and ICT students

The amendment to the points test will enhance the pathway to permanent residence for students who have completed Doctoral or Masters by research-level qualifications in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) or specified information and communication technology (ICT) related fields in Australia.

The current points test will be amended to award additional points for Doctorate and Masters by research-level qualifications gained from Australian universities in STEM, specified ICT and other related fields.

The following fields of education qualifications are proposed to be accepted under this new measure and are defined by the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS):

Field of Education:

- Biological Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Other Natural and Physical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Computer Science
- Information Systems
- Information Technology
- Other Information Technology
- Aerospace Engineering and Technology
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Technology
- Engineering and Related Technologies
- Geomatic Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering and Technology
- Maritime Engineering and Technology
- Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Technology
- Other Engineering and Related Technologies
- Process and Resources Engineering.

Graduates who want to determine whether their qualification is eligible are able to search the CRICOS website. If their qualification is at Doctorate or Masters by research-level and their field of education is listed in the above table then they will be eligible for five additional points towards their points test.

<http://cricos.education.gov.au/Course/CourseSearch.aspx>

(go to this link, enter your CRICOS course code and you can see the "Field of Education" of your course.

It needs to match one of the fields above and be at the academic level of Doctorate or Masters by research)

(Source: DIBP)

14) Changes in Visa payments

DIBP have just introduced legislation to allow PAYPAL to be used as an additional method of visa application payment.

Also they have reduced the current credit card surcharge fees from

Visa/Mastercard from 1.08% to 0.98%
American Express from 1.99% to 1.4%
Diners Club from 2.91% to 1,99%

(Source: DIBP)

15) Latest Iscah Q&A Video – Edition 15

Here is Edition 15 of our Iscah Q&A Video Series answering all your latest visa questions. This edition is about Accountants, the new 5 points for innovation, 485s, 489s, 887s, points test and much more

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cxMrU0dwXo&feature=youtu.be>

(Source: DIBP)

16) Changes proposed for skilled and family visas

The Migrant Intake into Australia Inquiry report was delivered to the Government on the 13th April 2016 and has on the 12th September finally been released to the public.

The report lists a number of significant recommendations for changes to the skilled points test, employer sponsorship and parent migration amongst other changes.

DIBP will have to decide which of these will be implemented and when.

A summary of the major recommendations are below:
(note that references in that document to the "skill stream" include both points test AND company sponsored visas)

Also the full main report and summary can be found here
<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/migrant-intake/report>

Summary of Migrant Intake Review September 2016

12.1 All primary applicants for skill stream permanent immigration should be required to demonstrate at least 'competent' English-language proficiency.

13.1 The Australian Government should consider reducing the age limit of 50 years for permanent migration under the skill stream and provide greater weight in the points-based system for younger immigrants.

The Australian Government should maintain the existing capacity to provide exemptions to the age rule for particularly skilled applicants.

13.2 The Australian Government should use the Skilled Occupations List as the sole basis for determining skill requirements for the different streams of the permanent skilled immigration program, including for those using the Temporary Residence Transition visa

They should undertake a small pilot scheme that tests the merit of supplementing the Skilled Occupations List with:

- a more granular treatment of some occupations that cannot be easily allocated between the different skill levels
- the inclusion of particular, well defined, skill sets that are not Occupationally specific

13.3 The Australian Government should significantly increase, up to a given maximum, the contributing points to a primary applicant based on the skill and other traits of the adult secondary applicant. All primary applicants without partners should be given additional points equivalent to the maximum above.

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13.5 The Australian Government should adopt a common points system for the entire permanent skill stream, but in doing so should add points to a visa application by a primary applicant who has been nominated by an employer.

Over the medium term, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Department of Education and Training, and the Department of Employment should jointly develop a systematic empirical approach for determining the allocation of points, based on the existing data on the traits of the permanent skill stream and follow-up evidence on employment and other outcomes

13.8 The Australian Government should amend arrangements for permanent parent visa applicants. In the short term, it should:

- increase substantially the charge for contributory parent visas
- narrow eligibility to non-contributory parent visas to cases where there are strong compassionate grounds to do so, accompanied by clear published criteria to limit applications for such visas
- consider lowering the caps for contributory parent visas
- introduce a more flexible temporary parent visa that would provide longer rights of residence, but with requirements, as for other temporary visas, that the parents or sponsoring child would meet the costs of any income or health supports during the period of residence.

The Australian Government should retain current arrangements for family reunions involving partners or children.

11.1 The Australian Government should monitor the effects and assess the costs and benefits of changes to the:

- tax status of working holiday makers (to take effect from 1 July 2016)
- eligibility of voluntary work as an input to the 88 days of employment needed to get a year's extension to a working holiday visa.

If the community-wide costs are found to outweigh the benefits, the Government should revisit these changes with a view to varying the conditions of the changes or rescinding them.

11.2 The Australian Government should commission a public inquiry into the labour market and broader economywide effects of work rights for international student, temporary graduate and working holiday maker visa holders

11.4 The Australian Government should commission by 2020 an independent review of the effectiveness of changes implemented as a result of the recommendations made by the Independent Review into Integrity in the Subclass 457 Programme (the Azarias Review).

In particular, the review should examine:

- the success of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration in adopting an evidence-based and transparent approach to identifying skills shortages, and the relative merit of establishing an independent body to undertake this function
- the effectiveness of the Government's changes to the training requirements on sponsors of Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa holders

11.5 The Fair Work Ombudsman should commission the development of a smart phone app that would provide temporary immigrant workers with information on their work rights and responsibilities, and with links for lodging complaints about abuses or exploitation.

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12.2 The Australian Government should implement recommendation 4.24 of the 2012 joint study by the Australian Productivity Commission and the New Zealand Productivity Commission on Strengthening trans-Tasman economic relations. In particular, it should:

- address the issues faced by a small but growing number of non- Protected Special Category visa holders living long term in Australia, including their access to certain welfare supports and voting rights. This requires policy changes by the Australian Government, including the development of a pathway to achieve permanent residency and/or citizenship

13.7 The Australian Government should abolish the Significant and Premium Investor Visa Programmes.

13.6 The Australian Government should, as an initial step:

- collect more detailed data on the characteristics and performance indicators of the Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 188) and of permanent immigrants under the Business Talent visa (subclass 132)
- examine the effects, costs and benefits of these visa streams to assess whether there are grounds to modify the criteria and planning levels for these visa subclasses.

The Australian Government should review the Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa (subclass 888) in 2023, and use the results to further inform its decision about the future of the program. Planning levels for the Business Innovation and Investment Programme should not be increased until the 2023 review is complete

15.1 The Australian Government should increase transparency around its visa charging system by conducting and publishing biennial reviews covering:

- changes to visa charges and their terms and conditions, the number of visa applications and the characteristics of immigrants by visa subclass over the previous five years
- the underlying visa charging methodologies.

The Australian Government should also examine the effects of alternative models of visa charging, with a view to moving towards a more structured system of visa charging. Any charging system should include discounts or exemptions for children.

(Source: Australian government)

17) Article in response to the Migration report

In its report submitted to the government on Monday, the Productivity Commission urged the Australian government to substantially hike the fee for the contributory parental visa.

Three days later, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said the government was considering "policy settings" for family visas, Fairfax Media reported.

Productivity Commission in its report said the \$55,000 visa fee covered only a fraction of the \$335,000 to \$410,000 cost to the taxpayers and urged the government to double the fee in order to meet the cost to the community.

The commission said that the 7200 parents arriving in Australia pay relatively little tax, and each year cost between \$2.6 and \$3.2 billion over their lifetime as they require more services.

Mr. Dutton said this overly complex visa system was supported by ageing infrastructure and required further changes.

"Work to simplify and reform the system must go further to better position us to deal with the increasing demand from travellers," he said while speaking at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

"Each year around 130,000 places are made available for skilled persons and their families to migrate permanently to Australia, and around 60,000 places are available for families of Australians to do the same. These numbers are substantial and capable of having a significant impact on the labour force and welfare costs into the future," he said.

"It is therefore vitally important that we carefully consider the policy settings for the permanent skilled and family streams of the migration program. With the right settings these new entrants to the labour market can be an effective supplement to the labour force, and not a substitute for it," he added.

(Source: SBS)

18) Change in some Temporary visas

The Australian Government recommends, subject to approval by the Governor-General, the introduction of reforms to the temporary activity visa framework on 19 November 2016.

From 19 November 2016, the following visas would be closed to new applications:

- Subclass 401 Temporary Work (Long Stay Activity) visa
- Subclass 402 Training and Research visa
- Subclass 416 Special Program visa
- Subclass 420 Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa
- Subclass 488 Superyacht Crew visa.

Applications lodged before 19 November 2016 would be processed under pre-19 November 2016 legislation. These visas would be incorporated within the proposed new temporary activity visa framework.

There would be four new visa subclasses introduced from 19 November 2016:

- Subclass 400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa
- Subclass 403 Temporary Work (International Relations) visa
- Subclass 407 Training visa
- Subclass 408 Temporary Activity visa.

The new framework is designed to make applying for a temporary visa easier. It would reduce red tape for business, industry and individuals by removing sponsorship and nomination requirements for specific short stay activities.

On 19 November 2016, the new visa subclasses would allow applicants to enter Australia for temporary work or a specified activity.

More information on eligibility for these visas will be published on the this website in the coming weeks.

Subclass 400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa

This visa would be for people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis to:

- undertake short-term, highly specialised, non-ongoing work
- in limited circumstances, participate in an activity or work relating to Australia's interests.

Subclass 403 Temporary Work (International Relations) visa

This visa would be for people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis:

- in relation to a bilateral agreement
- to represent a foreign government or to teach a foreign language in an Australian school
- to undertake full-time domestic work for a diplomat
- as a person with statutory privileges and immunities
- to participate in the Seasonal Worker Programme.

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Subclass 407 Training visa

This visa would be for people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis to undertake occupational training or participate in classroom based professional development activities.

Subclass 408 Temporary Activity visa

This visa would be for people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis to:

- work in the entertainment industry
- participate in a non-ongoing cultural or social activities at the invitation of an Australian organisation
- observe or participate as an academic in a research project
- undertake full-time religious work
- participate in a special programme to enhance international relations and cultural exchange
- participate in high-level sports (including training)
- work in a skilled position under a staff exchange arrangement
- participate in an Australian government endorsed event
- work as a superyacht crew member
- undertake full-time domestic work in the household of certain senior foreign executives.

(Source: DIBP)

19) SkillSelect 1 September 2016 round results

Invitations issued on 1 September 2016

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	1400
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	100

6 July 2016 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 6 July 2016 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.

Visa subclass	Points score	Date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	65	20 August 2016 1.48 pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	65	11 August 2016 7.40 pm

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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 programme year. SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent visas (subclass 189) and then 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.

- Accountants
- Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers
- ICT Business and System Analysts
- Software and Applications Programmers
- Other Engineering Professionals
- Computer Network Professionals

Points scores and the visa dates of effect cut off for the below occupations in the 1 September 2016 invitation round.

Points	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	70	31 July 2016 10.51 am
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	70	24 August 2016 4.53 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	65	25 April 2016 11.22 am
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	65	20 August 2016 12.44 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	65	19 August 2016 11.55 am
2631	Computer Network Professionals	65	19 August 2016 10.49 pm

(Source: DIBP)

OK folks, bet that left you breathless !!
See you all on Monday 17th
September... Cheers



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