

Iscah's Analysis of the Skill Select Round 23rd November 2016

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Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers – As predicted this occupation became Pro rata for the 23/11/2016 round with no invites having been given on 9/11/2016. Only 17 places were allocated as we anticipated. This should ring alarm bells as with the previous two October rounds resulting in 123 and 112 invites, 17 only from now on will mean 65 and likely even 70 points needed for an invitation for a 189 visa.

Of course with this occupation Pro rata that also means that DIBP will not invite any more 489 Family sponsored visas this program year in this occupation.

Electronics Engineers – Ditto, as predicted this occupation became Pro rata for the 23/11/2016 round with no invites having been given on 9/11/2016. Only 29 places were allocated compared to the 57 and 59 places invited in the two October rounds. With 29 places we expect that around 65 points will be the invitation mark for a 189 visa from now on, with possibly a small handful of 60 pointers thrown in.

Of course with this occupation Pro rata that also means that DIBP will not invite any more 489 Family sponsored visas this program year in this occupation.

Accountants – With 98 invites per round the EOI invitation date at 70 points is painfully creeping forward at just 3-5 days for each of the last four rounds. At that rate with an 82 day backlog (last invite was 2/9/2016) that is about 20 invitation rounds. So a 70 pointer lodged today is likely to take still 40 weeks.

Auditors – The EOI invitation date at 70 points was artificially affected by a large number of August 2016 invited 189 applicants deciding not to take up those invitations. Likely because they at the same time received invitations as Accountants in the same round. As such their invites were thrown back into the EOI system and they received a second invite which has skewed the published EOI invitation dates. These people are likely to also decline their second invitations for the same reason. After that, their EOI is deleted from the system and so will not affect the EOI invitation dates. The question we have posed to DIBP is will they use these declined invitations to invite legitimate 189s who really do want an invite. Or will those declined invitations be lost in their system forever ?

In the meantime the Auditor invitation date has “caught” up to where it was several rounds ago and we anticipate that an Auditor lodging now at 70 points will take 30-40 weeks for an invite for the 189 visa.

ICT Business Analysts – It is likely the reason the invitation dates went backwards for this occupation in recent rounds was similar to Auditors. That is, some people were invited who had already received an invitation in a different IT occupation. As such when they declined their ICT Business Analyst invitation, two months later DIBP would have reinvited them again so skewing the date at 65 points

An EOI lodged today at 70 points should get an invite next round, at 65 points it won't be before July 2017.

Software and Applications Programmer – The 65 point passmark continues to steadily receive invites. 2948 of the 5662 places have been used and with invites at 225 per round the places should last right through to the last skill select round in June 2016. An EOI lodged now at 65 points would likely receive an invite within 2-4 weeks.

Other Engineering Professionals – DIBP did not pro rata this occupation until over half the occupations were used (503 out of 1000) just two rounds into the program year. So now as they limit the invites to just 28 per round it has forced the invite mark up to 65 points with about a 8 weeks wait for a 65 point EOI lodged today. Based on 28 per round this occupation will close in mid April 2017.

Computer Network Professionals – Similarly for this occupation, DIBP did not Pro Rata it until 561 of the 1426 places were used after just 2 rounds. Now at 50 places per round this occupation will also close in mid April 2017. Also 65 points are needed for a current invite and an EOI lodged now at that mark would likely take 6 weeks for an invite.

Registered Nurses – Out of nowhere DIBP have decided to pro rata this occupation. It makes no sense. Last program year there were over 3000 invited. This year the Occupation Ceiling is 16,346. To date only 1222 had been invited when DIBP then invited 0 on the 9th November and then limited it to just 27 on the 14th November. Presumably that is the new number of invites per round which would bring the total invites eventually to just 1627 for the program year.

Interestingly that is almost exactly 10% of the total occupational ceiling. And given it is the department of education who manages the numbers, I can't totally ignore the possibility they have the comma in the wrong place and think the occupational ceiling was just 1,634 instead of the correct 16,346.

Also this occupation is not on the flagged list of occupations in danger of coming off the SOL next program year.

As it stands now, with just 27 invites per round (and previously around 120 being invited each round) it means the invite mark will be shortly 65 and even 70 points. Worryingly we have heard reports that in the round today (7th December) that some Nurses at 65 points did NOT get an invite.

Also 489 family sponsored will now be closed off under this occupation for the rest of the program year as all the 27 places will go to 189s each round.

Overall Skilled Program – DIBP are even further behind their projected targets. They should be close to 18,300 invitations by now for the 189 visa and yet have only invited 14,300. This is simply because the Pro Rata policy restrictions does not give them enough otherwise eligible applicants at 60 points to meet their targets.

Again they have published the desire to invite 3200 applicants for the 189 visa in December. Yet only 1861 were eligible in November 2016. Further the decision to Pro Rata nurses means that they have lost 200 potential invitations a month compared to previous invitation rounds. They just cannot get near that target again.

The Department of Education (DOE) is responsible for managing the skill select invitation process and there seems an unexplained disconnect between what DIBP have as their 2016/17 program targets and what the DOE are putting out there.

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