Iscah's Analysis of the Skill Select Round of 29th March 2017

Overall Skilled Program

The 189 skilled migration program is hurtling towards a halt as another double invitation round ate up many of the remaining places for the Pro Rata occupations.

1517 EOIs of the 2000 cap qualified for invitation and of these 890 were pro rata occupations, leaving just 627 "other" or "non pro rata" occupations invited at 60 points or more.

There are just 1927 Pro rata invitations spread through to June 2017 and so when these are used up in the next few rounds, DIBP will fall even further behind their 43,990 target by more than 10,000 as they simply won't have enough qualified people reaching 60 points when the Pro Rata occupations are excluded.

Maybe this is deliberate to make up for the 12,000 Syrian refugees this program year, but whatever the reason, it is unique. I can't remember in the last 10 years DIBP missing it's program targets, and by so much.

In April we will likely see some of the professional body submissions made for the 2017/18 Skilled Occupation List, which will give us some hints on what the SOL may look like a few weeks later. The skilled occupation list for 2017/2018 is likely to be released in mid May 2017 which will be of great interest to those people with EOIs on the flagged list of occupations.

The occupation of Telecommunications Engineer (2633) has used 838 of the 1000 places. At current rates it looks likely to close in the 1st or 2nd round of May. And there may be pressure for it to be made pro rata for 2017/18.

ICT Business Analysts (2611) used up the final few of their 1482 places this round. They closed on exactly the right number and did not go over the ceiling like had happened with pro rata occupations in the last round. That suggests for the other 4 pro rata groupings that they also will close on the exact number now.

The 489s continue to be ignored and just 25 eligible invitations because the majority of applicants are stuck in the pro rata freeze.

Finally it looks like we will have another double round on 12th April given there is a cap of 2000 invitations for that date, but just 1600 for April 26th.

2211 Accountants – Just 8 place left which are likely to be given to 75/80 pointers, so it is affectively closed now until July 2017.

About an 80% chance it will stay on the SOL for 2017/18. Based on the fact that in 2016 all of the accounting bodies recommended it stay on the SOL and all recommended an increase in the Occupational ceiling. It would be surprise for such a big turn around in policy for it to be removed 12 months later. Normally the quota should be 6% of the Australian workforce in that occupation, which is nearer to 11,500 invitations. DIBP then reduced this to 2.5% of the workforce for JUST this occupation. Then further split this between Points test (2500 places) and 2277 (company sponsored places).

As a result there has been a build up of around 5000-6000 uninvited applicants in this occupation on 60-70 points. Someone lodging at 75 points today will probably get an invitation the first round of July 2017. Those at 70 points lodged today probably are looking at 15 months unless DIBP change their ceilings.

Accountants 70 points EOI dated 24/10/2016
(Last 65 point invite 6th October 2015)

2212 Auditors – Just 38 places left so this will close on 12th April, then be closed until July 2017.

About an 80% chance it will stay on the SOL for 2017/18. It is intrinsically linked to the occupation of Accountant, so even though it is not on the flagged list, there is a good chance that if Accountant comes off the SOL then Auditor will as well.

Still tracking 2 months in front of Accountant. This may be because those claiming work experience as an Accountant cannot normally claim work experience as an Auditor (they are different occupational groupings) or applicants did not want to spend money on a second skills assessment. Someone lodging at 75 points today may get lucky for 12th April else will probably get an invitation the first round of July 2017. Those at 70 points lodged today probably are looking at 12 months unless DIBP change their ceilings.

Auditors 70 Points EOI dated 26/12/2016
(Last 65 point invite 27th July 2015)

2335 Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers – There are approximately 1200 EOIs in the system at 60 and 65 points uninvited so pressure is growing to gain the 17/34 places each round. This will likely grow to around 1500 when they reopen in July 2017.

Just 38 places left so there will be 4 places left for 26th April after the expected double round on 12th April. Those places on the 26th April are likely to need 75/80 points

If the occupational ceiling remains close to the same 1539 for the next program year then there will be around 60 invitations per round instead of just 17 per round at the moment. That will mean not only all 70 pointers getting invites, but 65 pointers lodged now will probably only have to wait 6 months for an invitation.

Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers 65 points EOI dated 14/11/2016
(Last 60 point invite 26/10/2016)

Electronics Engineers – Around 260 EOIs in the system at 60 points still waiting for an invite.

This backlog is likely to be around 500 by July 2017 when it hopefully reopens.

63 places left now so another expected double invite on 12th April will eat up 58 and leave just 5 places left for 26th April

If the occupational ceiling stays at around 1000 then there should be an increase in invitations from 29 to around 40 per round from July 2017. This will move the 60

pointers along a bit quicker. However for the first 2 or 3 round probably 65 points will be needed due to the 2 months build up of 65 and 70 pointers whilst the occupation is closed.

An EOI lodged today at 60 points will probably get an invite in 8 months time

Electronics Engineer 60 Points EOI dated 14/12/2016

2611 ICT Business Analysts – CLOSED NOW .. The final 42 places have been used up.

As a result of just 42 invitations (rather than the normal 60/120 invites) this occupation needed 70 points for an invite

If it reopens in July 2017 then there will be a lot of 75 and 70 point EOIs to be invited before getting back to 65 point people.

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

ICT Business and System Analysts 70 points EOI dated 26/03/2017
(last 65 point invite 11/08/2016)

2613 Software and Applications Programmer – Another 19 day movement with the double round is good news at 65 points

Good news ends there though. Just 14 places left and they will likely go to 75/80 points EOIs. Then closed until July 2017.

A 65 point lodged today, with the backlog over the next 2 months until July 2017, will mean an invite not until around August/September 2017

Software and Applications Programmers 65 points EOI dated 08/03/2017
(Last 60 point invite 12/12/2015)

2631 Computer Network Professionals – NOW CLOSED

When it reopens there are likely to be another 700 or so in the queue so with 2100 it will mean a much longer wait for the 65 point invitations.

An EOI lodged today at 65 points will likely take closer to 6 months unless DIBP change their pro rata or occupational ceiling policies.

Computer Network Professionals 65 points EOI dated 03/02//2017
(Last 60 point invite 21/07/2016)

2339 Other Engineering Professionals – NOW C LOSES

Around 830 uninvited EOIs in the system (60/65 points) for this occupation. By July this will be up around 1300.

If there are another 1000 places again in July 2017 and the government again pro rata it again, there should be 40 invitations per round instead of 28.

An EOI lodged at 65 points today should take around 8-12 months under current policy.

Other Engineering Professionals 65 points EOI dated 03/01/2017
(Last 60 point invite 21/07/2016)