

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Edition Number 232 | 16th October 2017

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Heyy,

Hope you all had a great month.

Here is our latest monthly newsletter on all the visa changes we are aware of. Drop us a line to [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com) if you have any questions, suggestions, want to subscribe or unsubscribe ..

Let's get cracking ...



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## 1) Government concedes English test rethink on Citizenship

Peter Dutton concedes he will need to rethink English test in citizenship overhaul  
Nick Xenophon Team signals immigration minister will need to 'go back to drawing board' on whole citizenship package if he wants legislation to pass  
The immigration minister, Peter Dutton, has admitted he will need to overhaul the English-language test in the government's citizenship package to have any hope of getting the legislation through the parliament.

But the critical parliamentary powerbroker on the controversial citizenship overhaul, the Nick Xenophon Team, is signalling the rework will need to be more broad-ranging than just the language test.  
"There are so many components of this whole package that are a problem," the NXT senator Stirling Griff told Guardian Australia on Tuesday. "Our position hasn't changed at all."  
"Peter Dutton needs to go back to the drawing board."

Last week, the Senate gave Dutton four sitting days to put his controversial citizenship bill up for debate, otherwise it would be struck from the notice paper.  
The procedural pincer movement in the parliament came less than a week after the Nick Xenophon Team derailed Dutton's attempt to enact the citizenship package, saying it could not support it in its current form.

The government does not currently have the numbers to get its citizenship overhaul – which has been badged politically as a national security measure – through the parliament.  
It has been unclear how the government would respond to the current parliamentary deadlock – whether it would pull the whole package, or negotiate – but Dutton on Tuesday signalled for the first time he was prepared to negotiate.

Asked whether he was prepared to overhaul the English-language test, which currently requires a university standard of language fluency, Dutton told Sky News: "Of course we are flexible."  
The minister said he was talking with Nick Xenophon in an effort to reach a compromise. Dutton described the dialogue with the NXT as "constructive".  
The government needs the NXT bloc because both Labor and the Greens are opposed to the package.

Dutton said the government's objective was to ensure would-be citizens had a functional level of English, and improved their language proficiency over time.  
The citizenship changes in their current form would increase the waiting times for permanent residents before they could apply for citizenship (from one year to four years) and force new applicants to complete a tougher English-language test (and achieve a pass mark of 75%) equivalent to level 6 of the international English language testing system (IELTS).

The package also gives Dutton significant power to overrule decisions on citizenship applications by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).  
As well as raising broad-ranging concerns about the practical implications of the package, the NXT has expressed particular objection to the enhanced ministerial powers over tribunal decisions.  
Griff said on Tuesday the government needed to go back to the drawing board and consult more widely about the implications of the changes.

([www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com))

## 2) NSW Skilled Occupation Lists

Announcement - NSW Skilled nominated (190) program 2017-18

The NSW 190 Priority Skilled Occupation List has been updated. In the 2017-18 financial year, we will continue to select and invite top ranking candidates in occupations on the NSW 190 Priority Skilled Occupation List (NSW 190 List). We will select and invite candidates on an ongoing basis throughout the financial year. There are no key dates involved in this process.

Skilled nominated migration (190)

The NSW 190 Priority Skilled Occupation List (NSW 190 List) contains the priority occupations that NSW will invite candidates under for nomination for a skilled nominated visa (subclass 190).

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/88369/NSW-190-Priority-Skilled-Occupation-List-2017-18.pdf](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/88369/NSW-190-Priority-Skilled-Occupation-List-2017-18.pdf)

In determining the occupations on our priority list, NSW uses Commonwealth and State employment data as well as evidence-supported feedback from NSW industry.

The occupations on these lists are selected to meet the skill needs of the NSW economy. Our lists will be amended from time to time according to the skills needs in NSW. We also limit the number of invitations to certain occupations to ensure that places allocated under the 190 program are in line with the skills needs of NSW.

The highest ranking candidates in occupations on the NSW 190 Priority Skilled Occupation List (NSW 190 List) will be invited first. For an overview of the 190 application process, download our how to apply factsheet.

Skilled regional nominated migration (489)

The NSW 489 Skilled Occupation List (NSW 489 List) includes the occupations that are eligible for NSW nomination for the Skilled Regional (489) visa.

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/66879/NSW-489-list.pdf](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/66879/NSW-489-list.pdf)

Candidates seeking NSW nomination for skilled regional migration (489) should contact the NSW region that they are interested in.

(Source: NSW government)

### 3) Labor says resists anti immigration sentiment

A fairer Australia can help stave off populist backlash, Labor frontbencher says

Andrew Leigh calls on the government to resist global trend to stop foreign investment, trade and immigration

Shadow assistant treasurer Andrew Leigh says the government should 'help the melting pot boil faster'

Photograph: Julian Smith/AAP

The government should combat backlash against globalisation by increasing redistribution and investing more in social programs in areas with new migrants, the shadow assistant treasurer, Andrew Leigh, has argued in a new paper.

In Choosing Openness, a Lowy Institute paper released on Wednesday, Leigh argued that Australia should resist a global trend to put up barriers to foreign investment, trade and immigration.

Leigh said closed societies, such as Australia under the White Australia policy and before trade liberalisation started in the 1970s, were "poorer and less dynamic" than open societies.

Leigh acknowledged that globalisation "raises average living standards, but some people can be hurt".

"Redistributing part of the gains from openness from the winners to the losers is not just a matter of fairness. It is essential if the beneficiaries want to avoid a populist backlash," he said.

Citing the election of Donald Trump, Britain's decision to exit the European Union and the rise of rightwing parties in Europe, Leigh warned that "rightwing populists thrive on conflict and exploit our basic human instinct to hunker down in the face of difference".

"These populists reject the idea of challenging choices and tricky trade-offs. Their promise is that once the corrupt elites have been overthrown, the virtuous voters can have everything they want."

Leigh said although increasing trade with countries with lower wages had contributed to the decline of manufacturing, factory jobs were disappearing worldwide because of automation.

He said house prices had risen from two-and-a-half times average household income in the 1990s to a "record high" of 5.1 today. But he accused Dick Smith of perpetuating a "myth" that 95% of the rise in house prices had been caused by immigration.

Leigh blamed lagging rates of home construction and a rise in investors purchasing property at the expense of first-home buyers.

He namechecks Australian anti-immigration populist Pauline Hanson just once in the paper, noting he is a "raceless, placeless cosmopolitan" of the sort she has derided.

In her inaugural Senate speech in September 2016 Hanson called for a halt on immigration, claiming Muslim migrants had failed to assimilate.

The former prime minister Tony Abbot has also called for a "big slowdown" in immigration to "take the downward pressure off wages and the upward pressure off house prices".

Leigh said studies had found diverse groups performed better in problem-solving, showing the benefits of immigration, but conceded "one concern about immigration does seem to be well-founded".

"At least in the short term, migration appears to reduce the strength of community," he said, citing his own research as an academic a decade ago which found in neighbourhoods where more languages were spoken, people were less likely to trust one another.

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Leigh said “that hunkering down in the face of diversity is a short-term response, not a long-term one”. Over time, successive groups of migrants were first distrusted but now accepted. “The melting pot works, but perhaps at a slow simmer rather than a quick boil,” he said.

The government should “help the melting pot boil faster” by encouraging volunteering and focusing grants for community groups on areas with the most migrants, Leigh said. Australia should be wary of working holiday-maker agreements with countries where there is an “imbalance” of people wanting to come to Australia because the programs will become a source of “cheap labour” rather than a genuine reciprocal arrangement, he said.

“Reports of underpayment and abuse suggest a need for more spot checks on employers, and improved channels for temporary migrants to report wrongdoing without jeopardising their visa extension.” Instead, Leigh suggested expanding the seasonal worker program for Pacific migrants which he said has “significantly lower reports of worker exploitation”. Leigh said foreign investment was “about as popular as cane toads and fire ants” but warned, without it, Australia would “either have one-ninth less investment or domestic savings would need to rise dramatically”.

He warned against glamourising local ownership, arguing that barring foreign investors could contribute to market concentration. “Indeed, a fresh overseas owner who doesn’t have other interests in Australia is less likely to abuse their market power than a mogul who already has investments throughout the economy.” With respect to the Foreign Investment Review Board process, Leigh suggested Australia “reduce or eliminate the current discrimination” between the source of funds, citing the example of a Canadian investor requiring approval for a \$300m investment, where a US investor would not.

He said Treasury should set out reasons for its decisions to accept or reject foreign investments that went through the FIRB process.

(Source: [www.guardian.com](http://www.guardian.com))

## 4) Update on 457 changes

DIBP have issued a newsletter in regards the latest 457 policy changes and for March 2018 here:

<https://www.border.gov.au/WorkinginAustralia/Pages/Newsletters/skilled-visa-enevs-september-2017.aspx>

Special clarification of bakers and pastry cooks was emphasised  
Caveats – bakers and pastry cooks

Positions in franchises or factories are not automatically excluded by the caveats on Bakers (ANZSCO 351111) and Pastry Cooks (ANZSCO 3511132).

Such positions will, however, be impacted by the caveat where a decision-maker assesses that the particular position involves mass or standardised production.

Under policy, factors that might be relevant to an assessment that the position is involved in mass or standardised production include:

- the position is based in a franchise or factory
- products are prepared in large quantities
- premixed ingredients are used to prepare products
- significant use of machinery is made to prepare products
- assembly lines are in place as part of production
- nominees are engaged in repetitive, limited tasks rather than exercising the full range of the specialist skills expected of the occupation
- a limited range of products is available
- products are delivered, frozen and/or pre-packaged, with preparation on-site being limited to thawing, heating and/or basic cooking
- the sponsor employs minimal or no highly skilled staff - with short training programs utilised to train up staff to bake standardised products.

Under policy, factors that might be relevant to an assessment that the position is not involved in mass or standardised production include:

- the position is based in a specialist bakery
- how the business is marketed to the public
- a comprehensive range of products is available in retail quantities sold directly to consumers  
there is a focus on organic, specialty, artisan or high end products
- baked products are handmade and made from scratch
- the sponsor employs a number of highly skilled and qualified bakery staff, with specific skill requirements for the position and significant work experience required
- if wholesale element to business, products are distributed to leading cafes, restaurants or speciality food stores, as opposed to supermarkets.

(Source: DIBP)

## 5) Reminder about the new visa system DIBP intend to introduce

A reminder that DIBP have a long term goal to simplify the current visa system from 99 different visas to just 10 visas.

This is NOT intended as a reduction in the number of people who can obtain Australian visas. but rather a simpler system.

The submissions from the public have not closed and details are available here including Q&A and submissions

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/visa-reform/policy-consultation-paper>

Policy Consultation Paper - Visa Simplification: Transforming Australia's Visa System

Public consultations on designing the new visa system concluded on 15 September 2017.

Australia is an open and welcoming country. People come to Australia for a range of reasons and their stay in Australia might be on a temporary or permanent basis.

The eligibility of people other than citizens to enter and remain in Australia is underpinned by Australia's visa system. This system needs to be efficient in facilitating the arrival of people who have a legitimate purpose for coming to Australia, be it for tourism, study or as an entrant under the permanent migration programme. It also needs to be robust in protecting Australia from those who have no legitimate purpose or who could even wish to do us harm.

Australia's migration settings and underlying visa system must meet our nation's needs. As a nation built on migration, it is important that the public has confidence that migration is being managed well.

While our visa system has served the nation well, it needs modernising. Australia needs a visa system that is more responsive to our economic, social and security interests.

The Australian Government sought your views on what our future visa system should look like. Public consultations on designing the new visa system concluded on 15 September 2017.

This paper provides a general overview of those aspects of Australia's visa system, which the Department of Immigration and Border Protection has been tasked with reviewing. Key areas for consideration included:

- the scope for a reduction in the number of visas from 99 at present, to approximately ten visas;
- the delineation between temporary entry and long-term or permanent residence;
- the role a period of provisional residence could play in enhancing the integrity of the visa system and easing the burden on taxpayers; and
- ensuring that our visa system supports Australia as a competitive and attractive destination for temporary and longer-term entrants.

This paper presents a number of key statements and questions that underpin each of the visa simplification priorities, but do not presuppose any specific outcome. Your responses will be used to inform advice to Government on a future design of our visa system.

Simplifying our visa arrangements

Australia's visa system has served the nation without significant change for almost 30 years. Over that time, global migration patterns have changed and so have Australia's needs.

Since the early 1980s, the permanent migration programme has fluctuated from 52,600 places to a planning

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level of up to 190,000 places in 2017-18.

Temporary migration has also increased, with almost 8.5 million temporary visas granted in financial year 201617.

In coming years, border crossings are likely to grow from almost 40 million each year to reach nearly 50 million by 2020.

Australia's visa system is in many respects an artefact of a bygone era and is ill suited to this future. The visa system is highly complex, with 99 individual visa types.

This makes it difficult for visitors and other entrants to navigate and understand, and challenging for the Government to administer. It also affects Australia's attractiveness as a destination of choice for some travellers.

Australia needs a visa system that is easier to understand, better suited to the rapidly growing number of visitors, and flexible enough for Australia to remain a competitive destination for temporary visitors and the longer-term entrants Australia needs.

Broader visas based clearly around intent, such as visit, study and work, would enable prospective travellers to better understand which visa to apply for, and enable faster processing of applications.

A simpler visa system would enable benefits to be realised through delivery of fast, simple and user friendly services, supported by greater digitisation and innovative technology that will transform the client experience.

Key statements:

The Government maintains the sovereign right to determine who comes to Australia

Complex visa systems are expensive to maintain and difficult to navigate

Australia's visa system must support national economic, social and security interests

Questions

What would a system with approximately 10 visas look like?

What factors should we consider when simplifying the visa system?

What should be the key characteristics of a simplified and flexible visa system?

Temporary and permanent residence

The number of persons in Australia applying for permanent residence has grown substantially over the last two decades. In 2015-16, around half of all permanent visas were granted to people already in Australia on a temporary visa. This means that temporary residence is increasingly becoming the first step to living in Australia permanently.

Persons holding a temporary visa do not have an automatic right to remain in Australia beyond the term of that visa. However, it is often in the national interest for Australia to facilitate a pathway to permanent residence for some temporary visa holders. For example, the Australian economy benefits from the retention of the best and brightest international students and certain skilled workers, as envisioned through the Government's recent introduction of the Medium to Long Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL).

The settlement prospects of temporary residents are also strengthened by the experience they have already gained in Australia, and their familiarity with Australian customs, culture and laws. However, such a temporary period of residence is not a uniform prerequisite to attaining permanent residence.

Some permanent visa categories include provisional visa stages which must be met prior to the grant of a permanent visa. Most of the permanent visa categories, however, do not have a provisional stage, and applicants do not have to spend any time in Australia prior to applying for – or being granted – permanent residence. Permanent residents might also be eligible to receive welfare payments and services.

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Australia's approach differs from like-minded countries. For example, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the United States and others have a more formal assessment process and period for evaluating those who seek to stay permanently.

#### Key statements

Temporary visas are for specific, short-term activities (i.e. visit, study, temporary skilled work) only

Temporary visa holders do not have an automatic right to permanent residence

Permanent visas allow for the stay of persons whose long-term residence in Australia will benefit the Australian community.

#### Questions

What distinctions should apply to temporary and permanent visas?

What requirements should underpin a migrant's eligibility for permanent residence?

Should a prospective migrant spend a period of time in Australia before becoming eligible for permanent residence? What factors should be considered?

#### Modernising Australia's visa arrangements

Temporary and permanent migration both bring significant benefits to Australia. Tourism and international education are critical to Australia's economy. Temporary and permanent workers complement the Australian workforce to assist us to fill skills gaps. Family migrants reunite families and retain skilled Australians onshore, enhancing Australian society.

The success of Australia's migration programme hinges on our ongoing attractiveness as a destination and our ability to be globally competitive in the market for the world's best and brightest migrants, visitors and students. While Australia has traditionally been an attractive destination, this is not something we can take for granted as global competition for visitors and migrants continues to increase.

Australia is a great place to visit, live and work. A visa system alone cannot make Australia an attractive nation, but it should not detract from a prospective migrant's desire to come to Australia.

A flexible and agile visa system would allow the Government to respond quickly to local and global trends, capitalising on opportunities to attract new and better migrants where they arise. Simplifying the visa framework to make it more straightforward and easier for tourists, students, business people and other legitimate travellers to visit our shores will maintain and enhance Australia's competitiveness and attractiveness.

As caseloads increase, so do processing times, which might undermine a prospective migrant's desire to come to Australia. Partnering with industry to enhance technological and biometric capabilities will allow Government to more efficiently confirm an individual's identity and assess their risk profile quickly. This will allow for the seamless processing of low risk applicants, and in turn focus resources on higher risk cohorts. This will improve processing overall, therefore removing any potential barriers the visa system might pose to prospective migrants.

#### Key statements

Tourism, temporary migration and permanent migration benefit Australia economically and socially

Remaining an attractive destination for the migrants we want is important for Australia's future

Australia's visa system should be efficient in facilitating the entry of genuine travellers

#### Questions

What role does the visa system play in ensuring Australia remains attractive to the best and brightest temporary and permanent migrants?

Do you think an efficient visa system that is simple to understand and quickly assesses risk will make Australia a more attractive destination? Why?

To what extent should the Government collect biometrics from visa applicants?

(Source: DIBP)

## 6) Accountants update

It looks like DIBP have accepted there were 239 fake invitations (at 85 points) in the 20th September skill select round. As a result they did not invite any Accountants in the 4th October round and have been working on a manual invitation solution.

On Monday 16th October we saw a few invitations manually issued by DIBP but this does not look like a full round (239) never mind a double round (478) to make up for the missing 20/9/2017 round. I expect that the manual invitation process is very slow and we have seen unconfirmed invitations up until 23/8/2017 at 75 points so far. There are reports of some people with older EOIs not getting invitations and this may simply be that a whole batch of 239 have been identified, it will take a few days, and the invitations may not necessarily be in exact order.

There has been some forum speculation that people with more than one EOI are being ignored and should maybe withdraw multiple EOIs. We do not agree that DIBP would take a decision such as this as they would not be able to judge what is and is not a fair EOI. They would leave themselves open to all sorts of legal action if they got this wrong. Do not withdraw multiple EOIs if you have a legitimate reason for having these in the skill select system.

We have tried to confirm with DIBP if they will invite 239/478 or even 717 (3 rounds) together given there is another round this Wednesday (18th October). As of yet no reply.

## 7) Media article on success of Migration

In Choosing Openness Andrew Leigh makes a robust, refreshed case for free trade and investment. Both are important sources of the acceleration of global output growth over the last two decades, and of Australia's long economic expansion since 1991. But while the case for relatively free investment and relatively free trade is convincing, it does not follow that there is an equally compelling case for free migration. As Leigh writes 'supporters of immigration should not overstate their case'. In the debate over globalisation, the free movement of labour remains as hotly contested as it was half a century ago.

Both the Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump had as much or more to do with hostility to migration and labour market competition as to trade or investment, an outcome replicated in the recent poll in Germany. In an insightful recent piece The Australian Financial Review's political correspondent Laura Tingle, reporting on the German election, interviewed Mark Hauptmann, an MP from Merkel's Christian Democratic Union representing a prosperous electorate. He was quite clear that the unexpectedly strong vote for the far right was 'at least half due to the failed policy regarding immigration and the role of Islam in Germany'. As Tingle pointed out, writer David Marr reached a similar conclusion about Pauline Hanson and One Nation in his March 2017 Quarterly Essay, The White Queen. One Nation voters, he found, don't like strangers. To my mind the biggest threat to openness is from antipathy to uncontrolled migration, rather than trade and investment.

Australia presents an interesting case in global migration attitudes. By any standards Australia accepts a very large number of migrants. On OECD numbers, 28% of the Australian population is now foreign-born. This is more than double the share in either the US or the UK. In the last two decades net migration has directly added 3.365 million migrants or the equivalent of one seventh of today's Australian population. It is also a highly successful program. Unemployment rates among the foreign-born are only a touch above native-born unemployment rates, and the share of foreign-born with jobs pretty much matches the share of native-born with jobs (again on OECD numbers). Because of very high net migration Australia's population is somewhat younger than comparable countries such as the US or Canada or the UK, and very much younger than most of Western Europe, China or Japan. The growth of the Australian workforce over the next several decades will be much faster than the growth of the workforce in Canada, the UK, and the US, on UN projections.

These are great advantages, but it would be quite wrong to say Australia's experience demonstrates the success of an open door migration policy. It is highly selective, favouring intending migrants fluent in English and with skills known to be in demand in Australia. In the main migration is intended to lead to citizenship and usually does. It is true there is a good deal of compromise around the edges. New Zealanders can work in Australia without requiring approval (and Australians in New Zealand). Foreign students and backpackers can work for part of their time in Australia no matter what their qualifications. There are now guest worker programs for Pacific islanders and East Timorese. Family reunion and a refugee segment of the migration program do not depend on job skills. But by and large migration is controlled by employment criteria, and it works.

This approach supports the high wage structure Australians evidently prefer. Legal minimum wages in Australia are much higher than in the United States, and actual wages for most of the workforce are markedly higher than the minimums. Very low productivity jobs such as household servants, household cooks and drivers, nannies and so forth just don't exist in Australia, or only in very wealthy households. It is everywhere evident that businesses and governments control costs mainly by minimising employment. At

the same time, social security benefits, though means-tested, are reasonably high. The want of low paying jobs combined with reasonably high welfare payments would be a poisonous combination for any considerable low-skill, non-English speaking migration.

Are Muslims an exception to Australia's capacity to integrate new arrivals? They are certainly a target for Senator Hanson, but I've little doubt their integration into Australian society is proceeding in much the same way and at much the same rate past waves of migration. Irish Catholics, Maltese, Poles, Dutch, Greeks, Italians, Chinese and Indians have all encountered the same mix of welcome and resentment. In a generation or two most have settled in, their children hardly distinguishable from other kids in their manner, accent, lifestyles and ambitions. Visiting a recent Year 12 prize-giving at Malek Fahd, one of Australia's best Islamic schools, I saw the boys and girls were indeed on different sides of the hall, that the girls wore head scarves as part of their uniform and that the religious invocations were sung in Arabic. I also noticed the accents, manner and energy of the graduates was the same as one sees in all other schools, public and private, that the admonitions to work hard, to overcome setbacks, to seize their opportunities were offered to girls and boys alike, and that the outstanding role model with which they were presented was a mother, a doctor, who is also a school alumna. Now second third or fourth generation, their parents often accountants, IT professionals, doctors, business people, the class of 2017 is already part of the society we have become, their Australian English fluently vernacular and their Arabic often not very good. As much as Pauline Hanson, as much as me, they are us.

Australia has done well with migration. The challenge, as Leigh remarks, is to 'continue capturing the innovative benefits of migration and minimising the costs to civic life'.

(Source: lowyinstitute.org)

These changes will take some time to implement, I expect over 12 months.

## 8) Latest EOI estimates for 189 invitations

Latest Estimates for your 189 EOI invitation – 11th October 2017 update

Here is Iscah's latest October estimate of how long you will need to wait from 11th October (date of the table) to get an invite for your 189 EOI in the pro rata and non pro rata occupations.

Enjoy –

(PS please note that our Accountant prediction is on the assumption that DIBP fix up the fake invitations from the last round)

Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 11th October 2017		EOI Lodged	Assumes 1250 per round		
		today	3 months ago	6 months ago	12 months ago
2211 Accountants © Iscah	75 points	4 weeks (if they fix EOIs) after June 2018	Invited after June 2018	Invited after June 2018	Invited after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2212 Auditors ©	75 points	3 Months after June 2018	invited after June 2018	invited after June 2018	invited after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2334 Electronics Engineer ©	75 points	next round next round 1 Month after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited invited © Iscah
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers ©	75 points	next Round next round 3 Months after June 2018	invited invited 2 Months after June 2018	invited invited 2 weeks after June 2018	invited invited invited invited
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2339 Other Engineering Professionals © Iscah	75 points	next round next round after June 2018 © Iscah	invited invited after June 2018 after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018 after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018 © Iscah
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	75 points	next round 3 Months after June 2018 after June 2018	invited next round after June 2018 after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018 after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018 after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	75 points	next round next round after June 2018 after June 2018	invited invited 5 Months after June 2018	invited invited next round after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2631 Computer Network Professionals ©	75 points	next round next round after June 2018 after June 2018 © Iscah	invited invited after June 2018 after June 2018	invited invited 3 Months after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018 © Iscah
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
ALL non-pro rata occupations	75 points	next round next round 1 Month 8 months	invited invited invited 7 months	invited invited invited invited	invited invited invited invited
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				

## 9) Students to require higher English to study in Australia

FOREIGN students will be forced to brush up on their English skills if they want to study at Australian universities and colleges from next year.

More than 150,000 international students who come to Australia every year will have to pass tough new English language exams before they can begin their preferred courses.

They will have to undergo at least 20 hours of face-to-face teaching a week in intensive courses designed for non-English speakers who want to study in Australia.

Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham said the overseas students who had poor English skills were disadvantaging themselves and their Australian classmates.

“What we hear from universities, vocational education providers and from the regulator is that some students are slipping through the cracks,” Senator Birmingham said.

“Some students simply don’t have the English language skills they need to succeed. It means they draw away from getting involved in lectures, tutorials and group study work while their classmates and teachers struggle to bridge the language divide.”

Senator Birmingham will tell the Australian International Education Conference in Hobart today that the situation is not fair to the international or Australian students or their teachers.

Last year, Victoria welcomed 42,500 international students who had to complete some English training, including 15,000 from China, 4000 from Colombia, 3000 from Thailand and 2000 from India.

Two-thirds of these students were on student visas and more than 60 per cent of them went on to higher education or vocational courses.

The intensive English courses will now face stricter standards to ensure all students get enough time with teachers, who will have no more than 18 per class.

Currently, students can begin their studies without proof they have met English requirements.

Under the Turnbull Government crackdown, providers of the courses — which will take an average of 13 weeks to complete — will now have to formally assess students before they are admitted to further studies.

“This is about ensuring students have the English language skills they need to participate, contribute and learn,” Senator Birmingham said.

“It’s clear we need more scrutiny in the system.”

(Source: The Herald Sun)

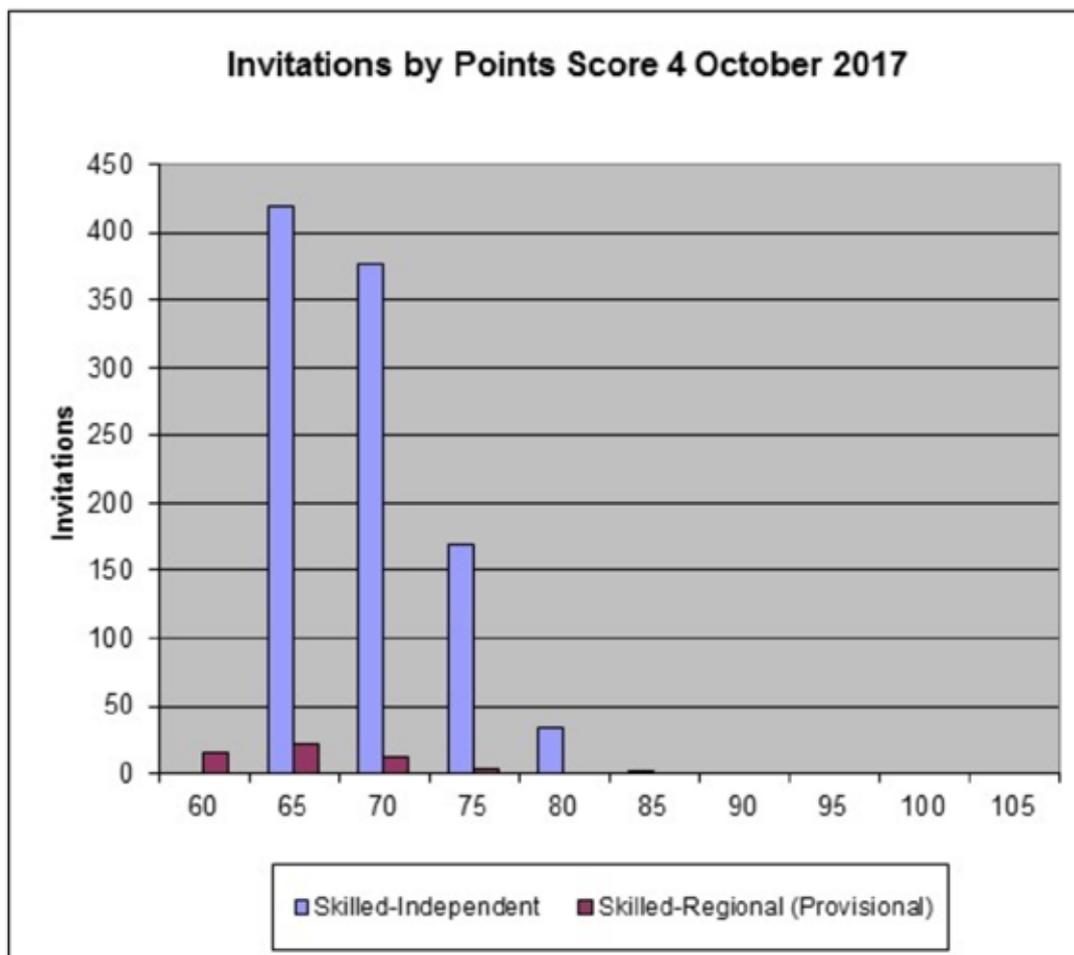
## 10) Skill Select results 4th October 2017

### Invitations issued on 4 October 2017

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	1000
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	52

### 4 October 2017

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 4 October 2017 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.

### Invitations issued on 1 March 2017

Visa subclass	Points	Date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	65	23/09/2017 8.45 pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	60	03/10/2017 9.49 pm

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

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

### Points scores and the visa dates of effect cut off for the below occupations in the 1 February 2017 invitation round.

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	N/A	N/A
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	75	02/08/2017 11.29 am
2334	Electronics Engineer	65	26/08/2017 11.42 am
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	65	23/03/2017 9.24 am
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	70	01/10/2017 7.22 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	70	04/07/2017 12.10 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	65	08/04/2017 10.41 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	65	26/02/2017 7.21 am

OK folks, see you all on Monday  
20th November (woohoo my bday !!!).  
Have a great few weeks



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