

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hiya everyone

Welcome to yet another quality and jam packed edition of our visa update newsletter. We have gathered all the information we know about and present it here so you can see the various changes that have happened over the last month.

If you want to be added to, have suggestions or be removed (really ? ha) from our free monthly mailing list then drop an email to [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com)

On to November's news ...



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## 1) Migration Programme outcomes 2016/17

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has granted over 183,600 permanent visas in 2016–17 to meet Australia's skill and family needs.

This is around 6,400 less than the previous year and is in line with the Government's strategy of ensuring that migration levels are consistent with Australia's genuine labour market needs.

Of the permanent visas granted, skill stream visas totalled more than 123,500 and family stream visas totalled more than 56,200.

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton said Australia's migration programme is structured to deliver the best possible outcomes for Australians.

"Our immigration systems are flexible and responsive to the changing needs of our economy and labour market. The skill stream in particular helps to fill identified skill shortages," Mr Dutton said.

"The 2016-17 migration programme outcome demonstrates the Government's commitment to sustainable and responsible migration to enhance our economy and bring families together."

The full report on the 2016–17 migration programme is available on the Department's website

<https://www.border.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/report-on-migration-program-2016-17.pdf>

## 2) Government offer easier English test for citizenship

The government's sweeping reforms to citizenship will be redrafted with an easier English language test and eventually reintroduced to the Senate, immigration minister Peter Dutton has confirmed.

Key points:

Govt's proposed English test will drop from IELTS 6 to IELTS 5

Dutton wants new rules in place by July 1 next year

Migrants who applied for citizenship since April 20 will now be processed under existing rules

The government's citizenship reforms, which included longer waiting times for permanent residents and a tougher English language exam, were struck off the Senate notice paper on Wednesday after missing a deadline to pass the bill.

Mr Dutton on Thursday said the government was willing to accept migrants who pass an English entrance exam at the Band 5 on the international testing standard, rather than Band 6 as previously proposed.

The tougher Band 6 test was a major sticking point in the Senate, including for the crucial Nick Xenophon Team on the crossbench. Band 5 is described as "modest" English user, rather than a "competent" one.

Mr Dutton also confirmed tens of thousands of citizenship applicants who applied since the changes were announced in April will now be processed under the existing rules. The minister told a committee in mid-July this year there were 47,328 people who would be affected because they lodged their citizenship applications on or after April 20.

The original bill failed to pass with Labor, the Greens and the Nick Xenophon Team all opposed. On Wednesday night, a deadline imposed by a Greens tactical manoeuvre expired, and the bill was struck down.

But the government plans to reintroduce the bill later, aiming to have the new requirements come into effect on July 1 next year.

Mr Dutton accused Labor of "acting against the national interest" by siding with the Greens to defeat the bill, speaking with reporters on Thursday.

He said the government had moved "a fair way" in compromising on the package.

"The government moves, and you hope that the people you're negotiating with move their position as well, ultimately to a position of agreement," Mr Dutton said.

"Our discussions with the crossbenchers continue."

Labor leader Bill Shorten indicated his party was unlikely to support a revised bill.

"Who knows what Dutton will cook up now. If it is bad for the interests of ordinary people, we won't vote for it," Mr Shorten said.

The changes included making permanent residents wait four years to apply instead of one, introducing tougher English language tests and giving extra powers to the immigration minister to veto tribunal decisions on citizenship.

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Mr Dutton said the changes were in response to recommendations from a government-chaired committee.

Greens senator Nick McKim, who was instrumental in the move to defeat the package, said Australian migrant communities would celebrate the demise of the bill.

"There are many thousands of people whose lives have basically been put on hold by Peter Dutton and from today those people can move forward with their lives, make choices about their future and have confidence that their applications will be assessed under the current legislation," Senator McKim told SBS World News.

"We want people to pledge their loyalty to Australia and to say they sign up to our rights and liberties and people to make the commitment to Australia," she said.

Fiona McLeod, head of the Law Council of Australia, said her group's main concern was a provision in the bill that gives the immigration minister the power to override decisions on citizenship made by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

"What the minister is seeking to do is give himself the power to override the decision of the independent umpire," Ms McLeod told SBS World News.

She also criticised the long wait thousands of applicants had endured since April 20.

"If the law changes simply because a minister makes an announcement of an intention to introduce new legislation, then that creates great uncertainty. And as we've seen with many thousands of people, it's created a great unfairness," she said.

(Source: [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au))

## 3) The new citizenship requirements proposed for July 2018

What are the new requirements?

As a result of the proposed amendments and subject to the passage of legislation, the new requirements for citizenship will come into effect on 1 July 2018 and include:

- increasing the general residence requirement, which means applicants for Australian citizenship will need to have a minimum of four years permanent residence immediately prior to their application for citizenship with no more than one year spent outside Australia during that period
- completing a separate English language test, where applicants will need to demonstrate English language listening, speaking, reading and writing skills at the modest level before applying for citizenship by conferral
- strengthening the Australian values statement to include reference to allegiance to Australia and requiring applicants to undertake to integrate into and contribute to the Australian community
- strengthening the test for Australian citizenship through the addition of new test questions about Australian values and the privileges and responsibilities of Australian citizenship
- a requirement for applicants to demonstrate their integration into the Australian community
- strengthening the pledge to refer to allegiance to Australia, and extending the requirement to make the pledge to applicants aged 16 years and over for all streams of citizenship by application, including citizenship by descent, adoption and resumption.

### **What does this mean for people who have already applied for Australian citizenship?**

#### **If you applied before, on or after 20 April 2017**

If you applied for Australian citizenship before, on or after 20 April 2017, your application will be assessed against the eligibility criteria in place when you applied. If your application has not yet been finalised, we will write to you when it reaches the next stage of processing, or if we require any further information or documents.

### **What will this mean for people who apply for Australian citizenship in the future?**

If you apply before 1 July 2018 (subject to the passage of legislation)

If you apply before 1 July 2018 (subject to the passage of legislation), your application will be assessed against the current eligibility criteria.

#### **If you apply on or after 1 July 2018 (subject to the passage of legislation)**

From 1 July 2018 (subject to the passage of legislation), the new requirements for Australian citizenship will take effect. If you apply for Australian citizenship on or after this date, your application will be assessed against the new requirements.

(Source: DIBP)

## 4) Labor will not support harder english and residence requirements

Labor will not support a redrawn citizenship bill with the elements of English language test and longer waiting period, says Tony Burke.

Citizenship draft legislation seeking to introduce a stand-alone English language test and increasing the waiting time for migrants before they could apply for Australian citizenship was struck off the Senate's notice board on Wednesday after the government failed to bring it for discussion in the Senate.

While migrants who were going to be affected by the changes announced in April this year are celebrating after the development in Parliament on Wednesday, the government can bring the Bill back after making changes to it.

"We remain committed to these very important reforms," Government frontbencher Senator Mathias Cormann said on the ABC.

"We understand that we do not have the numbers in the Senate, so we'll continue to work with all non-government senators to see how we can best secure consensus."

However, the Shadow minister for Citizenship Tony Burke says Labor is firm on its position and will not support a bill seeking to change the English language requirement and the general residence criteria.

"Those two positions, we believe, the English language is properly tested already and we believe and the waiting period that is already in place is appropriate," he told SBS Punjabi.

"As long as those two elements are there, Labor will oppose the bill," he said.

The government on Tuesday proposed an amendment to its legislation, changing the level of English language requirement from 'competent' to 'modest'.

(Source; [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au))

## 5) Queensland state sponsorship closed to interstate applicants for 489/190 visa

Interstate applicants are no longer able to apply for Queensland state nomination. If you are currently interstate, in order to be eligible for Queensland state nomination, you must meet our Working in Queensland or Alumni pathway criteria. This would require you to move to Queensland and meet any working requirements before submitting an Expression of Interest to BSMQ.

If you have already received an invitation and you are an interstate applicant, BSMQ will still process your application. However, BSMQ will not be sending out any more invitations to interstate applicants.

(Source: Queensland State Government)

## 6) Pro Rata invitations wasted in 2016/17

189 Pro Rata Invitations never accepted in 2016/17

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		2016/17		
		Invitations	visas lodged	% lost
2211	Accountant	2500	1894	24%
2212	Auditor	1413	640	55%
2334	Electronics Engineer	1000	827	17%
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	1539	1234	20%
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	1018	852	16%
2611	ICT and Systems Analyst	1482	1126	24%
2613	Software and Applications Programmer	5662	4746	16%
2631	Computer Network Professionals	1482	1188	20%

- Most Pro rata occupations closed by the end of April 2017 to new invitations for the 2016/17 program year

- And so even with the 60 day lag allowed to accept an EOI invitation, this allows a fair comparison to see how many of the Pro Rata invitations were wasted through double invitations

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

## 7) New temporary parent visa delayed

Delay in the new Temporary Parent visa -

This was initially due to be introduced in November 2017. It has not been delayed according to the MIA below -

Temporary Sponsored Parent Visa - Bill not passed

The Department originally announced that the new five year Temporary Sponsored Parent Visa would be introduced at around this time. However, the Bill enabling the new visa to come into effect has not yet been approved by the Senate.

The passage through parliament of the Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016 is as follows:

House of Representatives: Introduced 1/9/16; Passed 10/10/16

Senate: Introduced 10/10/16; 2nd reading adjourned 10/10/16, 16/10/17

Provisions of bill referred to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee 15/9/16;

Committee report tabled 10/10/16.

(Source: MIA)

## 8) Character requirement 4020 to now last 10 years

4020 penalties to be widened in new legislation effective for applications lodged on or after 18 November 2017 -

The proposed amendment to subclause 4020(1) will strengthen the integrity of visa applications in two ways:

- expanding the period in which previous cases of fraud can be considered from 12 months to 10 years prior to the current visa application; and
- enabling delegates to consider instances of fraud in visa applications made, in addition to the current provision that limits consideration to fraud in visas held.

The intention behind amending subclause 4020(1) is to capture applicants who have engaged in a pattern of behaviour where they will withdraw their application once notified by the Department of suspected fraud, only to re-attempt their visa application after the period of 12 months has elapsed, using new genuine documents that withstand scrutiny.

This amendment will mean that a visa applicant who is currently, or has within the previous 10 years, provided bogus documentation or information that is false or misleading in relation to a visa application does not meet subclause 4020(1) and their application can be refused on this basis.

(Source: Federal Government legislation)

## 9) Newspaper article on 457 visa changes

Article from the Australian newspaper on 457 visas last week -

Atlassian co-chief executive Scott Farquhar has hit out at the federal government's cutback on skilled worker visas, saying the move will cost Australians jobs and signal to the world that the country is "closed for business".

"The government is sending the wrong signal to the world about being closed for business," Farquhar told The Australian this week.

He said the tightening of rules on skilled visas earlier this year was making it difficult for the Sydney-based software company to bring highly skilled IT professionals into Australia and to keep people already here who had been on 457 visas.

The government abolished 457 visas in July, replacing them with a new program of temporary skilled visas with tighter eligibility categories and shorter working period terms.

"The recent changes to both the temporary and permanent visa programs have had a significant impact on our business," Mr Farquhar said. "We are losing high-quality candidates regularly due to the uncertainty that now looms over their potential future in Australia.

"It's difficult enough getting talented people to Sydney. If people are in Silicon Valley they can get a job any day of the week with lots of great companies and get paid really well.

"It was always difficult for them to come here anyway, but now the government is saying that people can only stay here for two years and they don't have a path to permanent residency, which is making it much harder."

The US-listed Atlassian has a global staff of more than 2000 people, with offices in Sydney, San Francisco, Mountain View, New York, Austin, Amsterdam, Tokyo and Manila.

It has more than 1000 staff in Australia — a quarter of whom have been working on 457 visas.

A spokeswoman for Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said more than 1000 visas had been granted to sponsor work in the IT and communications technology sector since the reforms.

"The government has been active in reforming Australia's visa programs to ensure that Australians have priority, while ensuring that employers with genuine skill shortages are able to access the qualified workers they need. This includes the ICT sector," the spokeswoman said.

Mr Farquhar said Atlassian was trying to keep a substantial part of its operations in Australia. But he said the tighter visa requirements would encourage a shift in the company's business to the US. "The uncertainty over the visa situation in Australia will increasingly force people towards the centre of gravity of tech — which is in the US," Mr Farquhar said. "At Atlassian, we are trying to fight that."

Mr Farquhar said importing talented workers was not a "zero sum game" that would threaten Australian jobs. He said bringing in highly skilled ICT and software executives who had skills and experience not available in Australia would help grow tech companies like Atlassian as well as smaller companies. "The idea that if I

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bring in 100 people from overseas I will be taking away 100 jobs in Australia is not right," he said. "It will actually be creating jobs which would otherwise have gone to China or India or the US.

"If you are in a world where you are building something globally, like Atlassian, the idea that there is a zero sum pool for jobs doesn't make sense.

"For every one senior experienced person we can bring in, I can create three more Australian jobs. In a reputational sense, we want to see Australia as a country where the best and brightest can come here. "But now the reputation of Australia has been damaged as a result of the uncertainty around the new policies." Mr Farquhar said many smaller companies and start-ups in Australia were now finding it easier for their founders to move to the US than to import skilled workers into Australia to help them grow their business here. He said Atlassian had spent more than \$2 million over the past 10 years providing scholarships to train Australians with software and IT skills. "We can fund and train 25- year-olds with skills," he said.

But he said it could not train people with the experience of a 35-year-old plus ICT manager in the US who had more than a decade of experience. "It's the people who are 35 or 45 or 55 who have 10 or 20 years of experience that we can't get here," he said. He said he was also concerned at plans to cut the age level of imported skilled workers from 50 to 45. Mr Farquhar also questioned the idea of having an official list of jobs for skilled migrants.

"Our visa system specifies exactly which jobs we are and are not willing to allow via our skilled migration program," he said. "But the use of lists that rely on archaic data is becoming increasingly problematic in the IT sector. Some categories of jobs don't have a specific category.

"The idea of having a skilled occupation list is a crazy thing today. Everyone graduating today is going to have many careers. Some say as many as 17. "There are jobs which don't exist today but will exist in two years time. Maybe in five years time the government will add them to the skilled migrant list, but in the meantime they will move to somewhere else and set up new industries there."

(Source: The Australian newspaper)

## 10) Second Newspaper article on 457 visa changes

Article from the Australian newspaper criticising the company visa changes from March 2018 - The public relations industry is lobbying the Turnbull government to reverse a 457 visa ban it says has created "significant stress" on the fast-growing profession and creative industries.

"We have had many productive discussions with government over the past couple of months and provided industry-based workforce data that it hadn't considered," said Jenny Muir, national president of the Public Relations Institute of Australia. "We are looking to the minister to reverse the decision at the end of this consultation process and provide our industry with some certainty. "The changes to the skilled visa program impacted all aspects of the marketing, advertising, public relations and communications industry and each industry group has made representation to government to reverse the unhelpful decisions."

And last week, Scott Farquhar, co-chief executive of software company Atlassian, spoke out against the cutback on skilled worker visas, saying the move will cost Australians jobs and signal to the world that the country is "closed for business". In July, the federal government deleted one of the two categories of 457 skilled worker visas and reduced the other from four years to two years, with the effect the industry is struggling to attract international talent to fill jobs in the PR industry. Vacancies are predicted to grow by between 10,000 to 25,000 over five years to 2020, according to the government's own forecasts.

The industry says it will struggle to attract international talent to fill the vacancies that exist across many PR and communication agencies and business "The government's decision to axe our skilled visas was taken without any industry consultation, and didn't account for the growth we are experiencing or the crucial role skilled visas play in supporting our global competitiveness," Ms Muir said. The ban has also affected other related communication industries including the marketing and media-buying industries, which are also in consultation with the immigration department to reinstate the skilled visas.

The changes were made to sharpen the focus of these programs to better meet Australia's skills needs and ensure Australian workers are given priority, a spokeswoman for the immigration department said. "The Department of Employment will conduct a review of the occupation lists every six months. The next update will occur in January 2018."

Agencies are already feeling the impact of the decision.

"We have noticed a bit of softening of interest from international candidates and the perception is that it is going to be difficult," said Vanessa Liell, chief executive at Herd MSL — a fast-growing PR and communication agency with 60 specialists in Sydney.

"The main impact for us when we find a candidate is the time it now takes getting the visa, which has shifted from six weeks to six months," Ms Liell said.

Kieran Moore, chief executive of Ogilvy PR, a network of agencies with 120 staff in Australia, described the situation as "just a perfect storm of a talent shortage". The global PR industry is worth \$US14 billion and growing annually at 5 per cent, but the industry locally is "stymied by the visa situation", Ms Moore said. "We can't get enough talent. Literally, there is not enough people in Australia to do the jobs."

(Source: The Australian newspaper)

## 11) Snapshot of temporary visa holders in Australia

Here is a snapshot of how many temporary visa holders there are in Australia at any one time.  
This is as of 31/12/2016

Visa Holder Category	Visa Subclass	Snapshot Date 31/12/2016
Bridging visa holders	010 Bridging A	63,579
	020 Bridging B	17,116
Student visa holders	500 Student	72,274
	560 Student	11
	570 Independent ELICOS Sector	10,738
	571 Schools Sector	4,935
	572 Vocational Education and Training Sector	71,196
	573 Higher Education Sector	173,025
	574 Postgraduate Research Sector	17,297
	575 Non-Award Sector	2,906
	576 Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	3,373
Temporary graduate visa holders	485 Temporary Graduate	37,238
Other temporary visa holders	476 Skilled - Recognised Graduate	1,151
	580 Student Guardian	1,208
	590 Student Guardian	268
	995 Diplomatic (Temporary)	4,067
Temporary skilled visa holders	457 Temporary Work (Skilled)	150,223
New Zealand visa holders	444 Special Category	646,828
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,277,433</b>

(Source: DIBP)

## 12) Our 9th November skill select EOI estimates

Now that DIBP have advised just 700 places for each round in November 2017 we are able to see why there were so few invitation results from the 9th November round

We think this 700 places per round for November is so that DIBP do not over commit with invitations while they sort out the skill select issues of recent months. The average for each month until the end of the program year needs to now be around 2000 (so 1000 per round, even allowing for the New Zealand citizen allocation for 189s) in order to get to their usual 31,000 for the program year. So our calculations later today will be based on 2000 per month being the "average" for the next 7 months

Here is an update on our unofficial results from the 9th November round. It is based on invitations that we have seen from our own cases, databases and web forums, our FB followers contacting us, and mathematical logic that we know to be correct from other results.

We have also been able to predict whether the full quota was invited for that occupation in that round. As that will not be the case for all occupations with just 700 invitations possible.

2211 Accountants – 75 points - 15/09/2017\* (full quota invited for the round)  
2212 Auditors - no results but ... (full quota invited for the round)  
2334 Electronic Engineer - 70 points - 19/10/2017\*  
2335 Industrial, Mech and Prod Engineers 75 points - 25/10/2017\*  
2339 Other Engineering Professionals - no results  
2611 ICT Business and System Analysts 70 points - 27/07/2017\* (full quota invited for the round)  
2613 Software/Applic Programmers 70 points - 21/10/2017\*  
2631 Computer Network Professionals - 70 points - 21/10/2017  
ALL OTHER NON Pro rata occupations – 70 points - 21/10/2017\*

(Note these are not DIBP figures and there may well be other invitations more recent we are unaware of)

(Source: Iscah)

# 13) WA international student numbers in freefall

## WA government continues to give cold shoulder to International Students

Premier Mark McGowan’s decision to close Perth from being part of the RSMS visa program and provide no support though the State Migration plan to students who choose to study in Western Australia has had the predicted disastrous effect on the WA international Student Market in the last 6 months.

Whilst the rest of Australia has grown an impressive 8% in the 6 months to September 2017, Western Australia has nosedived. For 5 of the last 6 months we have had less student applications than the corresponding month in 2016. Overall we have dropped 7% in total from the same period last year.

That is a 15% worse off position than the state would otherwise have been without the retrograde decisions the Labor government have taken since winning the March 2017 election.

The main two decisions the WA government made were to drop Perth from the RSMS visa scheme. This was a process where a company had to prove to our own state government they were unable to fill a position from the local labour market and so sponsor an overseas person for a permanent visa.

The second decision was to drop almost every occupation from the WA state migration plan. This program only sponsored 200 people per year anyhow and was insignificant in terms of a migration program nationally of around 200,000 people per year. But the message it sent to international students was clear, WA was closed and was not going to provide incentives to study here.

Not surprisingly students have voted with their feet and flocked to Eastern state colleges and universities that do support them through their respective state migration plans.

### Primary student visa applications lodged in the last 6 months

National numbers					WA numbers					WA loss v National
2015/16	Applications	2016/17	Applications	% diff	2015/16	Applications	2016/17	Applications	% diff	National
Apr-16	18221	Apr-17	17850	-2%	Apr-16	1459	Apr-17	1097	-25%	-23%
May-16	28063	May-17	31428	12%	May-16	1787	May-17	1728	-3%	-15%
Jun-16	43622	Jun-17	37015	-15%	Jun-16	2998	Jun-17	2311	-23%	-8%
Jul-16	17425	Jul-17	25614	47%	Jul-16	1139	Jul-17	1417	24%	-23%
Aug-16	28952	Aug-17	32913	14%	Aug-16	2022	Aug-17	1996	-1%	-15%
Sep-16	21804	Sep-17	23946	10%	Sep-16	1346	Sep-17	1306	-3%	-13%
158087		168766		7%	10751		9855		-8%	-15%

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Let's put some real dollars to how much this has hurt WA so far. The average student through education and living costs contributes \$148,900 to our economy. If we had experienced the same growth as the rest of the country we would have had an extra 1622 students applying to study in Western Australia from overseas this last 6 months alone. That is already a \$240 million loss to our economy.

In terms of fulltime WA jobs, the international student industry employs 10,000 fulltime West Australians. A 15% drop from where we should have been in student applications is clearly going to cost us hundreds if not close to 1000 jobs eventually.

The WA government has taken an isolated politically motivated view not to provide incentives for students to study here. The decision to close the RSMS program was mainly around just 200 trade jobs to appease the unions, the other RSMS visa places were used for professional jobs that other visas would have been available for anyhow. The decision to effectively close the WA state migration plan was related to just another 200 jobs annually.

The potential visa applicants in most cases already had the work rights to take up these jobs, it just gave them the added bonus of a permanent visa. So it actually was not costing WA workers anything by keeping these state programs open as an attraction to study here.

Research has shown for every skilled migrant who comes to live in Australia, their skill, production capacity and overall economic worth creates 1.6 jobs for our economy. Other states know that and they are all competing for these cashed up international students.

The only loser here from Premier McGowan's decision has been the WA economy and WA workers. The big winner is the Eastern States who are happy to revel in our sorrow and these disenchanting international students with open arms.

Typical comments from international students to us include :

Alphonsia - The future is really scary now despite the hard work you do in this country as an international student... A big advice to family n friends back India: Better move to any other country than investing your hard earned money here on studies and other type of visas. Enough of our money we have wasted in this country and at the end what are we getting- only discrimination!

Bryan – Was planning to consider WA but this has helped me a lot

Colleges and other educational institutions have made it clear in meetings with the premier that they are suffering. Yet for political reasons only he refuses to do anything to arrest this disastrous slide.

No wonder our budget is in such a mess.

(Source: Iscah)

## 14) Perth metropolitan area finally removed from the RSMS 187 visa list

In March 2017 the State government halted any new sponsorships for the Perth metro area for the RSMS/187 visa. Now the Federal government has closed Perth off officially from this program. It is a ridiculous job damaging and student recruitment damaging decision by the State Government. And follows WA trying for over 10 years to get this status for Perth.

Anyhow at least DIBP have confirmed it will not affect applications lodge before Perth closed back in March 2017 as follows ..

The new Instrument applies to applications lodged from 17 November and will not be applied retrospectively.

Under the new Instrument [Legislative Instrument IMMI 17/059] the Perth metropolitan area is not considered regional for RSMS applications.

The RSMS applications in the Perth metropolitan area that we have on-hand and lodged before the 13 March 2017 with RCB certification will proceed to assessment.

Those RSMS applications lodged from 13 March 2017 onwards do not have RCB certification as the WA government's RCB declined to provide certification. These applications will be finalised and as they cannot be approved without RCB certification, will be offered the option to withdraw or be refused.

The department will be sending an e-newsletter shortly with this information.

(Source: DIBP)

## 15) Our latest 189 EOI invitation estimates

When will I get my 189 visa invitation -

Here are our latest predictions following DIBP releasing the 18/10/2017 results as well as our own unofficial results from 09/11/2017.

This table predicts how long you will need to wait from the 16th November (today) for EOIs lodged today, 3 months, 6 months or 12 months ago.

We have made an assumption that ON AVERAGE there will be 1000 invitations from now until June 2017. This is based on the program targets DIBP have and the influence New Zealanders being part of the 189 program will have.

For followers who don't quite understand why it takes so long .... The Last round in October had approximately 900 EOIs invited at 70 points or above. So with round numbers at just 700 for November you can see why those at 65 points will not get a look in at the moment.

as at 16th November 2017 - assumes 1000 per round		EOI Lodged		Assumes 1000 per round		
		today	3months ago	6months ago	12 months ago	
2211 Accountants © Iscah	75points	2 months	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2212 Auditors ©	75points	Apr-18	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2394 Electronics Engineer ©	75points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65points	after June 2018	invited	invited	invited	invited
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2395 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers ©	75points	next Round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	5 months	after June 2018	invited
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	invited
2399 Other engineering Professionals © Iscah	75points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	invited
	60points	after June 2018 © Iscah	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018 © Iscah
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	75points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	3 Months	next round	invited	invited	invited
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	75points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	invited
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2631 Computer Network Professionals ©	75points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	invited
	60points	after June 2018 © Iscah	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018 © Iscah
ALL non-pro rata occupations	75points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65points	6 months	invited	invited	invited	invited
	60points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	invited

## 16) Proposed STSOL and MLTSSL changes for January 2018

Proposed changes to the skilled lists for January 2018 (MLTSSL AND STSOL lists) -  
DIBP will make changes to their skilled lists for 457, company sponsorship and points test applications in January 2018.

Although this is NOT final, here are the proposed changes -

Possible removal from STSOL -

Hair or Beauty Salon Manager

Recruitment Consultant

Building Associate

Possible addition to STSOL -

University Tutor

Psychotherapist

Property Manager

Real Estate Agent

Real Estate Representative

NO other changes to MLTSSL or STSOL are proposed at this stage for January 2018

(Source: Federal Government)

## 17) Update on DIBP visa processing times after visa lodgement

Updated DIBP processing times after visa lodgement –

<http://www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards/global-visa-citizenship-processing-times>

## 18) More visa application types to be lodged online only

More applications have to be lodged ONLINE now -

From 18 November 2017, you will no longer be able to lodge an application in person at any offices of the

Department for the following visa subclasses:

- Partner category visas (subclass 820, 801, 309, 100 & 300)
- Parent visas (subclass 804, 884, 864, 173, 143 & 103)
- Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403).

You must lodge Partner visa (including Prospective Marriage visa) and Temporary Work (International Relations) visa applications online through ImmiAccount.

You must send Parent visa applications by post or courier to the following addresses:

Post application to:

Parent Visa Centre  
Locked Bag 7  
Northbridge WA 6865

Courier application to:

Parent Visa Centre  
Wellington Central  
Ground Floor  
836 Wellington Street  
West Perth WA 6005

(Source: DIBP)

## 19) RSMS and ENS processing times and March 2018 changes update

RSMS and ENS policy update and visa processing times -

New Applicants for a 186 or 187 visa AFTER March 2018 based on working for 2 years on a 457 visa (the TRT pathway) will now have to meet the salary level of at least the TSMIT – currently \$53,990 per annum  
RSMS and ENS processing times are currently being affected by a number of factors – including:

- the high on-hand RSMS/ENS caseload, which is further exacerbated by a particularly high number of lodgements in recent months (note: more than 16,000 applications were lodged in June 2017 alone, which is equivalent to approximately four months of average application lodgements)
- there are increased levels of non-genuine applications or applications with integrity concerns which require a higher level of scrutiny and
- incomplete visa application lodgements.

At no point in time has processing stopped on these cases and the Department is continuing to work through the on-hand caseload as fast as possible.

Note: Applications lodged more recently may be allocated for assessment ahead of older applications to facilitate more efficient processing of the pipeline and reduce processing times.

(Source: DIBP)

## 20) Accountant 189 invitations do NOT add up

We have sent this to the Minister's office, the Labor party, and Greens so far. You are welcome to pass it on as you wish to any local politicians or anyone else. We will try and get some media traction but it is quite a complicated problem that does is hard for the media to "sell" to its readers.

Australia introduced their Skill Select system in July 2012 in order to invite only the highest quality applicants to migrate to Australia with their high skills. Skills that are identified as being required over the next 10 years. This has attracted hundreds of thousands of international student who invest 20 billion dollars into our education system every year. It is a massive win to Australia and creates over 100,000 Australian jobs to support these international students.

That is the good side to this story. The bad side is horrific. What is happening to our skill select system and the administrative problems around it that is costing us thousands of highly skilled migrants and turning potential future students off studying here. Never mind the crass unfairness of it all. In short the skill select system is broken.

To explain the current nightmare we will take an average international student. Let's assume they are studying an Accounting degree or masters for a typical 2 years or more. They then hope to be selected by Australia for a permanent visa. To ply their trade, help the economy and of course it's vital for our aging population.

The government put an annual ceiling on how many Accountants they want each year. In the 2016/17 program year this was 2500. They also put a ceiling on the closely related occupation of Auditor (1413). These auditing positions are in affect Accountants as well, just under a different title. So that is 3,913 invitations to lodge a 189 permanent visa that DIBP were intending to hand out. These are then divided up usually into 20 rounds, sometimes more separated 2 weeks apart so that DIBP can ensure that they only invite the top scoring Accountants.

There were likely around 6000 graduate Accountants battling for these sought after 3,913 invitations last program year. Accountants will go out and improve their english much higher than the average Australia university graduate, show exceptional skills in a second language so good that they could be a professional translator or interpreter, they will be of optimum age (25-32) that will allow Australia to tax them well and to fund all our older Australian retirements and they will have paid for all their study out of their own pocket that funds. All to get one of these precious 3,913 places.

Except there are not 3,913 places. Read on ...

The skill select system by inviting the highest scoring EOIs (Expression of Interests) from applicants have created opportunity for many flaws in the system

Many graduates will lodge an EOI for BOTH Accountant and an Auditor to improve their chances. If they are invited as an Accountant they will be stoked of course and in many cases not bother to withdraw their now unneeded EOI as an Auditor. This means that the Auditor EOI when invited takes one "fake" invitation from the yearly intake of that occupation. Worse still, 60 days later when that Auditor EOI is not taken up, it goes back into the system and is invited a second time. And again is not accepted. So that creates two wasted and "fake" EOIs.

An EOI lasts just 2 years in the system waiting for a prized invitation. If an applicant improves their points (let's say from 70 to 75) during this time they will simply update their EOI with the higher score. However this does not extend their 2 year EOI. And so with long waiting periods many students find just about when they will get an invite their EOI expires and they have completely missed out. And they go back to the start of the queue with a new EOI. Students are not dumb though and they have worked out that to protect themselves from this unfairness they can lodge a new EOI every few months. So that if one expires after 2 years, they still have another one alive just a few months younger getting fairly close to an invite. The problem with this is that when finally invited, many students again do not withdraw other unneeded EOIs and those ones end up getting invited twice. So another two "fake" invites

It gets worse, in the 20th September round someone sabotaged the skill select system and created around 239 fake EOIs as Accountants at a massive 85 points. The affect was that DIBP invited all of those (nobody gets that many points) to lodge a 189 visa. That was the exact number of Accountants that should have got an invite and so all 239 places went to "fake" invites.

The affect of all these "fake" invites can be seen in the 2016/17 figures. DIBP planned to invite a maximum of 3,913 invitations for Accountants and Auditors combined. They in fact sent out this exact amount invites and had completed all their allocation by around April 2016. They should have received 3,913 visa applications as a result, after all these are all highly prized and student graduates are waiting a long time for this. But instead only a paltry 2,534 actually lodged a visa application. That is less than 65%. While thousands of other Accountants are waiting desperately for an invitation we are wasting 35% of them.

It is not just this occupation that DIBP, the country and the students are being short changed in. IT graduates in the main pro rata occupations were over 1500 short of their invitation numbers for 2016/17 as well.

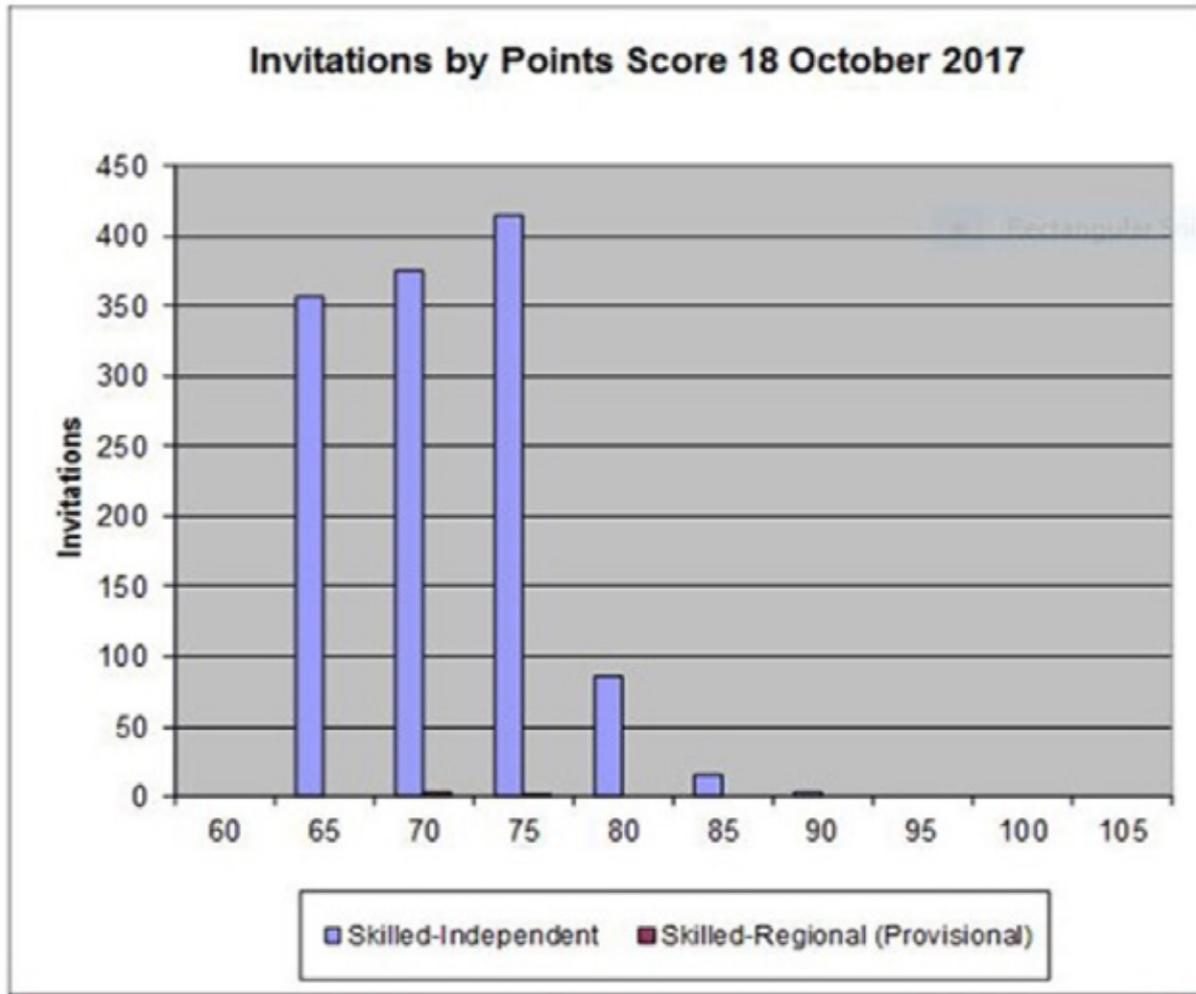
There is a very simple short term solution for this which we have proposed to DIBP many times and continue to get no feedback or response to. If an EOI ( a graduate) does not take up their invitation (whether it be because of double invites or the system being hacked like September) after the 60 days provided, that invitation is sent out AGAIN to hopefully a real person next time. There may be a lag in matching up the numbers but eventually everyone wins. At the moment everyone loses ... Especially the student graduates who spent so much money on an Australian education, are so economically beneficial to our country, and believed we would be fair and accountable in our skill select system.

The long term solution is a complete rethink of the skill select system and the many flaws identified in the process.

(Source: Iscah)

## 21) Skill Select results 18th October 2017

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 18 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	28/09/2017 10.53 pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	70	08/08/2017 3.49 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	75	04/09/2017 10.01 pm
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	75	08/08/2017 12.03 am
2334	Electronics Engineer	65	18/09/2017 11.31 pm
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	65	27/04/2017 11.34 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	70	16/10/2017 12.06 am
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	70	20/07/2017 3.30 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	65	18/04/2017 8.50 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	65	04/03/2017 8.30 pm

(Source: DIBP)

OK folks, see you all on  
Monday 18th December.



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