

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 234 | 18th December 2017

Hiya everyone

Hope you are enjoying a terrific time with your family over these school holidays and all the best to you for Christmas and the new year from us all at Iscah.

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

On to December's news ...



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1) Updated NSW 489 Occupation Lists

Updated NSW 489 occupation lists –

http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/66879/NSW-489-list.pdf?utm_source=immigration&utm_campaign=c2d3750478-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_09_28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f997b5ebef-c2d3750478-44230009

2) When will I get my 189 invitation - Iscah Estimates

Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 23rd November 2017		EOI Lodged	Assumes 1000 per round		
		today	3 months ago	6 months ago	12 months ago
2211 Accountants © Iscah	75 points	2 Months 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	6 Months after June 2018	Next Round after June 2018	invited after June 2018	invited after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2334 Electronics Engineer ©	75 points	next round 1 Month 6 Months after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited © Iscah
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers ©	75 points	next Round 1 Month after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018	invited invited 5 Months after June 2018	invited invited invited invited
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2339 Other Engineering Professionals © Iscah	75 points	next round 2 Months after June 2018 © Iscah	invited invited after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018 © Iscah
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	75 points	next round 4 Months after June 2018	invited 1 Month after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	75 points	next round 1 Month after June 2018	invited invited after June 2018	invited invited 5 Months after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				
2631 Computer Network Professionals ©	75 points	next round 1 Month after June 2018 © Iscah	invited invited after June 2018	invited invited 5 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 1 Month 6 Months after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited after June 2018	invited invited invited invited
	70 points				
	65 points				
	60 points				

Source Iscah

3) What factors we put into our Skill Select 189 predictions

We are often asked how we predict the dates that we estimate for our 189 invitations tables.

So we thought we would list some of the main factors that we take account of. We don't guarantee that we will be correct and there are many factors outside our control. In fact the way that DIBPs skill select system has experienced recent problems there are many factors outside their control as well ..

Remember our goal is not to be over optimistic or pessimistic. Instead be simply realistic. Anyhow here are the main factors we look at in no particular order in order to be as accurate as possible

- Total round invites in the next few rounds
- What needs to be invited each round on average to reach the 43,990 program
- How many invites may have family members that count as part of this 43,990
- The Ceiling for each occupation
- How many non pro ratas may gain an invite each round that takes away from the Pro rata invites
- How many EOIs for each occupation may be sitting at 65,70,75 points
- What the last invite date and score was at each of those point levels for each occupation
- When the 70 pointers are clear, which 65 pointers will have waited longest and in which pro rata occupation as they will get invited first
- Will DIBP in March/April 2018 invite the balance left of the uninvited Pro Ratas like they did last year in one round
- How quickly will non pro rata occupations move in May and June 2018 when the pro rata occupations are closed
- How quickly the invitation date has moved in the past at 65 and 70 points for all occupations when around 1000 invites have been given (what we think will be the average from now on)
- When there are just a 1000, which pro rata occupations do and do not use their full quota each round
- The effect of the double/triple invitations on some occupations.

(Source: Iscah)

4) Queensland state sponsorship update

Due to a high numbers of EOIs, BSMQ will not be issuing any more invitations for EOIs lodged on or after 27 November 2017 for the below occupations:

132211 Finance Manager

141111 Cafe or Restaurant Manager – visa subclass 190 (still available for the visa subclass 489).

(Source: Queensland State Government)

5) Media article criticising the 457 visa changes

VC giants savage government on immigration and business for ignoring sexual harassment and innovation

Two of Australia's top technology venture capitalists have launched a scathing attack on the government's plans to curb immigration through changes to professional visas and hit out at an overly conservative local business culture for its ignorance of tech-led change and tolerance of sexual harassment.

Daniel Petre, co-founder of Airtree Ventures, which is deploying Australia's largest tech fund and Bill Bartee who runs the \$200 million CSIRO Innovation Fund, Main Sequence Ventures, were speaking at the inaugural Australian version of Techcrunch's Startup Battlefield event in Sydney last week.

They warned Australia was missing an enormous opportunity to improve its crucial technology industry by closing its doors to many immigrants.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton is in the final stages of preparing the government's response to a review of visas, which is expected to involve major changes to the Migration Act. However influential members of the local tech fraternity including Atlassian co-founder Scott Farquhar and MYOB chief executive Tim Reed have previously warned that abolishing 457 visas will starve companies of vital and scarce skills.

Mr Petre said Australia needed to take advantage of the political climate in the US under President Donald Trump, to attract the tech industry's brightest talent to Australia, but was wasting the chance.

"At a time when Trump is telling brown-skinned data scientists to go f--- themselves, we should be able to bring them to Australia, but we have this moron in Peter Dutton saying we don't want to have more of these people in the country," Mr Petre said.

"It is a bizarre thing where we know the multiplier of a good developer or data scientist in terms of creating other jobs, but we are missing a massive opportunity."

Mr Bartee warned that numbers at Australian universities in tech-related courses painted a worrying picture of the future for the economy, with a shortage of people coming through with the kind of skills that would be necessary to make local businesses globally competitive.

He said Australia was particularly short in large tech product management roles, and would continue to struggle to commercialise good ideas from within universities and businesses if there was no significant change in approach.

Bill Bartee who runs the CSIRO's investment fund with the help of former Pollenizer boss Phil Morle, says there is a worrying lack of key skills developing in Australia. David Rowe

"If you look at the number of computer science graduates coming out of universities it is actually declining and half of them are foreign nationals who are going to leave the country," Mr Bartee said.

"So we have a declining population of developers and engineers at a time when we need them more than ever."

(Source: Financial Review)

6) Aussies back migrants but express concerns

The vast majority of Australians are upbeat about accepting migrants from diverse backgrounds, according to a major survey, but several troubling issues are simmering just below the surface.

Almost two-thirds of Australians agree taking in immigrants from different countries makes the country stronger.

And more than four in five people think multiculturalism has been good for Australia, according to the 10th annual Scanlon Foundation report into social cohesion.

The figures have softened slightly over the past decade but remain relatively stable despite significant spikes in population and cultural diversity over the period.

(Source: Channel 9)

7) Iscah Student Visa Package



We are now able to fully manage your Enrolments and Student visa with all of Australia's major universities and colleges **Note this is ONLY for students already IN AUSTRALIA.**

Any visa (485, student, 457 etc) is ok
Our Student Package includes the following :

- Advice on the most appropriate courses to study
- Managing your enrolment process
- Managing your student visa (we charge \$1200+GST for this)
- A full consultation on your further visa prospects

To start the process please email us now at study@iscah.com with the following details

Which visa do you current hold? When is it expiring?

What is your age ?

Which country's passport do you hold ?

Have you ever held a student visa or have applied for student visa before?

If you hold a student visa, are you studying the course that your student visa was granted for?

Have you completed at least 6 months of the principal course that was on your COE ?

Finance – self funded or scholarship or loan?

What studies have you completed overseas?

What studies have you completed in Australia, if any?

Please provide your Australian Academic results

What is your current course and institution (do you plan to finish the course, if yes, when?)

Please list your past work experience

What are your best english language test results ?

Why are you studying in Australia?

Is there a course you want to study and why ?

When would you like to start this course

Which city do you want to go to ?

Reasons you want to change to a different institution (if applicable)

How is this course going to benefit your career when you go back home ?

(Source: Iscah)

8) New Zealand applicants to affect 189 invitations

New Zealand visa applicants to affect 189 invitations in 2017/18 even more than expected - This program year NZ citizens have the opportunity to apply for a 189 visa under much easier criteria than everyone else. How many NZers apply we believe will directly affect how many 189s are available for the pro rata and non pro rata occupations.

Initially we estimated around 4,000 may apply out of the possible 70,000 who are eligible. Up until October 2017 (first 4 months) there have been 2,646 apply. Given there is likely to have been a surge initially I expect over the whole year that this will turn out to be around 5,000 primary applicants However what is more important is how many have family members applying. A normal 189 application has approx 1.7 applicants applying (so the vast majority are single person applications).

However the NZ family members have turned out to be larger than expected. , 2.4 applicants per application.

This is important as the 189 target is 43,990 total visa applicants which in the past has equated to 31,000 EOIs (allowing for wasted invites and then family members on top), Initially we anticipated around 4,000 NZ main applicants applying. Which meant 27,000 real invites for everyone else.

With NZers being larger families it means their expected 5,000 applicants with 2.4 people per application will take a massive 12,000 from the 43,990. That leaves now only 31,990 for everyone else. Or in effect just 23,000 invitations instead of what we expected 27,000.

The effect is that where we expected 1000 per round from now on, this will now be revised down to a lesser figure 800-900 from now until the end of June (on average) - UNLESS DIBP CHANGE THEIR EOI POLICY AND PUBLISHED QUOTAS FOR THE YEAR.

This is going to have a massive bad effect on waiting times we believe.

When the November results come out from DIBP we will review our waiting time estimates.

Please understand we do not provide this data to be overly optimistic or pessimistic, we simply want to be realistic so that you know what to expect as DIBP change its settings.

(Source: Iscah)

9) Character 4020 changes blocked in parliament

The regulations meant anyone who submitted incorrect information as part of an Australian visa application could be effectively barred from reapplying for a decade.

Migration laws that gave power to the Immigration Department to lock people out of Australia's visa system for ten years even if they inadvertently gave false or misleading information have been overturned by the Senate.

Under the migration regulations that came into effect on 18th November, any applicant found to be providing bogus documents or false or misleading information to the Immigration Department, Migration Review Tribunal or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, could face a ban of ten years under Public Interest Criterion (PIC) 4020, and was going to be locked out of the visa process for ten years.

An application lodged since November 18 could be refused if fraud was detected in an earlier application made within the previous 10 years.

This replaced a 12-month period that had applied to those who withdrew their application once notified of suspected fraud - a way to avoid a potential three-year ban if that visa was subsequently refused.

This new rule was expanded in scope to apply to most temporary visas.

However, on Tuesday, Senate voted down the Immigration Department's changes, overturning the whole instrument.

"Some of the powers that Peter Dutton wanted to give himself included the powers to cancel visas for something like speeding ticket... And those powers to be exercised not only without a conviction for the alleged offence but even without someone being charged," said Greens Senator Nick McKim who introduced a motion in the Senate against the regulations.

(Source: SBS)

10) AITSL (Teachers) Skills assessment changes

Our Skilled Migration Services team are introducing an online application system which will reduce fees for all migration skills assessments from 15 January 2018. In preparation for these changes you will not be able to apply for a skills assessment from 15 December 2017 until 15 January 2018. All applications submitted before 15 December will remain paper-based. Post your correctly certified supporting documents to ANMAC, there is no option to upload these supporting documents.

(Source: AITSL)

11) Iscah unofficial skill select results for 6th December 2017

Here are our unofficial results from the 6th December 2017. 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 estimate there were 200-500 invitations.

We believe EOIs have been invited at the following scores with effect dates up to and older than the dates below::

2211 Accountants 75 points 17/10/2017

2212 Auditors etc 75 points 16/08/2017

2334 Electronics Engineer 70 points up to 29/10/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

2335 Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers 70 points 29/10/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

2339 Other Engineering Professionals 70 points 23/10/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

2611 ICT Business and System Analysts 70 points 09/08/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

2613 Software and Applications Programmers 70 points 29/10/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

2631 Computer Network Professionals 70 points 29/10/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

ALL other Non Pro Rata Occupations 70 points 29/10/2017 and 75 pointers up to 22/11/2017

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

12) Same Sex Marriage visa changes

From 9 December 2017, you can apply for a visa as your partner's 'spouse' if you are in a same-sex marriage following the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Australia.

Under the changes, if you are in a same-sex marriage you can apply for a visa as your partner's 'spouse', rather than as their 'de facto partner'.

The changes will apply to Partner visas (subclasses 100, 309, 801 and 820) and to all other visas where you can include your spouse in your application.

You can also apply for a Prospective Marriage visa (subclass 300) if you are in a same-sex relationship and genuinely intend to marry your prospective spouse in Australia.

(Source: DIBP)

13) More criticism of the 457 visa changes – media article

How 457 visa changes are hitting start-ups

Liz Kaelin and Annie Parker talk about how the crackdown on 457 visas is hurting Australian technology entrepreneurs.

"You are not really given any timelines on how long it is going to take," Christie says. "It disadvantages small businesses massively. It's very hard for us to grow, we have put a lot of effort and time with flights and travel to China. It's just been a huge drain and we've invested a lot into driving our business into China and this has put it all on hold and it's just embarrassing."

Christie estimates he has spent \$70,000 on the two 457 visa applications in an attempt to hire two Chinese citizens with on-the-ground, up-to-date experiences with the culture, language and marketing mechanisms in China.

"The real cost is the hours and time I've had to spend away from my business," he says.

Christie says Adventure Set Productions has missed out on substantial revenue opportunities as a result of the delays, including fulfilling a broadcast opportunity with a Chinese television station.

"We had a meeting and they said 'You put subtitles on and we will start airing them,'" Christie says. "That opportunity was given to us 12 months ago but we needed the people to do the graphics and translations. That's a small business into a small provincial television station in China but their broadcast range is 80 million people. That's huge for us."

Adventure Set Productions two 457 visa applications were rejected and Christie plans to appeal the decision.

"We're now going through the appeal process which is costing us tens of thousands per person just for the basics," he says. "The outrageous part is that the government is applying new standards to old applications. New rulings mean that despite our applications meeting the requirements at the time of submission, the government has moved the goalposts, meaning we're losing time and money trying to meet all of the new demands."

Spike in assessment time frames

Dimitrios Katsaros, partner at law firm Katsaros & Associates, says there has been a spike in assessment time frames for almost all types of applications particularly 457 visas, which allow skilled migrants to work for an Australian employer for a temporary period and may lead to permanent residency.

He says 457 applications are now taking an average of nine months for a final decision to be given from the time of application, an increase from an average of three months, which had been the consistent time frame for over 10 years.

"The changes mean small business owners who are desperate for staff are being made to wait up to a year, or more in many cases, only to find out that the application was refused," Katsaros says. "This is hurting Australia businesses and in turn the services and products they have to offer Australians."

Continued on next page

Unintended consequences

Small business and family enterprise ombudsman Kate Carnell says small businesses are struggling to deal with the changes.

Jonathan Plowright says hospitality businesses are expected to be hit hard by the 457 visa changes in March, but delays are already occurring.

"We understand why the changes were put in place – to ensure that where Australians are qualified to do the job they should get first bite of the cherry," she says. "But we're concerned about unintended consequences including delays with processing and changes to the list of approved professions."

Carnell says the reality is that many small businesses in industries like agriculture and hospitality can't get the people they need to run their businesses.

"It's a dog's breakfast," she says. "There needs to be a good look at the red tape to make it easier for small businesses to employ the skilled people they need."

The hospitality industry is expected to be one of the hardest hit by the 457 visa changes.

Skills shortage

Jonathan Plowright, the founder of online hospitality learning platform Typsy, says he is already seeing the impact of the skills shortage among the small hospitality businesses which are Typsy's clients.

"What we are seeing is people are already questioning how they are going to find staff next year," he says.

A spokesperson from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection says complete applications are generally processed in less than 90 days while 75 per cent of applications are processed within five months.

"Visa processing times are dependent on a range of factors, including the personal circumstances of the applicant," the spokesperson says.

(Source: The Age newspaper)

14) Extra wait for migrants for Social Security payments

Mid Year Economic & Fiscal Outlook - Impacts for migrants

The Government has today in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook announced major changes to access to Social Security for migrants from 1 July 2018, aimed at saving \$1.2 billion over four years from 2017-18.

Changes to access to Social Security

From 1 July 2018, the current two year waiting period for a range of payments will be extended to three years. The three year waiting period will be applied to Family Tax Benefit (FTB), Paid Parental Leave (PPL) and Carers Allowance;

Exemptions for vulnerable groups will apply and New Zealand citizens who are on Special Category Visas and have children in their care will be exempt from waiting periods when accessing FTB and PPL.

The Government will include a short term exemption for newly arrived residents who would have otherwise been eligible to receive PPL between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018.

Assurances of Support

The current two year Assurance of Support requirement applying to family visas will be increased to three years.

(Source: MIA and Federal Government)

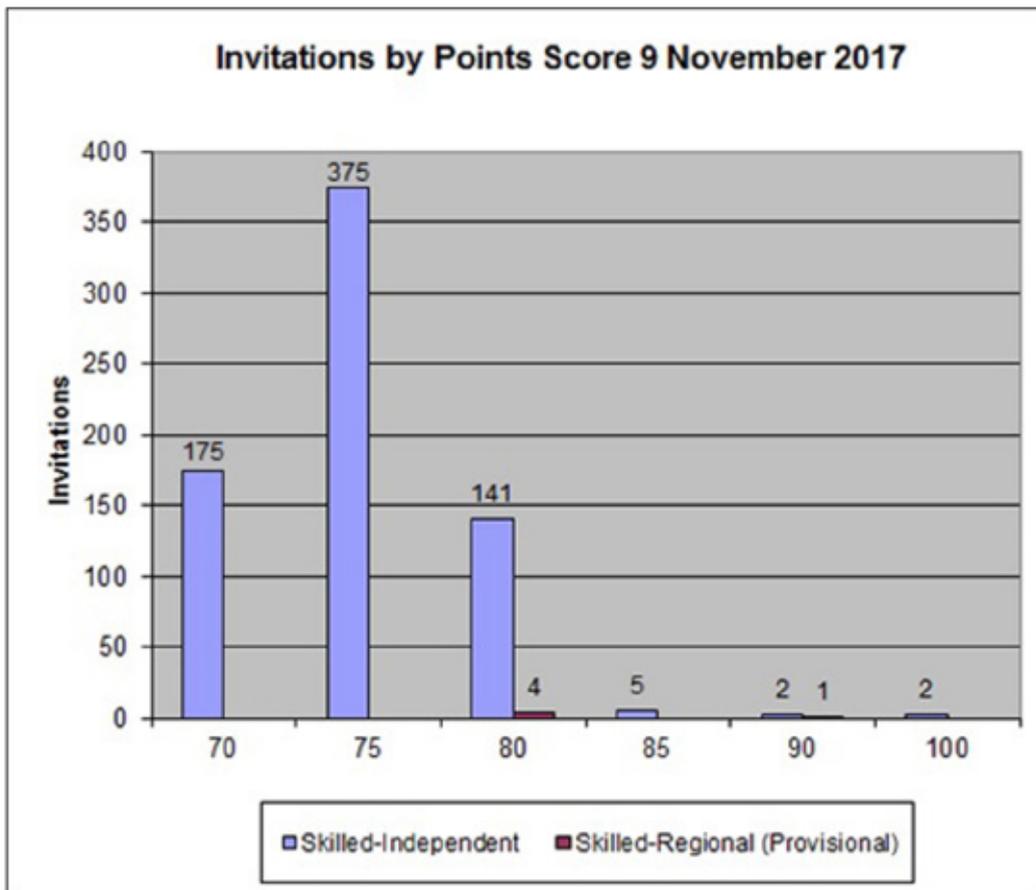
15) Skill Select results 9th November 2017

9 November Invitation round

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 9 November 2017.

Invitations issued on 9 November 2017

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	700
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	5



Continued on next page

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. 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.

Invitations issued on 1 March 2017

Visa subclass	Points	Date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	70	21/10/2017 2.21 am
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	80	31/05/2017 3.25 am

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.

Point scores and the visa dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 9 November 2017 invitation round.

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	75	15/09/2017 5.11 pm
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	75	23/06/2017 3.58 pm
2334	Electronics Engineer	70	19/10/2017 7.23 pm
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	70	20/10/2017 7.11 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	70	20/10/2017 8.40 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	70	28/07/2017 7.16 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	70	21/10/2017 1.46 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	70	21/10/2017 2.21 pm

(Source: DIBP)

OK folks, see you all on Monday
15th January 2018 !!

Have a great few weeks and
holiday period.



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