

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hey Everyone

Happy New Year and welcome to a great 2018 for all of us. Here is hoping for a less closed minded approach to immigration from the Federal Government (and opposition) who are all chasing a few extra percent in the polls. Whilst hurting our economy and social fabric along the way. The great thing about Australia is we turn over governments quicker than dirty laundry and it will be better down the track..

This newsletter is published on the 3rd Monday of every month. We bring together all the latest news and views and provide it free to our readers. If you have any queries, suggestions, wish to subscribe or unsubscribe then drop us an email to [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com)

On to January's news...



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# 1) Mid Year Budget changes for migrants

## 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)

## 2) Migrant welfare cuts – who won't be affected

Treasurer Scott Morrison's move to save \$1.3 billion by making migrants wait three years to access welfare payments will not apply to refugees or other vulnerable migrants, the Immigration Department has told SBS World News.

Earlier this week the government announced migrants who arrive in Australia from July next year will have to wait three years before they can access certain Centrelink payments, extending the current two-year waiting period.

Announcing the MYEFO budget update, Mr Morrison said the measure would save \$1.3 billion in the next four years.

The extended waiting time will apply to paid parental leave, the Carers Allowance, and the Family Tax Benefit, assuming the government can secure the changes in law. Treasury documents said there would be "exemptions" for "vulnerable groups", as well as for some New Zealand citizens with children in their care.

SBS News asked the Immigration Department - now part of Peter Dutton's Home Affairs ministry - to clarify what counted as "vulnerable" groups. Refugees who are found to be fleeing persecution and are given humanitarian visas will still be exempt from any waiting time, as will their families. Newly arrived migrants who experience sudden financial loss due to a "significant change in circumstances" and pass a "hardship test" will also be able to get an exemption, the department said.

Examples of this could include the death or permanent disablement of a spouse, particularly if that spouse sponsored the migrant to come to Australia or if they relied upon them financially.

Migrants who suffer domestic violence at the hands of their partners or experience "unexpected" medical expenses would also be excused.

Skilled migrants who come to Australia for an employer-sponsored job but then lose their jobs, could also be exempted.

And migrants who become single parents after they are granted permanent residency in Australia would also be able to access parenting payments.

Migrant groups including the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia and the Migration Council of Australia slammed the government's decision earlier in the week.

FECCA chairperson Mary Patetsos called it a "worrying step".

"The relatively small amount of budgetary savings are going to impact quite severely on some of our most disadvantaged people, vulnerable families, and young children," she said.

SBS News contacted both groups and sent them the Immigration department's clarification to see if it allayed their concerns, but did not receive a response by time of publication.

(Source: SBS)

### 3) DIBP is renamed

DIBP is renamed today and the website is now here - [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au)

On 18 July 2017 the Prime Minister announced reforms to Australia's national security and intelligence arrangements. These reforms involved establishing a Department of Home Affairs and a Home Affairs Portfolio.

The Department of Home Affairs is a central policy agency, providing coordinated strategy and policy leadership for Australia's national and transport security, federal law enforcement, criminal justice, cyber security, border, immigration, multicultural affairs, emergency management and trade related functions. The Department of Home Affairs includes the entirety of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. It also includes national security, emergency management and criminal justice functions from the Attorney-General's Department; the Office of Transport Security from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development; multicultural affairs from the Department of Social Services; and the counter-terrorism coordination and cyber security policy functions from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Department of Home Affairs, and the wider Portfolio, was officially stood up on 20 December 2017. References to functions under previous departments are being progressively updated in the first half of 2018.

(Source: DIBP)

### 4) Student Living cost increase

Living cost increase

The Department has released the January 2018 Student Visa Digest. The cost of annual living amounts will increase on 1 February 2018. Every application made where evidence of funds is required, should include updated cost of living amounts in the calculations of funds, from this date. The new annual living amounts are:

Student or guardian AUD \$20,290

Partner or spouse: AUD \$7,100

Child: AUD \$3,040

(Source: MIA/DIBP)

## 5) International students Ombudsman

International Students can lodge complaints with this independent body if they are unhappy with their college.

Here is their latest report ...  
International Student Ombudsman report for information –

[www.ombudsman.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/78614/Final-Overseas\\_Students\\_Ombudsman\\_Quarterly\\_Statistical\\_Summary\\_July-to-September-2017.pdf](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/78614/Final-Overseas_Students_Ombudsman_Quarterly_Statistical_Summary_July-to-September-2017.pdf)

(Source: Australian government)

## 6) 457/ENS/RSMS and Skilled list changes

457/ENS/RSMS and new Temporary/Permanent visa January update from DIBP  
Occupation List changes –

New Occupation (STSOL and MLTSSL) lists will come into effect around 17th January 2018.  
(Note from Iscah : see possible changes here  
<http://www.iscah.com/proposed-changes-skilled-lists-january-2018-mltssl-stsol-lists/>)

Any changes will not effect existing 457 applications still being processed.

The next changes will take place in March 2018

Incomplete Applications - 457 Applications lodged after 15th January 2018 can be refused if they do not have sufficient documentation on them within 2 days of lodgement. (this does not include, health, character or genuineness documents).

457 applicants applying for 186 (TRT) or 187(TRT) after 2 years- If you applied for your 457 visa before 18th April 2017 then you will only have to meet TWO years of work experience for your permanent visa (not the three years required for other applicants)

DIBPs full newsletter is here  
<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/work/newsletters/january-2018>

(Source: DIBP)

## 7) Some changes to eligibility for 489 Tasmanian State Sponsorship

Some changes to Tasmania 489 state sponsorship eligibility requirements -  
Click here to see the full criteria [https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/skilled\\_migrants/skilled\\_regional](https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/skilled_migrants/skilled_regional)

## 8) Victorian 190/489 State Sponsorship update

Applications for engineering and building occupations are temporarily closed and will reopen on 5 February 2018. Applicants who hold an offer of employment in Victoria in their nominated occupation or meet the streamlined PhD or 457 pathways are not affected by this closure and may apply for these engineering and building occupations during this time.

(Source: Victorian State Government)

## 9) Government ask for views on the size/composition of the migration program

The Federal Government is asking for comments about the size and composition of Australia's migration program

<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/discussion-papers/managing-australias-migrant-intake.pdf>

In short they are not trying to reduce the program, rather get the mix right between temporary and permanent visas and encouraging people to move to regional areas.

This is all we know on this issue at the moment,

(Source: Iscah/DIBP)

## 10) DIBP privatise some Visa services

Two hundred and fifty jobs will be generated in Adelaide as the Turnbull Government modernises the nation's visa and citizenship services.

Services currently provided from Britain, Canada and Sydney will be relocated to Adelaide bringing the Department of Home Affairs client enquiry services into one location.

They will be delivered by Australian company Datacom Connect Pty Ltd under a contract with the Department of Home Affairs.

The Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton said that the Department currently handles over 1.5 million enquiries a year.

"Moving enquiry management services to a dedicated external provider is expected to reduce the wait time for clients and improve their access to the information they need in a timely manner," Mr Dutton said.

"Approximately 250 Datacom employees will be dedicated to delivering services for the Department. They will be based at one service centre in Adelaide, rather than being split around the world creating opportunities for Australian job seekers in Adelaide."

The new arrangement is part of a long-term programme to bolster Australia's immigration services, with a focus on creating a more user-friendly experience for visa and citizenship clients, encouraging a greater uptake of digital services.

Further improvements to immigration services will be rolled out during the course of 2018, including a new user-focussed visa and citizenship website, enhancements to the ImmiAccount online visa application portal and changes enabling clients to reschedule their appointments online.

Datacom will begin delivering client enquiry services in full by mid-2018. Transition arrangements will be carefully managed to ensure minimal impacts to clients.

(Source: DIBP)



## 11) Proposed changes to Skilled Migration

The Australian government is planning to make significant changes to the visa system probably over the next 12 months.

As part of that they have held consultation in regards simplifying the visa structure down to possibly 10 visa categories (note this does not reduce the number of people who can be granted a visa, it is just making the rules simpler). And also they have suggested a provisional visa be granted for a period of time (possibly 2 years) before people can attain permanent residence.

The latest December 2017 update on these submissions/consultations are here -

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Visasupport/Documents/visa-simplification-submissions/consultation-outcomes-summary.pdf>

There are also some Q&As here

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/visa-reform/general-q-a>

This is all we know about these proposed changes at this stage. We do not know what will be adopted or when the changes may come in. It is just for your information

(Source: DIBP)

## 12) Why is there such a long wait for my 189 EOI invitation

Okay where on earth do we start ? Take the 6th December 2017 round for example DIBP only invited 300 EOIs for the 189 visa. These were made up of :

203 Accountants  
66 Auditors  
7 ICT Business Analysts  
11 Software and Application Programmers  
2 Industrial, Mechanical, Production Engineers  
3 Other Engineering Professionals  
5 Computer Network Professionals  
3 OTHER NON PRO RATA OCCUPATIONS

As Accountants and Auditors used up 269 of the spots with their higher scores and longer waiting periods, the other 31 places are likely UNUSED INVITATIONS that after 60 days have gone back into the EOI pool. And so they will always be invited first as their EOI has been waiting longer. It is irrelevant that they were invited before, they did not accept the invitation (around 20% of invitees don't usually as they have another invite somewhere else). So those older EOIs getting invited a second time actually sends the latest invitation date BACKWARDS in DIBPs official results.

An example would be an EOI lodged as "Other Engineering Professionals". With an EOI date of 3rd October 2017 and 75 points. They would have been invited on the 4th October 2017. If they did not take up that offer their EOI would go back into the EOI pool after 60 days. So they would then get a second (and last) invite on the 6th December 2017 round. In fact that is what has happened and you will see that the invite date for "Other Engineering Professionals" has gone back from every 75 pointer having been invited as of 22/11/2017 (we know this as they got down to 70 point invites) to now showing the latest invite as 03/10/2017 in the 6th December 2017 round just published by DIBP (this is an unaccepted EOI invite).

I hope that makes sense. In short it means that most of the Pro Rata dates have gone "backwards" as these are unused invites that have gone back into the pool to be invited again. These are older than everyone else's and so will be invited first. With so few places available this round these unused ones become the "latest" invites and so DIBP have published those dates which are historically incorrect as more recent ones HAVE been invited.

For now you are better following our Iscah results until DIBP start increasing numbers beyond the miserly 300 as it creates these incorrect results.

(Source: Iscah)

## 13) Fake EOIs and DIBP response

Fake EOIs being lodged for the 189 visa and DIBPs response -

We raised this with DIBP and just received the following reply :

"Thank you for the information provided regarding clients concerned that there is a constant stream of false expressions of interest being lodged regularly on SkillSelect which are being invited to apply for a general skilled migration visa. The department has been reviewing all highly scoring EOIs when making invitations and we are satisfied that no non-genuine EOIs are currently being considered for invitation..."

(Source: DIBP)

## 14) DIBP give some reasons for the slowdown in invitations

DIBP Explain the slowdown in skillselect invitations –

As we advised recently the 189s are likely to include New Zealand 189s this program year, our estimate is 12000 of the 43,990. As well DIBP have a backlog of cases that they would like to reduce for both processing reasons and in our view the introduction of a new points test in the next 12 months.

DIBP recently replied to a question about the slowdown in skillselect with the following reply :

"The Skilled migration programme is based on Australia's economic needs. It supports the Government in managing who can apply for skilled migration, when they can apply and in what numbers. Occupation ceiling values are based on a percentage of stock employment figures for each occupation. The ceiling on each occupation is not a target, SkillSelect does not necessarily intend on inviting that many applicants over the year. The ceilings ensure the skilled migration programme is not dominated by a narrow group of occupations. Please note, the occupational ceiling numbers for the Subclass 189 visa also includes the Subclass 189 visa (NZ stream)."

They also say on their skillselect site the following :

"Invitation numbers in each round may vary depending on the number of applications being processed by the department"

(Source: DIBP)

## 15) DIBP update on General Skilled processing times (after visa lodgement)

<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Allocation-dates-for-General-Skilled-Migration-applications>

(Source: DIBP)

## 16) When will I get my 189 visa invitation

When will I get my 189 visa invitation -

Here are our latest predictions following DIBPs skill selection round and our own unofficial results from 03/01/2018

This table predicts how long you will need to wait from the 11th January for EOIs lodged today, 3 months, 6 months or 12 months ago.

We have made an assumption that ON AVERAGE there will be 750 invitations each round from now until June 2018. This is based on the program targets DIBP have, their 6 months backlog of cases already being processed and the influence New Zealanders being part of the 189 program will have.

Also we have assumed (like in December 2017) that Accountants and Auditors will only have half their normal invitations given each month from now until June 2018. To allow for a more balanced number of invitations in the other occupations whilst total invites are so low.

Note there is NO guarantee these assumptions of 750 average per round over the next 11 rounds until June 2018 and the half invites for Accountants/Auditors are correct. We have simply made those assumptions in order to give some rough guide on how long people may have to wait for an EOI invitation IF DIBP continue with their recent policies.

as at 11th January 2018		EOI Lodged		Assumes 750 per round	
		today	3 months ago	6 months ago	12 months ago
2211 Accountants (assumes average of 120 invites per round) © Iscah	75 points	Last Round June 2018	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2212 Auditors (assumes average of 33 invites per round) ©	75 points	Last Round June 2018	1 Month	invited	invited
	70 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2334 Electronics Engineer ©	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 months	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	© Iscah
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers ©	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 Months	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2339 Other Engineering Professionals © Iscah	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 Months	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018 © Iscah	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018 © Iscah
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	after June 2018	2 Months	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 months	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
2611 Computer Network Professionals ©	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 Months	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018 © Iscah	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018 © Iscah
ALL non-pro rata occupations	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 Months	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018
	60 points	after June 2018	after June 2018	after June 2018	invited

## 15) Skill Select results 9th November 2017

There were just 300 places and no Accountants were invited. This is likely as if Accountants were included then over 200 of the 300 places would have been Accountants again as they have waited longest at higher marks.

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/work/skil/invitation-round-3-january-2018>

As predicted quite a few occupations got through to 75 points at 02/01/2018. There were then a few extra places for 70 pointers and these have been wasted as DIBP have then used them to invite "old" 70 point people who did not accept their first invitation at 70 points. This is why you will see a number of pro rata occupations have gone "backwards" at the 70 point date of invitation. For example 2613 has gone backwards from 30/10/2017 to 21/09/2017. Ignore these it is a glitch in the system. Instead just focus on that ALL 75 point people got an invite and the very few invites at 70 points in fact were wasted ones.

If DIBP invite no Accountants again on the 17th January 2018 round, and leave the total invites around 300 then a similar result will be expected. That is all 75 pointers will get an invite in pro rata occupations (accept Auditor) and there will be a very small number of 70 point people.

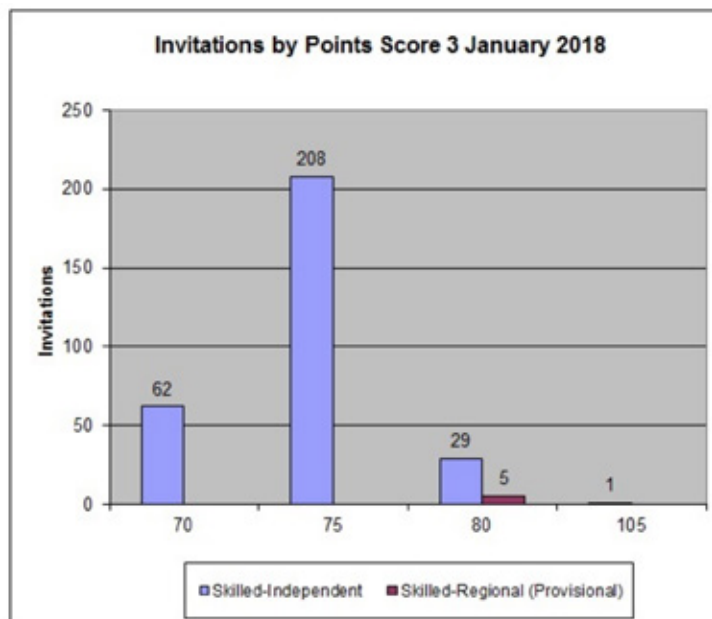
Other Engineering Professionals (2339) at 70 points says 31/10/2016. It would seem this should probably be 31/10/2017 as the previous 70 point mark was 30/10/2017

### Invitations issued on 3 January 2018

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	300
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	5

### 3 January 2018 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 3 January 2018 round.



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 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	21/09/2017 6:52 pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	80	10/11/2017 9:08 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.

### Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 3 January 2018 invitation round.

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	N/A	N/A
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	75	13/09/2017 10:51 am
2334	Electronics Engineer	70	20/09/2017 11:47 pm
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	75	02/01/2018 11:00 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	70	31/10/2016 5:37 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	70	30/08/2017 12:03 am
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	70	21/09/2017 6:50 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	70	21/09/2017 6:52 pm

(Source: DIBP)

OK folks, see you all on Monday  
19th February 2018 !!

Have a great few weeks.




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