



ISCAHS Skill Select Analysis

August 2018

Number of invitations per month

DoHA have stated :

"...The Department has reviewed this process and will now extend invitations on a monthly basis. The invitation numbers will be increased accordingly ..."

The use of the words "WILL BE " suggests to us that DoHA was initially going to have a second July round and so have 2000 invites for July. But changed their mind to have just one round.

The fact that DOHA have separately stated

".There is no change to the overall number of invitations provided each month."

Suggests that intended number (for example) 2000 will then be grouped together in just ONE round for future months.

DoHA have also said that the 189 program numbers for this year will be the same as last program year. There were approximately 15,600 invitations for 189s. There were also be some Kiwi visas in the total grant numbers of which there will be less this year. And for argument sake we will assume this is balanced off against a substantial backlog of cases that DoHA say they are already processing and would like to clear. So sticking at 15,600 over 12 months that is around 1300 invites per month.

Inviting 2000 per month will not last forever over a whole program year. And to be fair DoHA have said they will adjust the invitations each month to allow for program management etc. I think it is safer to assume that we will get 2000 per month for a short while and then the numbers will drop so that it "averages out at 1300 per month over the whole year.

The Split between Pro Rata and Non Pro Rata (NPR) invitations

The other important aspect here is the split between Pro Rata occupations and Non Pro Rata occupations. The new split looks like 180 out of each 1000 will go to Pro Ratas. And the 820 balance will go to NPR invitations.

This will severely extend the expected waiting time for Pro Rata occupations. There is light at the end of the tunnel though. As around December 2018 it is likely that all the waiting NPR occupations at 65 and 70 points will have been invited. Although there will be a stream of new NPR EOIS each month (around 245) that will not be enough for DoHA to maintain an average of 1300 per month invitations throughout the program year, and so the Pro Ratas may then receive a much needed increase in invitations around December 2018.

Electronics Engineers and Other Engineering Professionals- their true occupational ceiling

First of all we do NOT believe that the correct occupational ceilings for each occupation have been published by DoHA for 2018/19. Although there is a table with these on, it is a statistical improbability that NO occupation changed their ceiling numbers. So we are guessing this has not yet been updated correctly.

Each occupation (except Accountants) has an occupational ceiling equivalent to 6% of the total workforce in Australia. For some occupations such as Other Engineering Professionals and Electronics Engineers this figure ended up being less than 1000. DoHA have had a policy since 2013 to round UP these low ceilings to 1000. This has advantaged of course these two occupations. If DoHA instead give these two occupations their correct occupational ceiling of 6% it looks like their true occupational ceilings could be just 696 for Other Engineering Professionals and 210 for Electronics Engineers.

Both occupations received unusually low invitations on the 11th July 2018. We are not saying that this is the reasoning behind that, but we are trying to confirm with DoHA as this is one possible explanation for such low numbers (there are other explanations).

Some observations from 11th July 2018

- Pro Rata invitations look like they were capped at 180 for the round (so possibly 360 over a full month)
- Accountants would have received their full allocation , so 36 looks like the maximum they should have got and so we think that is 72 per month. That is probably limited by visas from other programs for now. Again this number will likely increase in around December 2018 when all the NPR occupations have received invites at 65 and 70 points.
- Software & application Programmers seem to have received an increase in invitations from 58 to 69 per month. It is difficult to work out why this is for now and we will await the next round on the 11th August to see if this is continued.
- Computer Network Professionals seem to have received an increase in invitations from 12 to 21 per month. It is difficult to work out why this is for now and we will await the next round on the 11th August to see if this is continued.

- Most other occupations seem to have continued to be capped by being allowed a maximum of just 20% of their normal round quota. However the 180 invitations allocated to Pro Rata occupations will have meant some occupations would not even fill this quota before the 180 are all used up.
- Non Pro Rata invites at 820 for the round and so possibly 1640 for a full month will mean that a 70 point EOI will likely be invited next round and a 65 points EOI lodged today will likely get an invite in just 4 months time.

AS A RESULT OF SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOTAL INVITES AND PRO RATA POLICY, WE WILL WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE 11th AUGUST 2018 ROUND TO PUBLISH OUR NEXT ESTIMATE TABLE.