

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Edition Number 242 | 21st August 2018

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Hi Everyone

Another breathless few weeks topped off by the Immigration Minister resigning after a failed attempt to topple his leader and become Australia's new Prime Minister this morning.

No doubt ex minister Dutton will be ready for another tilt at the leadership and the current PM will consider calling an early election if he thinks he can't keep the top job. So more uncertainty for the next few months.

It does mean though that while Mr Dutton is not there, Australia can relook at trying to meet 190,000 migrants per year target, which is considered economically optimal for the country.

This monthly newsletter is free and if you want backcopies go to our website at [www.iscah.com](http://www.iscah.com) If you want to get on the mailing list or unsubscribe, email us to [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com)

On to August's news ...



## Contents

- 1) Estimate on what you will get your 189 invitation
- 2) Immigration Minister resigns
- 3) Survey for WA International Students
- 4) Iscah speak on ABC Radio about WA International Students
- 5) WA State Migration top reopen for 2018/19
- 6) Dramatic drop in WA student numbers
- 7) Citizenship queue blows out 300%
- 8) More Staff to be deployed for Citizenship backlog
- 9) Iscah's latest 189 Invitation estimates
- 10) Immigration cut to cost \$500 million a year
- 11) Incentives for Migrants to move to regional areas
- 12) New Job Advertising requirements for 482 visas
- 13) Unofficial Skill Select results for 11th August 2018
- 14) Citizenship changes back on the agenda
- 15) Skill Select news from DoHA
- 16) South Australia want increased Skilled Migration
- 17) Iscah's Skill Select Ansysis August 2018
- 18) DoHA newsletter on the 482 visa and the new Global visa scheme
- 19) NSW releases new 2018/19 skilled list
- 20) Official Skill Select results from 11th July 2018

## 1) Estimate on what you will get your 189 invitation

Every month we analyse the latest policy setting from DoHA on invitations, the annual targets, limitations on Pro Rata Occupations, the number of invitations waiting at each points level, how long they have been waiting and a few other secret herbs and spices.

We then come up with our monthly estimates for 189 waiting times.

If you want a personal and obligation free estimate on when YOUR EOI may get invited just email the following details to

estimateinvite@iscah.com

- Occupation
- Points Score
- EOI effect date

Thanks,  
Iscah

## 2) Immigration Minister resigns

Peter Dutton has resigned from Home Affairs, confirms the PM, and Scott Morrison will replace him.

Morrison was previously the Immigration Minister and seems he will share Home Affairs for now.

If Turnbull survives this week, we may see some movement of the immigration program numbers back to an economically beneficial one for Australia 190k per annum.

There is also a suggestion that Morrison is just there on an interim basis until they have a replacement longer term.

<https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/malcolm-turnbull-faces-threat-of-leadership-challenge/news-story/b13bf07d192d3079e118c75be87616a8>

### 3) Survey for WA International Students

The WA government reopened state migration options for 489s/190 visas this week after pressure including from Iscah through multiple media articles, radio interviews and meeting the state government directly.

The Premiers statement is here

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2018/08/WA-to-attract-best-and-brightest-international-students.aspx>

However given the loss of confidence the WA education industry and students have in the WA government after their poor decision to halt state migration options in March 2017, this statement does NOT go far enough.

It only gives 489/190 options to the elite level graduates (PHD, honours and some masters graduates). It needs to offer options to high point scoring graduates in lower level qualifications such as degree, diploma and trade certificates as well. In our opinion.

If you have or intend to study in WA we need your help. We have developed a quick 3 minute survey on your thoughts about WA sponsoring graduates for the 489/190 visa. Please complete this survey and SHARE it on your Facebook page for your FB friends to complete it as well.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K7V58GD>

The last survey we undertook on this topic we presented to the WA State government in a meeting in March 2018. And it significantly helped persuade them to reopen the state migration pathways for students this week.

So get cracking and fill it in please.

### 4) Iscah speak on ABC Radio about WA International Students

Iscah speaking on ABC Radio this week about WA opening up their state 489/190 migration program

[http://www.iscah.com/wp\\_files/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/abc-perth-intnl-students.mp3](http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/abc-perth-intnl-students.mp3)

## 5) WA State Migration top reopen for 2018/19

WA to attract best and brightest international students

McGowan Government moves to attract more international students to Western Australia

High achieving graduates attending WA's universities will be targeted

Attracting international students boosts the economy and helps create jobs for Western Australians

An additional Graduate Skilled Migration List will be introduced to attract the best global talent with the advanced qualifications, skills and experience and help grow Western Australia's share of the international education market.

The McGowan Government will give high achieving education graduates - PhD, Masters, Honours and other higher degree graduates - a pathway to skilled migration.

It is expected the changes will attract an increased number of high-quality international students to the State and help grow our share of the international education market.

The State Government's existing Skilled Migration Occupation List will not be affected, with the policy of not including occupations such as bricklayers, electricians and mechanics remaining in place.

Priority consideration for skilled migration under the State Nominated Migration Program will be granted to the best and brightest international students graduating from WA universities.

These students are essential to maintaining the competitiveness of Western Australia's universities in creating knowledge and building capacity for scientific and technological development, and strengthening the future workforce.

Information about eligibility and how to apply will be available on the Department of Training and Workforce Development's migration portal in coming months at <http://www.migration.wa.gov.au>

The McGowan Government has also committed \$2 million to develop a detailed and comprehensive International Education Strategy, which is expected to be announced later this year.

Comments attributed to Premier Mark McGowan:

"Attracting the best and brightest of international university students represents a major step in our commitment to increasing Western Australia's share of the international education market.

"We need to send a message to the world that we welcome international students, and their friends and families. Perth is an attractive, supportive destination to live, study and work.

"A key part of our Plan for Jobs includes an investment of \$2 million to develop an International Education Strategy to grow and diversify the knowledge economy, while creating jobs."

Comments attributed to Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery:

"Encouraging international students to choose Western Australia as a destination for study and work will help boost our economy and create WA jobs.

"We have excellent universities and our weather and lifestyle is second-to-none.

"We're confident that investment in international education and our International Education Strategy will see growth in the sector."

(Source: WA State Government)

## 6) Dramatic drop in WA student numbers

Overseas students skipping WA a 'lost opportunity costing us millions'

A dramatic drop in the number of international students enrolling in WA could be costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the opposition.

New figures released by the federal Department of Education revealed 8.2 per cent fewer overseas students commencing studies this year in WA, the only state to record a decline.

The number of new international students climbed by 7.7 per cent in Victoria, 7 per cent in Queensland and 6.3 per cent in New South Wales.

A row erupted in parliament on Thursday after the state government promised to introduce a pathway for high-achieving foreign graduates to migrate.

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

## 7) Citizenship queue blows out 300%

The citizenship queue has blown out by more than 300 per cent under the Turnbull government, leaving migrants who have spent years in Australia without access to students loans, an Australian passport or the right to vote ahead of the next federal poll.

Department of Home Affairs figures show the number of residents waiting to be approved for citizenship has spiralled from 27,000 to 189,000 under the Coalition. More than 140,000 of those have been added while Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has been in office.

Migrants say they have been left despairing at the situation, putting their study, plans to sponsor family members and apply for government jobs on hold in the midst of a divisive debate in Canberra.

That debate escalated on Wednesday, as both sides of politics condemned a speech in Parliament by Senator Fraser Anning that called for a "final solution to the immigration problem" and a return to the "White Australia policy."

"What migrants saw was Fraser Anning not only making horrific comments but some government MPs shaking his hand," said 31-year-old Fijian Atul Vidhata, a lawyer who emigrated to Australia more than a decade ago.

"It is part of the narrative and permanent residents are starting to believe if you commit the smallest infraction, like getting a parking fine you will get deported, others think if you use Medicare they won't make you an Australian citizen."

Mr Vidhata, who has been told he will have to wait 17 months for a citizenship decision, said the delays and heated rhetoric had compounded the anxiety in the migrant community.

"It turns into a bitterness. People shouldn't be denying themselves healthcare because they are worried it will impact their ability to be a good citizen."

English language testing may become mandatory for new migrants at a primary school level, softening the requirements of previous test proposals.

Permanent residents are unable to vote, apply for jobs in the public sector where they need a security clearance, access HECS-HELP student loans, or get priority access to sponsor their family members for visas. The long delays have led some to fear that if they leave the country they will be put to the back of the queue.

The delays have been exacerbated by stalled citizenship changes including an English language and Australian values test that were rejected by the Senate in October. The government has vowed to pursue other options, including a scaled-down conversational English test in a bid to streamline migrants.

The number of migrants applying to become citizens, [190,000-200,000] and the number approved each year [130,000] have been relatively static since 2013-14.

In a speech that has had more than 250,000 views on Facebook, south-west Melbourne Labor MP Julian Hill claimed he was laughed at by Liberal MP Trevor Evans when he said grown men had been breaking down in his every week in his office in a state of hopelessness and despair.

"You may laugh, Member for Brisbane, but I challenge you to come to the office and look into the eyes of the man who's been here for 10 years without the ability to go home, without the ability to see his family, without the ability to study and to complete his degree," he said.

"We have every week in the foyer of my office, grown men crying." Watch Labor MP Julian Hill's speech on migration.

He will put a motion on the notice paper in Parliament on Thursday to call for Citizenship Minister Alan Tudge to explain "the enormous, inexplicable and unconscionable delays".

Mr Tudge said there had been a number of factors that have contributed to the backlog.

"First, the demand for citizenship has never been higher. Second, there are much greater national security threats today than before. Third, the processing of the 50,000 people who arrived unlawfully by boat in the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd years. "

Colombian immigrant, Isabella [not her real name] has been waiting 17 months for her Colombian migrant Isabella, who asked not to be identified because her case is still under review by Home Affairs, has had her waiting time extend from 10 months last year, to 17 months in August, records seen by Fairfax Media show.

"We married here, we started our careers here, all of these things mean a lot to us," she said.

"I have been through endless visas, security tests, medical tests. I joke that I've given them blood, tears and all my money - there is nothing else really left to give."

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

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## 8) More Staff to be deployed for Citizenship backlog

Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Alan Tudge, says more staff will be assigned to deal with the huge numbers of citizenship applications over the next six months.

The Department of Home Affairs is looking to deploy more staff to process the citizenship application backlog which has spiralled to more than 200,000 as of 30th April 2018.

The Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Alan Tudge has said more staff will be assigned to deal with the huge numbers of citizenship applications in next six months.

"Over the next six months we'll be putting on an extra 150 people to deal with some of the citizenship applications," he said in an interview to ABC 774.

When questioned about the delay, he pointed to three reasons which include a massive spike in applications over the last few years, almost a tripling since 2010.

"There has been an almost tripling of the applications - first point.

"Second point is that we did overall increase the identity checks and security checks about 12 months ago.

"And thirdly, we are dealing with that big backlog of the boat arrivals from three or four years ago, which are now coming through for citizenship," he said.

He rejected the claim that the department was understaffed.

"We've had 20 per cent more people in the last three years. We're about to put on an extra 150 people," he said.

He also pointed out that 75 per cent of applications are 'still done within 15 months.'

### Citizenship application processing times

Last updated: 18 July 2018 (for month ending 30 June 2018)

Australian Citizenship application type	75% of applications processed in	90% of applications processed in
Conferral (lodgement to ceremony**)	14 months	17 months
Descent (lodgement to decision)	2 months	5 months
Evidence (lodgement to decision)	23 days	44 days

\*\*A small proportion of applicants for Australian citizenship by conferral are not required to attend a ceremony. For Descent and Evidence applications, allow an additional 10 days for printing and postage of your certificate. If you applied from outside Australia, postage will take longer.

A spokesperson from the Department of Home Affairs told SBS Hindi, "Increased demand for Australian citizenship has also coincided with an increase in the number of cases that require complex identity assessment.

"In particular, there has been an increase in the number of people applying for citizenship who supply limited or no identity documentation from their country of origin. These applications are generally more complex and require additional time and effort to process.

"Australia is also facing greater national security threats now than in previous years. To ensure the safety of all Australians, the Government has introduced additional measures to strengthen processes for verifying the identities and good character of citizenship applicants.

"The Department of Home Affairs is adding an additional 150 extra staff to the processing of citizenship applications, which reflects the high value placed on Australian citizenship."

### "Citizenship changes back on agenda"

While more than 200,000 applicants are awaiting the outcome of their application, the citizenship changes are back on the government's agenda.

The Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill has been proposed for introduction and passage in the spring sittings, according to the list released by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The legislation makes several changes to citizenship requirements. They include changing the period of permanent residency from one year to four, a modest English language requirement, a new values test, and stronger character checks.

Potential citizens will also need to demonstrate their integration into the community, including by "behaving in a manner consistent with Australian values".

The amended bill, which makes the wait longer and eligibility tougher for migrants, was struck down after the government missed the deadline in the Senate, thus striking off the bill by default on October 18th, 2017.

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

## 9) Iscah's latest 189 Invitation estimates

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from 16th August 2018. Depending on when you lodged your EOI, what the effect date is and the occupation.

These may not turn out to be DoHA settings, we are just trying to give a rough estimate in this age of uncertainty. If their policies change .. WE WILL CHANGE OUR ESTIMATES ACCORDINGLY

Our main assumptions are that there will be an average of 1300 per round for the rest of the year (some months higher some months lower. But we have taken an average of 1300 as DoHA have said there will be the same number - 15,600 - as last program year)

And we also assume that 60% of invites will go to Pro Rata occupations as advised by DoHA.. on average through 2018/19.

We have also added the text of "EOI to expire before invite" to some EOIs. This is because any that were lodged 12 months ago that we are predicting will not get an invite before July 2019 will mean that the 2 year period of the EOI will expire. So they cannot get an invite on current estimates.

Assumptions		EOI Lodged				Copyright Iscah 2018
AVERAGE of 1300 invitations per month for the rest of the 2018/19 program year Pro Rata to be given around 60% and NON Pro rata around 40% of these numbers Each Pro rata occupation to have no more than 50% of their normal monthly allocation "not before July 2019" doesn't mean you will get an invite, it just means unlikely before then		today (16th August 2018)	3 months ago	6 months ago	12 months ago	
<b>Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 16th August 2018</b>						
2211 Accountants © Iscah	80 points	5 months	2 months	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite	
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	
2212 Auditors ©	80 points	6 months	3 months ago	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite	
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	
2314 Electronics Engineer ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	3 months	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited © Iscah	
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © Iscah	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	9 months	6 months	3 months	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	
2339 Other Engineering Professionals © Iscah	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	3 months	next round	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019 © Iscah	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite © Iscah	
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	5 months	2 months	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite	
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	1 month	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	10 months	6 months	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	
2631 Computer Network Professionals ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	9 months	7 months	5 months	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019 © Iscah	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite © Iscah	
ALL other NON pro rata occupations	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	4 months	invited	invited	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited	

Note the assumptions that we listed at the top of the spreadsheet. These predictions will change if DoHA stop giving priority to non Pro rata occupations

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These estimates are heavily influenced by the number of invitations that DoHA issue each round, the limitations against some of the pro rata occupations, and a number of other factors listed here - [www.iscah.com/use-189-eoi-predictions/](http://www.iscah.com/use-189-eoi-predictions/)

Press "like" to get visa updates from our page and your welcome to SHARE this on your FB page if your friends will find it useful.

Please send all questions to [query@iscah.com](mailto:query@iscah.com) as it is too difficult to see them on the FB thread system.

You are also welcome to email us to [query@iscah.com](mailto:query@iscah.com) asking us when you will get your invite, and we will give you our current estimate.

(Source: Iscah)

## 10) Immigration cut to cost \$500 million a year

The 30,000 cut in the immigration intake will cost the federal budget \$500 million a year, a Treasury briefing obtained by Fairfax Media shows.

There were 162,000 permanent visas approved in the 12 months ended June 30, a cut from 190,000 the previous year, which Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton described as evidence "the policy is working as it should". The Turnbull government has framed immigration as a key issue for Saturday's by-elections, as it road-tested key policies before the next federal election.

Between April 2017 and April 2018 Treasury produced two reports to Cabinet on the financial impact of a cut to immigration. The period was marked by disagreement between Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Mr Dutton over whether ministers had discussed slashing Australia's immigration intake from 190,000 to 170,000 a year.

Those documents will not be released under a freedom of information request, but Fairfax has obtained a Treasury briefing showing how it calculates the contribution of individual migrants to government revenue.

The briefing revealed Treasury looks at the contribution of migrants at an individual level, including the "personal incomes of migrants, a Department of Home Affairs survey and de-identified tax return data provided by the Australian Taxation Office".

The cut to 162,000 last financial year takes us back to pre-2011 levels. It is understood the modelling used in the 2011-2012 budget papers remains valid; this showed an increase in the migration program from 168,700 to 185,000 would have delivered a \$569 million a year boost in tax by 2014-15, up from \$214 million in 2012-13 and \$382 million in 2013-14.

"In evaluating this, we differentiate between the different characteristics of migrants from the skilled, family and humanitarian migration streams, and interactions between the permanent program and temporary residency visas," the briefing said.

Treasury did not detail the cost or benefit of each category, but the skilled migration stream provides significant tax revenues each year, while the family and humanitarian schemes cost the budget in the short term through social services. Most of the reduced intake in the past year has come out of the skilled stream.

When the issue was debated in Cabinet, Treasurer Scott Morrison slammed a push from former prime minister Tony Abbott to cut the immigration intake to 110,000, warning it risked Australia's future economic prosperity and would "cut off your nose to spite your face".

In the balance: Australia's population squeeze

Add to shortlist

Mr Dutton, who strongly advocated for the limit in April, said the numbers had been reduced because of "additional scrutiny" and Australia had "a better migration program as a result of it".

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"In the end we want somebody coming in who is as young as possible with the most skills so that they can pay taxes for as long a period of time as possible and contribute to the economy," Mr Dutton said.

The business community has accused the Coalition and Labor of fanning anti-immigration sentiment in return for votes in electorates that have struggled with unemployment and historically low wage growth.

The growing clout of Australia's twin urban giants

Add to shortlist

Both parties have capitalised on concerns held by city voters about congestion and housing affordability but the budget papers show a large cut would have also have a significant impact on revenue.

Mark Cully, a former economist at the Department of Immigration and Citizenship who now works for the Department of Industry, has criticised Treasury's formula as simplistic because it is based on revenue estimates over four years rather than over a migrant's lifetime.

"Some groups of immigrants may incur a fiscal deficit in their early years of settlement which is subsequently repaid in later years as their situation improves," he wrote in a research paper. "This is evidently true for children, and is true on average for humanitarian entrants."

While a 40-year-old skilled migrant worker might contribute more in tax over the next four years than a 15-year-old refugee, this was not necessarily true over their lifetime, he said.

A formula focused on the direct budgetary impact also does not take into account the wider contribution a migrant might make, for example by starting a business that pays company tax and employs other people.

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

## 11) Incentives for Migrants to move to regional areas

Carrot and stick: minister flags 'incentives' to direct migrants away from capital cities  
The citizenship minister says migrants could be rewarded for staying in the regions as the government considers its population policy

The Turnbull government is considering a combination of new visa conditions and new 'incentives' to encourage migrants to settle in regional and rural areas, according to citizenship minister Alan Tudge. The minister has been flagging reforms to bind migrants to the regions since May. There are already several visa streams designed to bring skilled foreign workers to the regions – but Home Affairs data unearthed in a recent Senate hearing revealed 10 per cent of those migrants were moving to cities within 18 months.

"That's why we are seriously looking at this question, to see whether or not we can provide further incentives for new arrivals to want to go to some of the smaller states, such as South Australia," Mr Tudge told the ABC on Sunday night.

"And then perhaps further conditions upon visas to at least require that person to stay there for a few years where they hopefully will make it their home, and before they become a citizen."  
The government says it wants to encourage population growth in regional areas with struggling economies while taking the pressure off Sydney and Melbourne.

"In other parts of the country we have mayors, or indeed state premiers crying out for more people, and they want their populations to grow and they have the jobs to support it," Mr Tudge said.  
The Australian reports the reforms to regional visas could be part of a broader population policy that will soon to cabinet.

SBS News contacted Mr Tudge's office for comment, but the office would not confirm a broader population policy was in the works.

Earlier in the month, Nationals leader Michael McCormack told ABC News "discussions" about population policy were taking place.

"Particularly in line with the fact that we ticked over 25 million just the other night," he said.  
Business groups like the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have complained that the drop in permanent migration under the Turnbull government will hurt regional employers.

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

## 12) New Job Advertising requirements for 482 visas

New Labour market (Job advertising) requirement for 482 nomination and visas from 12th August 2018

<https://www.mia.org.au/documents/item/1406>

## 13) Unofficial Skill Select results for 11th August 2018

Our estimate is around 2000 invites possibly more in this round

Pro Rata Occupations look to have been given about 60% of the invites and Non Pro Rata Occupations about 40% of the invites

To produce our results we collect data from our own clients, online forums, other online sources, and feedback from our FB and newsletter followers. As well as using mathematical logical assumptions we know in the past to be correct.

If you aware of any more recent invites for any of these occupations please email us at [query@iscah.com](mailto:query@iscah.com) with some details so that we can see if this table can be updated over the next 24-48 hours.

(Please note it is highly likely there are more recent invites we are unaware of ... this is just the best we know so far)

iscah estimated invitation dates after Skillselect round of:	EOI points score			All EOIs to this effect date we believe have been invited		
11th August 2018	65 points	70 points	75 points	80 points	85 points © iscah2018	
2211 Accountants	6/10/2015	24/10/2016	18/10/2017	15/03/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2212 Auditors	27/07/2015	26/12/2016	26/09/2017	13/03/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2334 Electronics Engineer	18/09/2017	6/12/2017	12/06/2018	3/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © iscah 2018	27/04/2017	03/12/2017*	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2339 Other Engineer Profs	3/01/2017	30/10/2017	15/05/2018*	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2611 ICT Business Analysts	11/08/2016	13/09/2017	04/04/2018*	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2613 Software Applications Programmer @ iscah 2018	18/04/2017	30/10/2017	20/06/2018*	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	
2631 Computer Network Prof	4/03/2017	30/10/2017	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	10/08/2018*	
<b>ALL the other NON-pro rata occupations</b>	<b>28/09/2017</b>	<b>29/05/2018*</b>	<b>10/08/2018*</b>	<b>10/08/2018*</b>	<b>10/08/2018*</b>	
Assumptions - At least 2000 total invitations (Split 60% Pro Rata, 40% Non Pro Rata)						
* iscah estimates of CHANGED DATES from the latest round have an asterisk next to them * and are in dark GREEN						



## 14) Citizenship changes back on the agenda

Citizenship changes back on agenda -

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has released the list of legislation proposed for introduction in the coming the 2018 Spring Sittings.

The Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill is back on the list.

The purpose of the Bill is reported to be the implementation of a package of reforms designed to strengthen the requirements to become and remain an Australian citizen, including in relation to residency, English language, Australian values, integration into the Australian community and good character.

It appears that the Bill will be introduced in its previous format given that the following link was provided with the notification: Media release of 20 April 2017

MIA members are advised to remind any clients who may be eligible to apply for citizenship that they may consider doing this as soon as possible to avoid any potential impacts.

(Source: MIA)

## 15) Skill Select news from DoHA

DoHA have confirmed that the Occupational Ceilings have not been updated yet for the 189 visa for 2018/19. The correct figures will be updated shortly.

We have confirmed with DoHA that the Pro rata invites for the 2018/19 program year will be approximately 60% of the total program over the year.

DoHA have previously also said that the program is the same as last year, so we expect close to 15,600 invites. Which will then mean :

- 9360 invitations for Pro Rata occupations
- 6240 invitations for Non Pro rata occupations

With an average of 1300 invitations per round

They also confirmed that they were intending to invite a more than usual number of EOIs in July than the average. Which gives us confidence that it was anticipated to be 2000 in July in total (two rounds of 1000).

Given DoHA now say that 60% of invites will be Pro Rata occupations for the program year, it means that shortly DoHA will have to change their settings of inviting just 180 out of 1000 Pro ratas per round. We expect this in the next two months. This will be good news for Pro Rata occupations and we will update our invitations estimates table after the 11th August round

(Source: Iscah and DoHA)

## 16) South Australia want increased Skilled Migration

As debate rages about immigration in Australia, we need to ignore the hysterical headlines and remember the old mantra – ‘populate or perish’.

Population growth is steaming ahead on the eastern seaboard but not in SA.

Population growth and the hard work of many migrants has propelled the Australian economy and made us the prosperous country we are today.

This week the media fanfare will begin as Australia officially reaches the milestone of 25 million people. It's hardly that significant on a global scale considering Beijing alone has a population of more than 21 million, but it's a big deal on the official ABS clock. Of course, growth has been rocketing recently mostly in the east coast cities of Sydney and Melbourne. This has caused our Sydney-centric politicians to worry, especially given the escalating real estate prices and the general congestion and sprawl that's come as a by-product. New figures indicate the government might be putting the brakes on. The Home Affairs Department now shows permanent migration program figures have dropped in the past year to 162,417 (down from 183,608).

Let's hope this isn't part of a downward trend because South Australia and other smaller states like Tasmania still desperately need a piece of the immigration action. With too many people leaving SA and an ageing demographic, our state will be in dire straits soon without more deliberate and sustained population growth — and the appropriate infrastructure to support it. For this reason, Premier Steven Marshall's plan to lure additional migrants with a new skilled visa program should be commended – and supported.

We simply can't let the naysayers detract us from the very real benefits that immigration can provide. Rather, we should focus on facts.

People coming to Australia on the permanent migration program are educated, skilled and ready for work. A majority of them have university degrees, with a further percentage having a trade or management skills. These people and their families support the labour market and boost the economy. Many skilled migrants have proved to be successful entrepreneurs by starting businesses and creating employment opportunities. This has a flow-on effect throughout the community, supporting wages growth and improved living standards. Importantly, migrants also pay state and federal taxes and spend money locally, which is good for all of us.

Regional areas of South Australia also stand to benefit. The Premier is calling for the Federal Government to list our regions as priority areas for migration. This is a sensible move. Australia is a country with most of the population concentrated in just a few coastal cities. This doesn't have to be the case. In other countries, regional areas are centres for innovation and industry, offering employment opportunities and a vibrant community. Our newest arrivals could be the lifeline for many towns and would help regional centres to thrive and expand economic activities beyond Adelaide.

International students are also a major source of economic activity contributing more than \$32 billion per annum to the Australian economy. According to the Federal Department for Education and Training, more than 556,987 students have come to Australia in the past year to attend our universities or to enrol in schools, VET courses and intensive English language programs. But once again, it's a two-speed economy as NSW, Victoria and Queensland gain most of the enrolments. We need to grab more market share and sell South Australia as a viable and attractive destination. The Federal Government can support us by channeling more students our way through special student visa programs.

*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

Mass immigration without proper planning can cause problems – but we've had enough time to think about this. We've seen some of the problems created by poor planning in Sydney and Melbourne; it's unlikely we'd make the same mistakes here. We must also invest in successfully supporting and integrating new migrants. It shouldn't be sink or swim.

The ever-wise Bernard Salt wrote about these very issues in the Weekend Australian (August 4-5) saying the key to success is building a culture where we can discuss issues around immigration in a civil manner, and becoming more tolerant and forgiving of others. This is what will secure our future.

As the child of migrant parents who escaped from Cyprus as refugees, I agree with this view. I was raised to appreciate every opportunity Australia has to offer. I studied hard and excelled at law school, yet as a young woman I was too often judged by my background first, not my capability.

Fast forward some years later and this kind of intolerance for those from Greek, Italian or other European backgrounds has all but disappeared. But newer migrants from China, India, the Philippines or Africa may still feel the hard stares and thoughtless remarks.

Australia has prospered largely through the efforts of a very multicultural society. Apart from the Aboriginal people, who should be acknowledged as the first people of this land, we are all either migrants or descendants of migrants. In fact, these days 28 per cent of the population are born overseas, and another 21 per cent have a parent born elsewhere. We need to own this fact and to celebrate our tradition of welcoming new Australians from many different countries.

While future growth should be well planned and sustainable, South Australians need to ignore the fearful voices that seek to divide us with a 'bunker down' mentality. Globalisation is not going away – embracing it and discussing workable policies to support our future growth is the only way forward for South Australia.

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

## 17) Iscah's 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.

(Source: Iscah)

## 18) DoHA newsletter on the 482 visa and the new Global visa scheme

Department of immigration Skilled Visa newsletter is available here. it includes an update on the points test, temporary 482 visa and new Global scheme visa is available here

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/work/Newsletters/august-2018>

## 19) NSW releases new 2018/19 skilled list

After being closed before the end of the last financial year, the New South Wales Government has commenced the immigration program for the financial year 2018-19.

Like all other state and territory governments in Australia, NSW runs its own skilled migration program together with the Department of Home Affairs under which the state government supports the skilled visa applications based on the needs of the state's economy and skill needs.

The NSW government has commenced the immigration program with a new skill list for the Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190). Under the 190 program, the NSW government nominates skilled workers with an occupation on the NSW Priority Skilled Occupation List, which is also called NSW 190 List. Nominated visa holders have to commit to living and working in NSW for their first two years in Australia on this visa.

The 190, like the 189 Skilled Independent visa, is a points-tested visa. Applicants who receive state nomination are awarded five additional points towards their overall points score.

With the points cut off for some visas climbing as high as 85, migration agents say state nomination is helpful for many applicants in securing the requisite points.

"It's especially helpful for occupations like the accountants who need at least 85 points to receive an invite from the Department of Home Affairs to apply for a permanent visa. If someone already has 80, another five points can come from the state nomination," says Jujhar Bajwa of Bajwa Immigration Consultants.

It's also considered a great pathway to permanent residency for applicants with trades occupations.

"Generally, applicants with trades don't have enough points to apply for Skilled Independent visas. The additional points that come with state nomination can buttress their case," Ranbir Singh of Lakshya Migration told SBS Punjabi. Though the occupations of cook, hotel and motel managers, special needs teachers have been removed from the list, management consultant has been added this time.

"Enrolled nurse occupation that is particularly popular among the South Asian applicants continues to stay on the list which is a big relief considering this occupation has very few options elsewhere," Mr Singh added.

The NSW Government says under this program, top-ranking candidates in occupations are invited throughout the year and the candidates are required to meet the eligibility requirements of both the state and the federal government.

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/live-and-work-in-nsw/visas-and-immigration/nsw-skilled-occupations-list>

(Source: NSW State Government)

## 20) Official Skill Select results from 11th July 2018

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/WorkinginAustralia/Pages/11-july-2018-invitation-round.aspx>

OK folks, see you all on Monday  
17th September

Stay safe and have a fun few weeks




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