

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 246 | 17th December 2018

Hey folks,

Hope you have enjoyed a terrific few weeks.

Welcome to the last edition of an eventful 2018. Again full of interesting news about visa changes, processing times and general policy directions.

This monthly newsletter is free and if you want backcopies go to our website at www.iscah.com If you want to get on the mailing list or unsubscribe, email us to newsletter@iscah.com

On to December's news ...



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1) Interesting recent media articles about migration and visas to Australia

<https://theconversation.com/why-cutting-australias-migrant-intake-would-do-more-harm-than-good-at-least-for-the-next-decade-108748?>

[https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-is-minister-coleman-unwinding-duttons-sub-class-457-changes/?](https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-is-minister-coleman-unwinding-duttons-sub-class-457-changes/)

www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/12/scott-morrison-fails-to-persuade-premiers-to-lower-migration-rate-at-coag?

<https://thewest.com.au/politics/immigration-policy/premier-mark-mcgowan-puts-his-price-on-wa-taking-more-migrants-ng-b881046956z?>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6481821/Low-skilled-immigrants-basic-English-allowed-Australia-theres-catch.html?>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-09/labor-government-would-dump-plan-to-outsource-visa-processing/10597606?>

[https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-is-our-visa-processing-system-in-crisis/?](https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-is-our-visa-processing-system-in-crisis/)

2) Official WA 190/489 invitation results for December 2018

The profile of the last invited EOIs from the December 2018 SNMP Graduate Stream invitation round.

190 visa
Masters
0 work
10 english
70 points
EOI submitted 26/10/2018

489 visa
Masters
0 work
10 english
70 points
EOI submitted 16/10/2018

During the selection and ranking process the number of invitations issued to applicants with the nominated occupation 221111 Accountant (General) was restricted, due to the high representation of this occupation in the eligible EOIs. The profile of the last invited EOI with this nominated occupation was as follows

190 visa - Accountant
Masters
0 work
20 english
80 points
EOI submitted 08/02/2018

Points includes state sponsorship points

During the ranking process work experience was considered by years indicated in eligible EOIs and factored in both on and offshore work experience;

For the selection and ranking process we use the date that the EOI was first created (initial submitted date), not the 'Date of Effect'

Due to the high number of expressions of interest by applicants with the nominated occupation of ANZSCO 221111 Accountant (General), this occupation on the Graduate occupation list is now under review. Invitations to apply for WA State nomination for this occupation will be limited. If you have already received an invitation, your application will not be affected.

(Source: WA State Government)

3) Request a FREE personal estimate of your 189 invitation date

You are also welcome to email us to estimateinvite@iscah.com asking us when you will get your invite with the following information

- Occupation
- Points Score
- EOI effect date

and we will give you our current estimate.

4) When will you get your 189 Invite – Iscah predictions

You are also welcome to email us to estimateinvite@iscah.com asking us when you will get your invite with the following information

- Occupation
- Points Score
- EOI effect date

and we will give you our current estimate.

4) When will you get your 189 Invite – Iscah predictions

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from TODAY - 11th December 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 based on DOHA now inviting approximately 800 places per round.

And we also assume that around 450 of these will go to Pro Rata occupations and 350 to non pro rata 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 800 invitations per month for the rest of 2018/19 Pro Rata to be given around 450 and NON Pro rata around 350 of these numbers And "not before July 2019" doesn't mean you will get an invite, just unlikely before then		today (11th December 2018)	3 months ago(11/6/18)	6 months ago(11/6/18)	12 months ago(11/12/17)	
Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 11th December 2018						
2211 Accountants © Iscah	80 points	not before July 2019	11/02/2019	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019				
	70 points	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite			
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite				
2212 Auditors ©	80 points	not before July 2019	11/06/2019	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019				
	70 points	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite			
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite				
2334 Electronics Engineer ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019				
	65 points	not before July 2019	© Iscah			
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © Iscah	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019				
	65 points	not before July 2019				
2339 Other Engineering Professionals © Iscah	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019				
	70 points	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite			
	65 points	© Iscah				
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019				
	65 points	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite			
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019				
	65 points	not before July 2019				
2631 Computer Network Professionals ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019				
	65 points	not before July 2019				
ALL other NON pro rata occupations	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	11/03/2019	invited	invited	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019				

Note the assumptions that we listed at the top of the spreadsheet. These predictions will change if DoHA change their current selection policies

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/
(Source: Iscah)

5) Unofficial Skill Select results from 11th December 2018

Our estimate is approximately 800 invitations.

Pro Rata Occupations look to have been given about 400 places and Non Pro Rata Occupations about 400 of the invites.

The reduction could be several factors. There is information suggesting that DOHA have advised an agency that there were in fact 4340 invitations given in October and 4340 invitations in November. We are unsure of this, (it does not match up with the movement dates of most occupations) although if true that may be why numbers are smaller in December.

The prime minister has said a smaller program is necessary. But then why not invite a similar number each month to ensure it is always the top scoring candidates who get an invite over a full year? Also the results of state discussions about how many each state need are not to completed and announced until the April 2019 budget. So there are many questions, so we will just deal with the facts for this round.

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.

Iscah estimated invitation dates after Skillselect round of :	EOI points score			All EOIs to this effect date we believe have been invited		
11th December 2018	65 points	70 points	75 points	80 points	85 points © Iscah 2018	
2211 Accountants	6/10/2015	24/10/2016	18/10/2017	18/08/2018*	10/12/2018*	
2212 Auditors (no results seen this round)	27/07/2015	26/12/2016	26/09/2017	8/06/2018	10/10/2018	
2334 Electronics Engineer	18/09/2017	13/12/2017	19/11/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © Iscah 2018	27/04/2017	20/06/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
2339 Other Engineer Profs	3/01/2017	30/10/2017	11/10/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
2611 ICT Business Analysts	11/08/2016	13/09/2017	12/09/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
2613 Software Applications Programmer © Iscah 2018	18/04/2017	6/04/2018	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
2631 Computer Network Prof	4/03/2017	10/08/2018	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
ALL the other NON-pro rata occupations	28/09/2017	22/11/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	10/12/2018*	
Assumptions - Approximately 800 total invitations (Split 400 Pro Rata , 400 Non Pro Rata)						
* Iscah estimates of CHANGED DATES from the latest round have an asterix next to them * and are in dark GREEN						

Source: Iscah

6) Change to Vetassess work experience for PHD students

Currently VETASSESS considers paid doctoral research level studies as valid employment for skills assessment purposes.

Please be advised that as of 15 December 2018, VETASSESS will not accept paid doctoral studies for skills assessment purposes, consistent with the Department of Home Affairs requirements. For skilled employment to be considered 'remunerated', applicants must be engaged in the occupation on a paid basis, generally at the award or market rate of the occupation. A person receiving minimal living allowances or scholarships designed to cover study expenses would not be considered to be remunerated.

VETASSESS will continue to ensure that impact on its clients is minimised during the transition leading up to the implementation date. Applications received prior to 15 December 2018 will be processed according to the criteria at the time of applying.

(Source: Vetassess)

7) New pathway to PR for retiree (405/410) visa holders

What a mess the WA government have made of the International student market in Western Australia.

Since taking government in March 2017 they have consistently made public remarks and policy decisions that have devastated an industry worth \$2 billion a year and 2000 jobs to Western Australia annually.

They initially abolished Perth as a region for the RSMS permanent visa scheme making it harder for employees to seek skilled labour when they had proven to the WA state government that they were unable to find such skills in WA.

They followed this up by virtually closing the State Migration program through slashing the occupations available for State Sponsorship. To the point where in 2017/2018 WA did not sponsor even one skilled migrant.

Now they have introduced a graduate migration program in a desperate attempt to claw back the losses we have suffered through International students choosing to study in the Eastern States rather than in WA.

Let's be clear, the international student market is massively beneficial to WA. Every skilled migrant moving to WA on average creates 1.6 jobs for our economy. And as mentioned it is a multi billion dollar industry. The major factor in deciding where a student studies in Australia is what improves their chances of attaining a permanent visa after graduation. So WA closing the door on state sponsored migration had a devastating effect on our enrolment numbers.

As the national student applications grew by over 60,000 since March 2017, Western Australia's share of this increase was a miserly 1,096 students. Or to put it another way if WA had grown by the same rate as the other states it would have been worth an additional \$342 million to our economy in course fees and living costs. We lost this through our state government policies being interpreted by international students that they were simply not welcome here.

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Finally the WA government in October 2018 opened up a graduate list of occupations to sponsor international students but they have totally messed this up as well.

Firstly they have prioritised PHD and Masters graduates to the point where there are the only students under current policies who will have a chance of being sponsored by the WA state government for permanent residence. The problem with this is that the rest (degree, diploma and trade certificate students) are actually 70% of international students. So for the vast majority there is NO incentive to choose WA as their state to study in.

The second mistake and this maybe even more serious as the student community slowly realise, is that they are only offering 800 sponsorships for the whole of 2018/19. This compares to South Australia, NSW and Victoria who will each likely offer over 3000 places this program year again. And even the small ACT who have recently had their number of places increased to 1400 for the year.

The comments below from International students who have heard of this pitiful low figure of 800 places is telling ..

This trick of WA will scar the international students off from coming to the state.

The number of students in West Australia will decline accordingly

Not good news for the WA economy, I definitely recommend other states as all are doing at least fair for the international students because they know it is wise to provide the pathway for permanent residency as they already integrated into the economy.

If thats the WA immigration decisions, there is no reason for international students to consider coming to WA anymore. They will rather go to other states that have better opportunities for permanent visa

WA government never had balls to ask for a fair share of it's GST nor the royalties from the mining boom... now they are destroying its higher education export industry! Truely a great empty state in the making

To be honest, this is just sad and disappointing....it doesnt give future and existing international students any motivation to even consider studying in WA...whilst other states in Australia continue to back their international graduates by offering them state sponsorship, WA will lose big tym in the higher education sector.....

Study in WA is just wastage of money and time. WA govt strategy is only earning \$\$\$\$....from international students.

That's the reason WA economy is going worst. The state need more people to generate more revenue and sustain businesses. Economy can be only strengthen by inviting more immigrants. God bless WA government

Government doesn't know what they want to do...they change rules every now and then...if you want people in WA then fix rules for few years otherwise don't implement new rules such as new migrants have to spend 5yrs in regional area when you can't provide them with permanent residency. That's a sh** and students should not come to WA for studies anymore.

It is hard to imagine how the WA government could have made a bigger mess of this massive export earning industry in their first 18 months. And the rescue package has been exposed as a complete dud.

Unless they increase the sponsorship numbers in line with the 3000 plus places being offered by other states, and give some realistic opportunities to diploma, trade and degree students (which is 70% of the student market) then the disaster for the WA international education industry will continue.

(Source: Iscah)

8) NSW Regional Migration update

Please note that RDA FSC and the RCB closes for the annual end of year shut-down from 4pm 14th December, 2018 until Tuesday 15th January, 2019. Our telephones and emails are not monitored during this time and no visa processing occurs during the shut-down.

ATTENTION: Please note that the Skilled Regional Sponsored Visa (SRS) 489 program for the NSW Far South Coast is currently suspended until early 2019. Due to this suspension, we cannot accept any further applications at present. We will announce the reopening of the program on this website and recommend that you monitor this site for further information.

The assessment process for all previously accepted applications will proceed as normal.

ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION TO FACILITATE A SUCCESSFUL 187 AND/OR 489 VISA APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE ON THIS WEBSITE. TO ASSIST US TO EXPEDITE OUR PROCESSING TIMES, PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY BEFORE CONTACTING US WITH AN ENQUIRY, AS MANY ENQUIRIES ARE COVERED BY THE INFORMATION BELOW.

NO REFUNDS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(Source: RDA Far South Coast NSW)

9) New Temporary Sponsored Parent Visa

The Government will introduce a new Temporary Sponsored Parent visa that will provide parents and grandparents a new pathway to reunite with their families.

The Senate today passed the Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016 which includes provisions to introduce the new visa that will allow parents to visit their families in Australia for a continuous period of up to five years.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said the new visa demonstrates the Government's commitment to migrant communities.

"This new visa will help families reunite and spend time together," Mr Coleman said. "It will provide a new pathway for parents and grandparents to visit their families in Australia, which will deliver great social benefits to the Australian community.

"It is astounding that the Labor Party voted against this important legislation. Bill Shorten needs to explain to communities why he instructed his Senators to stand in the way of this reform."

The new Temporary Sponsored Parent visa will assist families to reunite while ensuring that taxpayers are not required to cover additional costs.

Measures have been put in place to strengthen the visa framework requiring Australian sponsors to act as a financial guarantor for any outstanding public health costs incurred by the visa holder whilst in Australia.

"This new visa will ensure family reunions are possible for many migrant families across Australia, while protecting taxpayers with strict guidelines to ensure all public health debts including hospital and aged care fees are recovered by the Australian Government," Mr Coleman said.

Applications for the Temporary Sponsored Parent visa will open in the first half of 2019.

(Source: DOHA)

10) Migrants Disappointed at broken promise in parent visas

The high cost of the new parental visa has left those who campaigned for it disappointed. Many in the Indian Australian community have also slammed the new visa labelling it as 'out of reach' for many migrant families.

The Federal Government will start accepting applications for the new parent visa that will allow them to stay in Australia for a period of up to five years, in the first half of next year.

A Bill has cleared Parliament after some complex amendments paving the way to roll out this 'much-awaited' new visa that will allow as many as 15,000 parents to reunite with their children who are Australian citizens or permanent residents.

The new arrangement comes at a "hefty" price for the applicants who can now seek a three-year visa for \$5,000 or a five-year visa for \$10,000, with the opportunity of a single renewal for another five years at the same price.

Arvind Duggal, the convener and the founder member of the Long Stay Visa for Parents campaign committee has expressed his concerns over the new visa.

"We did not expect it from the government. This is unfair and out of reach and we didn't get what we were promised," said Mr Duggal.

"We can't understand why they're forcing a \$5,000 fee for a three-year visa when you can get a two-year stay for a visa that costs only \$140".

Mr Duggal said that the new arrangement will be 'out of reach' for many migrant families.

"It is unaffordable and forceful, and to my surprise, they [government] even didn't look at the needs of the community," he adds.

"The Liberals lured migrants by offering a five-year continuous visa during the last elections. They didn't provide any details at that time and this is what we get after three years!

Amreek Dhaliwal is an Australian citizen who has been living with his family in Australia for the past ten years.

His parents live in India and visit them occasionally on temporary visitor visas.

"They're a big help to us as they look after our two young children while I and my wife can work to pay our mortgage and bills," says Mr Dhaliwal.

"With the new visa, they'll make us pay \$5,000 for something that we're getting for \$150 in the past. This is on top of the health insurance premiums that we'll be paying for our parents.

"The cost of living has gone up and so has our struggle. We needed some support from this government but this is just outrageous!"

Anika Visser also wants the parent visa to be more affordable. She made a comment on Facebook – 'It shouldn't be this hard for a now Australian citizen to bring the family over... If I am happy to support my parent and temporary support and aid my siblings in acquiring work, I should be entitled to bring them to this country without paying tens of thousands of dollars."

Another Indian Australian who doesn't want to be named said that he is concerned over the handling of the parent visa.

"There's a lot of politics going on from last three years. Such a high cost for the temporary visa is highly unacceptable," he says.

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"It is blackmail and they're doing it forcefully without looking at the community needs.

"It seems like they're forcing us to pay tens of thousands dollars to have childcare labour in the form of parents of the migrants.

Melbourne-based migration agent Navjot Kailay says the visa comes with a 'heavy fee' and doesn't solve the problems of the migrant communities.

"The costs look extremely high for a temporary visa. The proposed parent visa by the current Government will not solve anything," he says.

"Firstly, it is capped to 15,000 a year, secondly it's a very expensive option with heavy fees thirdly this new parent visa option can only be availed twice in a lifetime. So, it's not a practical solution for migrant families." Mr Duggal said their campaign for Long Stay visa for Parents had a very genuine and reasonable demand that should have been met by the government.

"It has been a long journey for us as a family, as a team, and as a community. The government made our simple proposal so complicated that we are still struggling to achieve what we wanted in the first place. Following years of pressure from ethnic communities, the government had promised a parent visa before the last federal election.

But at the same time, the government also announced that they don't want elderly migrant parents to be a financial burden on the taxpayer.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

11) AAT Appeal processing times

Here are the latest processing times for AAT appeals

<http://www.aat.gov.au/migration-and-refugee-division/steps-in-a-review/how-long-will-the-process-take?>

And an article about the delays ..

Growth in number of applications for review The AAT received a record number of applications for review in the first quarter of 2018-19. Applicants lodged more than 15,800 new applications across all of our caseloads during the period. This continues an upward trend in applications over recent years and has directly contributed to the growth in active cases on hand at the AAT.

The number of cases on hand has grown to exceed 60,000 at the end of October 2018, up from around 22,000 when the Tribunal amalgamated in July 2015. Applications to the Migration and Refugee Division represented approximately 84 per cent of this pending caseload; this is the division that receives the highest proportion of applications at the AAT.

Ms Sian Leathem, the AAT's Registrar, discussed our growing backlog during a Senate Estimates hearing in October. In explaining the increase in backlog, she highlighted that 'the number of members available to review decisions has not kept pace with the demand'.

To address these challenges, the AAT continues to identify ways to improve efficiency and, where possible, has introduced or is planning changes, including the way in which we manage different types of cases. For example, we have created a targeted early case assessment team to develop strategies for the prompt resolution of cases without the need for a hearing and we continue to rely on alternative dispute resolution services where possible.

We also continue to work closely with Government to address the challenges associated with an overall increase in lodgements for review, including through discussion about member appointments and re-appointments and exploring legislative reform options

(Source: AAT)

12) Migrants to wait 4 years for Newstart payments

Newly arrived migrants will not be allowed to access Newstart welfare payments for their first four years in Australia under a Morrison government reform that will soon pass parliament after a deal was reached with Labor.

The opposition secured significant changes to the bill and has now agreed to support it, saying it was better to secure a bill they could "live with" instead of opening an opportunity for One Nation to secure their own agreement.

The original bill would have made migrants wait four years before they could access a whole range of welfare payments.

Under the deal with Labor, the waiting time will be cut down to just one or two years for carers' payments, parental leave pay and the Family Tax Benefit A, but will remain at four years for Newstart, the backbone unemployment payment commonly known as the dole.

Shadow treasurer Chris Bowen said Labor would "never" have supported the bill in its original form, but said the agreed changes now made it a bill the party could "live with". He said caucus had signed off on the deal on Tuesday.

"What we did is saved hundreds of thousands of families from being impacted and reduce the impact dramatically by reducing those four-year waiting times to one or two years in most instances. That's a good outcome, a better outcome," Mr Bowen told SBS News.

He said refusing to negotiate on the bill would have "opened the door for parties like One Nation and Fraser Anning to negotiate with the government on it".

"We took the view it was better to negotiate with the government ourselves, try and get an arrangement which we could live with and support in all good conscience, and that's what we did."

Finance minister Mathias Cormann said the government was able to secure a "consensus" with the Labor party and said the measures would still deliver \$1.3 in

Government MP Paul Fletcher said skilled and family visa holders should be "self-sufficient" when they came to Australia and should not expect immediate help from Centrelink.

The legislation has been on the books since the 2018 Budget in May, and will now be subjected to a number of amendments to reflect the contents of the deal.

The compromise was praised by FECCA, the peak body for ethnic communities in Australia.

"These amendments will help protect the most vulnerable new arrivals and their families from the new four-year waiting period for benefits," FECCA chair Mary Patetsos wrote in a statement.

"FECCA notes that exemptions to waiting periods for people who become lone parents will remain. People on refugee and humanitarian visas, as well as those who become citizens, are exempt from the changes."

But the Greens are deeply critical of the deal, saying the four-year wait for Newstart was “punitive” and unfair.

They argue migrants should be entitled to use the social security safety net when they need it, given they are expected to pay taxes.

Greens senator Nick McKim told SBS News the opposition didn’t need to make a compromise, because the numbers in the House of Reps and the Senate could have been enough to block the legislation altogether.

“We think there's a possibility we could have prevented this bill from passing through the parliament at all if Labor had held firm, so we're disappointed that they've in effect collapsed and done a deal with the Coalition,” he said.

“We would have liked to see Labor held firm, and be part of a coalition in this parliament to stop this bill passing, because it does act in a very punitive way towards large groups of migrants to Australia.”

The bill is being debated in the House of Representatives this week, with the government introducing a complex series of amendments.

The government will try to pass the bill before parliament rises for Christmas.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

13) Second chance for visa hopefuls as extra places allocated to ACT

Potential migrants to the ACT have been given new hope of being able to continue their lives in Canberra, with 600 extra places allocated to the territory by the Department of Home Affairs.

The ACT government will reopen its Skilled Nominated Visa (subclass 190) program for skilled migrants on Thursday, after it was closed suddenly in June to deal with an influx of international students to the territory.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr said the extra allocation shows the original one wasn't enough for the ACT

Like other states and territories, the ACT can nominate potential migrants for the subclass 190 visa, which allows state and territory governments to provide pathways to permanent residency for people with skills needed in particular jurisdictions. Nominees must prove a connection to the state or territory and commit to living there for a period after their visa is granted.

As the federal government removed the beleaguered 457 visa and other states and territories tightened their criteria for the subclass 190 visa, international students flooded private colleges in 2017 in order to meet the 12-month study and residency criteria in order to prove a connection to the ACT.

Even though government documents showed bureaucrats were aware the territory wouldn't be able to meet demand for the visa within the allocation set for it by the federal Department of Home Affairs, Skills Canberra didn't act until June, shutting the program to new applicants while a new program was developed.

The ACT government confirmed the 600 places would be on top of the normal allocation of 800, meaning 1400 people will be given the opportunity to become permanent residents of the ACT between now and June next year. Around 300 of those places are likely to go to applications received last financial year as applications surged past the ACT's allocation.

"This demonstrates that the number of places we were previously allocated by the Commonwealth was inadequate and will also allow the ACT to nominate more eligible people and potentially better assist those who were impacted by the partial program closure in June 2018," Chief Minister Andrew Barr said in a statement.

Under the new nomination system, Skills Canberra will assess applications each month, sending invitations to those with the strongest applications received that month in order to replace the first-in, first-served system with a merit-based system. Under the new model, prospective migrants will gain points depending on how long they have lived in Canberra, if they have studied in Canberra and if their profession is considered in demand.

The new program has no minimum number of points needed to guarantee an invitation, with applicants to be ranked against others applying at the same time.

It also includes extra points for those who already lived in Canberra when the program was shut down in June, but that has been criticised as not going far enough to assist those who had found themselves in the lurch when the program closed. This announcement will go some way to placating hopeful Canberrans, but does not guarantee them a permanent place in the territory.

(Source: www.smh.com.au)

14) Tougher Visa process for violent partners

Domestic violence perpetrators trying to migrate to Australia will face a tougher application process under legislation which has passed the upper house.

It will be harder for people with a history of domestic violence to sponsor a partner visa under changes to migration laws which have passed the Senate.

More than two years after being introduced to parliament, legislation finally cleared the upper house on Wednesday to put more emphasis on sponsors' character.

The changes also ensure visa applicants are aware if their sponsor has a history of violence.

Under the existing regime, full character checks are a mandatory requirement for all visa applicants but sponsors are only required to provide police checks where a minor is included in the application.

The changes extend the grounds to refuse a visa for people with a violent criminal history.

When he introduced the bill in 2016, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said the government had made it very clear domestic violence was not acceptable under any circumstances.

The government passed an amendment to ensure the parent visa would not put additional burden on Australia's healthcare system.

If someone sponsored for a parent visa does not cover their own health costs while in Australia, the sponsoring child will be liable for the outstanding debt.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

15) Media Article on the quality of migrants

An interesting article about the age, education, (lack of) crime, health and work of Migrants compared to Australians.

Australia's immigration: just the facts

Some basic data on overseas-born Australians shows they're healthier, older and better educated than locally-born Australians.

With immigration levels now a regular topic of discussion, what does the hard data tell us about migrants to Australia? We've combed through the stats to see how different immigrants are to locally born Australians. Proportion of Australians born overseas: 26% (2016)

How old are they? Overseas-born Australians have a median age of 44 compared to 34 for locally-born Australians. Australians born in Europe are oldest, with a median age of 59. However, 85% of overseas-born Australians who have arrived since 2000 were between 15 and 64 in 2016, compared to 65.9% of all Australians.

Where do they live? More likely in major centres: 32% of people in major cities were born overseas compared to 26% of all Australians; 11% of people in towns smaller than 10,000 people were born overseas.

How healthy are they? Healthier than locals. At the age of 30, locally-born Australians can expect to live, on average, another 47.5 years. Overseas-born Australians can expect to live 52.6 years. The longest-lived are Vietnamese-born Australians, who on average will live another 56.2 years.

Jobs and income: The median income of foreign-born taxpayers in 2013-14 was \$48,400, 6% higher than the median income of all Australians. The unemployment rate for migrants arrived since 2007 and temporary residents was 7.4% in 2016, around 2 percentage points higher than for the overall workforce.

However, recent migrants with Australian citizenship had an unemployment rate of just 3.3%. The participation rate for recent migrants/temporary residents was 70% in 2016, compared to an overall rate of 66%; recent migrants with Australian citizenship had a rate of 80%.

Forty percent of aged pension recipients were born overseas; 54% of permanent migrants aged 15 years and over (who arrived 1 January 2000 to 9 August 2016) owned their own home outright or with a mortgage, compared to 66% of all Australians.

Education: 60% of overseas-born Australians had a post-school qualification compared to 54% of locally born Australians. The most educated group is the Indian community: 79.3% of Indian-born Australians have a post-school qualification; 78.7% of the Bangladeshi community does as well.

Religion: 27% of foreign-born Australians report having no religion, compared to 34% of Australian-born people. However, between 2006 and 2016, foreign-born Australians reporting no religion increased from 17% to 27%.

Crime and punishment: 18% of prisoners in Australia are overseas-born, compared to 35% of the population aged 17 and above. Assault and other violent acts are the most common offence for New Zealanders and Sudanese-born people; drug offences are most common for people born in China, Malaysia and Vietnam, sexual assault is the most common offence for British-born prisoners.

(Source: www.crikey.com.au)

16) Update on Queensland State Migration

22 November 2018

Please note that the following occupations:

Finance Manager – 132211

Registered Nurse (Aged Care) – 254412

Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency) – 254415

Developer Programmer – 261312

Software Engineer – 261313

will be removed from all the Queensland Skilled Occupation Lists (QSOLs) on 22 November 2018 as BSMQ has received many expressions of interest for these occupations and has filled the quota.

If you have not received an invitation by today, BSMQ is no longer able to issue any new invitations.

BSMQ may open these occupations later if the current invitees do not respond in the required time frame. If this happens, information will be posted to this page.

(Source: Queensland State Government)

17) New Innovation visa for South Australia

The Supporting Innovation in South Australia (SISA) pilot is about driving entrepreneurialism and innovation in South Australia. It enhances South Australia's entrepreneurialism and innovation agendas and complements the Commonwealth Government's National Innovation and Science agenda.

SISA is seeking to attract promising overseas seed-stage entrepreneurs to develop their concepts in South Australia, add value to the local innovation eco-system, create jobs, and increase its number of business start-ups. If you meet all the Department of Home Affairs' criteria and the South Australian requirements, you will not have to wait long for your visa.

SISA will be run over three years, commencing in November 2018 and ending in November 2021.

SISA will provide an environment where:

- New entrepreneurs will be connected with key events and activities within the local eco-system to help them develop and progress their business
- The Office of the Chief Entrepreneur will serve as a key point of contact to engage with key entrepreneurship services across the industry and tertiary education sectors
- Overseas entrepreneurs with their own overseas networks will assist local entrepreneurs to access these networks to further their start-ups or businesses overseas
- Investors can readily identify opportunities to back emerging and growing businesses which will create jobs for young, talented South Australians who will then remain in the State and become successful
- The South Australian Government, business and community will work together to support overseas and local entrepreneurs to create start-ups; build successful businesses and go global with their established businesses, while maintaining their head office in South Australia, which will continue to create jobs for • •
- South Australians and improve the South Australian economy
- Overseas and local entrepreneurs will share their experience, skills and talent; exchange ideas; learn from each other; collaborate and develop further the South Australian innovation eco-system, which subsequently will have a positive impact on the Australian innovation eco-system
- Successful overseas and local entrepreneurs will mentor and guide future entrepreneurs.
- Further information <https://www.migration.sa.gov.au/entrepreneur/>

(Source: South Australian State Government)

20) Update on RDA Northern Inland – NSW

The following occupations will be removed from the RDA Northern Inland Occupation List on 22 November, 2018. Applications received before this time will be considered BUT they must be complete applications, with all requirements met or a negative outcome may result:

Baker

351111

Agricultural Scientist

234112

AND the following occupations will be removed on Tuesday 27 November, 2018:

Registered Nurse (Disability & Rehabilitation)

254417

Registered Nurse (Mental Health)

254422

Social Worker

272511

Child Care Centre Manager

134111

Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teacher

241111

Teacher - Special Needs

241511

The following occupations were removed from the RDA Northern Inland Occupation List on 8 November, 2018. Applications received before this time will be considered BUT they must be complete applications, with all requirements met or a negative outcome may result:

Architect

232111

Transport Engineer

233215

Agricultural Engineer

233912

(Source: NSW Government)

17) No decision on 2019 Migrant intake yet

The government has not made a decision on how many permanent migrants Australia will accept next year, immigration minister David Coleman has told SBS News.

The annual cap has been set at 190,000 since 2011 under both Labor and Coalition governments.

For most of those years, the real intake has nearly met the cap.

But in 2017-18 the intake plummeted to its lowest level in a decade, with just 163,000 permanent arrivals – made up of both skilled and family visas.

On Friday, the Daily Telegraph reported the Home Affairs minister Peter Dutton was working on a plan to lower the formal ceiling by 30,000 places, so it would roughly reflect last year's real intake.

SBS News contacted the offices of both Mr Dutton and Mr Coleman.

They said no decision had been made, and the cap for 2019-20 would only be set after a standard, annual "consultation" with states, employer groups and other stakeholders.

"A decision on the 2019-20 planning levels has not yet been taken," a spokeswoman for Mr Coleman said.

The minister himself said the process would take into account "Australia's needs" and the "needs of our regions", in a reference to the Morrison government's plans to divert more skilled workers to non-metro areas.

The 190,000 permanent intake is exclusively for entrants under skilled and family visas that offer permanent residency in Australia.

It does not include the humanitarian stream for refugees, which is less than 20,000 most years.

It also excludes temporary entrants – like students, tourists and short-term workers – which actually make up the majority of arrivals each year.

(Source: SBS)

18) Latest DOHA Visa processing times

Latest Lodged visa processing times -

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times?>

19) No decision yet on migration numbers for 2019

The government has not decided whether it will change the 190,000 annual cap, The government has not which has been in place for eight years, senior ministers have told SBS News.

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(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

21) Change to Tasmanian State Sponsorship

The Tasmanian govt have added the following text to their selection criteria ...

"..Regard is given to applicants who have skills in particular need in the Tasmanian economy including:

- Health and medical professions
- Construction industries
- Agricultural professions.."

Here - https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/skilled_migrants

(Source: Tasmanian State Government)

22) New ACT (matrix) guidelines for 190 sponsorship

[http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/skilled-visa-act-190-nomination/?](http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/skilled-visa-act-190-nomination/)

23) No decision yet on migration numbers for 2019

Pathway to Permanent Parent visas for Retirement visa holders (405/410 visas)

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01472/Explanatory%20Statement/Text?fbclid=IwAR2ROQ7gGoOxvO3faherqCno74lySVyJgSO6zvNVh4HHKX5U4IXaVNcxDtc>

24) Official DOHA Skill Select Results for 11th October 2018

There was an increase in 70 point invitations from 605-1913 from the previous month. This would be nearly entirely NON PRO RATA occupations at 70 points.

DOHA have not yet (maybe later today) published the Occupational Ceiling numbers which are still backdated to August 2018.

This high number of non pro rata occupations looks highly dubious as the invite dates do not reflect a number above around 800-1000 for the October round.

DOHA have made many mistakes with their skill select system in the past so let's see for further figures.

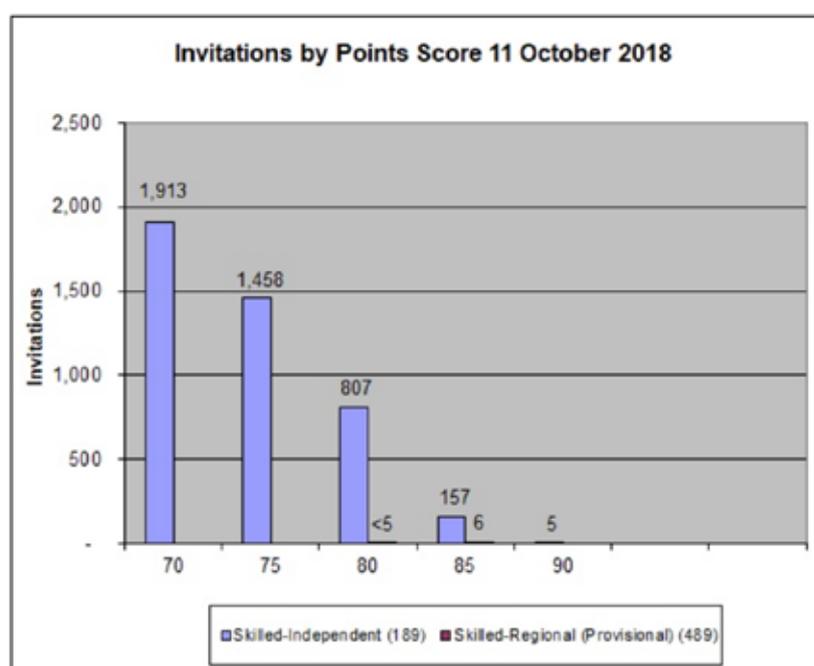
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds?>

Invitations issued on 11 October 2018

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 11 October 2018.

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	4340
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	10

During 2018-19 program year the following numbers of invitations have been issued:
11 October 2018 results The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 11 October 2018 round.



Invitation process and cut offs

The highest ranked clients by points score are invited to apply for the relevant visa. For clients who have equal points scores, the time at which they reached their points score for that subclass (referred to as the 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 visa (subclass 189) and then the remaining to Skilled Regional (provisional) visa (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	2/09/2018 5:56pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	80	20/06/2018 7:47pm

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 program year.

Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 11 October 2018 invitation round.

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	80	6/07/2018 5:40 pm
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	80	10/06/2018 8:10 pm
2334	Electronics Engineer	70	13/12/2017 12:39 pm
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	70	5/04/2018 6:34 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	75	26/08/2018 8:07 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	75	27/07/2018 1:58 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	70	17/01/2018 3:08 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	70	24/05/2018 12:13 pm

(Source: DOHA)

OK folks, see you all on Monday
21st January 2019.

Hope you all have a very enjoyable
and safe xmas and new years !!



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