

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 247 | 22nd January 2019

Hey everyone,

Happy new year and hope you have a cracking 2019 planned.

It will be a BIG year for Australian visa news with immigration front and centre in a likely Federal Government Election, and with Australian regions in general (Sydney aside) all wanting increased skilled migrants.

Keep reading our newsletter, following our facebook, Instagram and web pages for updates and watching the cool videos.

Also remember if you want top quality professional help with your application, email us to migration@iscah.com

On to January's news updates ...



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1) International Students consider legal action over ACT shambles

International students who moved to the ACT after July 2017 in hopes of being nominated for a subclass 190 visa have "good prospects of success" in legal action against the ACT government, according to new legal advice.

A group of international students pooled their funds to commission the legal advice from barrister Allan Anforth from Canberra Chambers, after the ACT's government's shambolic handling of the program this year.

The ACT has the ability to nominate skilled migrants who commit to staying in the ACT for a number of years after they gain permanent residence. All states and territories have the ability to nominate applicants, with each jurisdiction deciding on its own method to allocate nominations. The federal Department of Home Affairs makes the final decision on how many people can be nominated by each state and territory. The ACT government partially closed the program in June this year, months after it became aware that large numbers of international students were streaming into the territory in order to study at private colleges for one year and apply for the visa.

The program was reopened at the end of November with a new system for deciding on eligibility. Under the new system, applicants gain points depending on what job they have, how long they have lived in Australia and how qualified they are. The new program doesn't have a minimum number of points that guarantees an applicant will be invited to apply for a visa.

International students who arrived after July 2017 feel they have been disadvantaged through the closure of the old system and the introduction of the new system, despite the announcement late last month that the ACT had been allocated an extra 600 places by Home Affairs.

The legal advice says "the students would have good prospects of succeeding in an action against the ACT under the Australian Consumer Law for both 'misleading and deceptive conduct' and 'unconscionable conduct' by the ACT".

The advice estimates there were 2500 international students studying in Canberra with expectations they would apply for the program when nominations closed in June this year. Mr Anforth writes the ACT government knew or should have known the program was oversubscribed as early as July 2017.

The advice was commissioned and received before the ACT government announced it had been allocated an extra 600 places by the department of Home Affairs for 2018-19. But solicitor at VisAustralia migration agency Nicholas Houston believes the extra places don't dampen the case.

The advice claims that because the ACT government didn't inform the public about the cap on its places, as well as the likely oversubscription of the program and its intention to close the program, it engaged in "misleading and deceptive conduct".

"The critical information needed by the students to make an informed decision about the realistic chances of being granted ACT nomination based on the capacity of the program was withheld from the public.

Further the required residence period under the program meant that students were vulnerable to the closure of the program before they met the requirement," Mr Anforth said.

Mr Anforth said the students could seek monetary damages from the ACT government for economic loss relating to moving costs, course enrolment fees, and the loss of opportunity to apply for the visa and gain permanent residency in Australia.

The students who received the legal advice are yet to decide on how to proceed, with a meeting to be held early in the new year to decide on their next steps.

(Source: Sydney Morning Herald)

2) Significant increase in Australian Citizenship grants

The number of migrants receiving Australian citizenship is on the rise, with the number of applications being finalised almost doubling in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last financial year.

Between July and November 2018, more than 58,400 citizenship applications have been finalised, up 97 per cent compared to the same period last year.

This includes more than 50,600 approvals since July.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said these numbers are expected to rise even further, with more than 20,000 people set to receive Australian citizenship over the next two months.

"A vast majority of these conferrals will occur on Australia Day, which is by far the most popular day for people to attend a citizenship ceremony," Mr Coleman said.

A task force has been established within the Department to focus on complex citizenship cases and \$9 million is being invested in the recruitment and training of extra staff to ensure citizenship applications are dealt with as efficiently as possible.

All citizenship applications are processed against a range of strengthened integrity measures, introduced from 2015.

"Australian citizenship is a privilege and should be granted to those who support our values, respect our laws and want to contribute to an even better Australia," Mr Coleman said.

(Source: DOHA)

3) Iscah Assistance with visa applications

Visa Management of EXISTING applications

Ask a Visa Question for FREE

Estimated 189 invitation times

Just Received a 489/189/190 Invite ?

Visa Management of a NEW application

4) NSW regional 489 sponsorship – Central West

RDACW are reviewing the Central West Skills Occupation List for 2019. RDACW will be reviewing procedural assessment of the Skilled Regional (provisional) 489 Visa for 2019.

The Central West Skills Occupation List will re-open in March 2019. The list and all criteria for applying will be up-loaded to the website in March 2019.

(Source: NSW Government)

4) NSW regional 489 sponsorship – Central West

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(Source: NSW Government)

5) Work and Holiday visa Spain and Israel

The Work and Holiday visa arrangements with Spain and Israel now allows even more young people to explore, work and study in Australia.

The number of places available to Spanish nationals under the Work and Holiday Maker program (subclass 462) will increase from 1,500 per year to 3,400 from 28 December.

The number of places available to Israeli nationals will increase from 500 per year to 2,500.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said the increase in the number of places available is part of a range of measures introduced in November to support farmers fill critical work shortages.

"These additional places will allow thousands more young people from Spain and Israel each year to enjoy a 12-month holiday in Australia, during which they may undertake short-term work and study," Mr Coleman said.

"This arrangement will provide additional support to regional Australia by encouraging more workers to the areas that need them."

"While on their first visa, both Spanish and Israeli nationals may undertake specified work in regional areas to become eligible for a second Work and Holiday visa and extend their stay. From 1 July 2019, the option of a third year stay will also be available to them if they undertake six months of regional work in their second year in Australia."

The Work and Holiday visa requires first-time applicants to hold or be studying towards tertiary qualifications and to speak a functional level of English.

Australia's Working Holiday Maker Program currently has arrangements in place with 42 countries.

The number of places available to Peruvian nationals under the Work and Holiday Maker program will also increase from 100 places to 1,500 on 2 January 2019.

(Source: DOHA)

6) Main factors of Net Migration in 2017/18

ABUL RIZVI. What were the drivers of Net Overseas Migration in 2017-18?

Net Overseas Migration (NOM) in 2017-18 fell to 236,733, down from 262,490 in 2016-17. The decline is not as large as might have been expected given cuts to the migration and humanitarian programs and policy changes to employer sponsored temporary and permanent migration. Visitors changing status after arrival now represent a record 24 per cent of NOM – a crucial indicator the visa system is in a bad way.

Table 1 provides a preliminary estimate of NOM for 2017-18 recently published by the ABS. These estimates are subject to significant revision, especially as NOM is determined by arrivals who spend 12 months out of the last 16 months in Australia and departures of people who had been counted as part of the resident population and then spend 12 months of the past 16 months out of Australia. But let's look at what has been published to date by the ABS.

Table 1: Estimates of NOM for 2016-17 and 2017-18

Visa Grouping	Net Migration	NOM Arrivals	NOM Departures	Net Migration
Students	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18	2017-18
Temporary Skilled	104,000	159,436	54,449	104,987
Visitor	16,630	26,541	15,200	11,341
WHM	53,710	78,020	20,628	57,392
Temporary Other	24,190	49,286	22,415	26,827
Permanent Family	-13,060	14,067	28,494	-14,427
Permanent Skill	24,330	26,516	5,700	20,816
Permanent Humanitarian	37,780	43,014	8,150	34,864
Other Permanent	-610	6,163	7,236	-1,073
NZ Citizen	-5,990	30,236	23,543	6,693
Australian Citizen	-14,250	76,338	90,742	-14,404
Other	50	4,000	12,269	-8,269
Total	262,490	525,698	288,965	236,733

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Source: ABS Cat: 3412 and 3101

While the absolute contribution of Students to NOM increased only slightly, because of an overall decline in NOM, students in 2017-18 represented around 44 per cent of NOM, up from almost 40 percent in 2016-17. The increase in NOM student arrivals was almost entirely due to the higher education sector with other sectors flat or declining in terms of off-shore student visa grants. The increase in student NOM departures was the largest since 2009-10 (when student visa policy was last tightened). The rise in student departures is likely to reflect tightening of pathways to temporary and permanent residence implemented in 2017-18. But the stock of students and former students in Australia remains large at over 600,000 – the students story has a long way to run, especially if state/territory governments nominate relatively few graduate students for permanent residence and the labour market weakens leaving many students stranded.

The ongoing decline in the contribution of skilled temporary residents to NOM reflects abolition of the former sub-class 457 visa and its replacement with the much more limited Temporary Skills Shortage visa. Skilled temporary resident NOM arrivals in 2017-18 were at their lowest since 2009-10 (ie the year after the GFC). A weakening of the labour market would see the contribution of skilled temporary residents to NOM fall further.

The contribution to NOM of visitors changing status after arrival continued its upward climb in 2017-18 increasing to over 24 percent of NOM. This is an unprecedented level and reflects poorly on current administration of the visa system and specially on claims of the benefits of so-called 'greater scrutiny' of visa applications (see here). As there was a major increase in onshore asylum applications in 2017-18 to record levels (see here), the contribution of visitors to NOM in 2017-18 may be revised upwards by the ABS.

The increase in WHM contribution to NOM is the combined result of ongoing decline in the demand driven low immigration risk Working Holiday Maker Program (sub-class 417) and an ongoing increase in the generally capped and higher risk Work and Holiday Program (sub-class 462). The size of the overall WHM contribution to NOM is now largely dependent on the level at which caps are set for the higher immigration risk segment (particularly for applicants from China and Chile).

The Other Temporary category is now dominated by the Temporary Graduate visa (sub-class 485). This visa is for overseas students who complete studies in Australia and seek post-study work. The increase in NOM departures on this visa reflects the rising stock of people on this one-time visa (ie primary visa holders cannot apply for a second Temporary Graduate visa), together with the tightening of opportunities for graduate students to obtain further stay.

The reduced contribution to NOM from permanent family, skilled and humanitarian categories reflects the reduction in both the migration and humanitarian programs in 2017-18 – a trend that is likely to continue in 2018-19 despite very large backlogs, particularly for Partner visas.

The contribution of New Zealand citizens to NOM increased slightly but remains at historically low levels due to the relative strength of the New Zealand economy.

The net long-term and permanent movement of Australian citizens remained around negative 14,000 reflecting the large number of Australian citizens taking up work and other opportunities around the world. A global economic slowdown in 2019 would likely see a substantial increase in Australians returning home. An economic slowdown that largely affects Australia only would result in the reverse.

The 'other' category at the bottom of Table 1 reflects people movements where the visa category is currently unknown. These numbers may change as the ABS updates its estimates and resolves the number of visa unknown movements.

The key to the level of NOM in 2018-19 and 2019-20 is likely to be:

- relative economic conditions – an economic slowdown in 2019 or 2020 would see NOM fall very sharply noting that some 2 million people currently in Australia on temporary visas have no social support and that recently visaed permanent migrants now have a four year wait for social security;
- attitude of state/territory governments to nominating skilled migrants, especially from the stock of overseas students who complete their studies and move to regional Australia and smaller states/territories to acquire the skilled work experience needed to secure nomination for permanent or provisional residence;

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- government's approach to the unprecedented backlog of Partner visa applications noting that continued use of administrative mechanisms to hold back visa grants to spouses of Australians is contrary to the Migration Act; and
- whether the government moves to take back control of the visa system in terms of visitors changing status after arrival, particularly those applying for asylum, and the approach government takes to the record number of unresolved asylum seeker applications from people now in Australia (possibly over 100,000 and rising).

Abul Rizvi was a senior official in the Department of Immigration from the early 1990s to 2007 when he left as Deputy Secretary. He was awarded the Public Service Medal and the Centenary Medal for services to development and implementation of immigration policy, including in particular the reshaping of Australia's intake to focus on skilled migration. He is currently doing a PhD on Australia's immigration policies.

(Source: www.johnmenadue.com)

7) Australian citizenship changes for 2019

Will Australian citizenship requirements change in 2019?

The Australian Government has been trying to introduce changes to the Australian citizenship law that would make permanent residents wait longer and require evidence of their English proficiency before they can apply for citizenship.

The Australian Government announced an overhaul of the citizenship law in April 2017 when it proposed a standalone English language test and increased the waiting period for permanent residents before they would become eligible to apply for citizenship. But despite considerably diluting the proposed changes owing to the opposition from other political parties, the law couldn't be passed so far.

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last year listed the citizenship Bill for "introduction and passage" in the Spring sittings.

However, the Government did not bring the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill for discussion in parliament.

Earlier in October 2017, the legislation was struck off the Senate notice paper when the Australian Greens moved a motion against it.

Proposed changes

Under the initially proposed changes, the government wanted migrants to prove competent English proficiency by securing at least 6 bands on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam in order to be eligible for Australian citizenship. After the debacle in Senate, the government scaled down the English requirement to 'moderate', or 5 bands on IELTS.

Changes have also been proposed in the general residence requirement. Currently, migrants who have lived in Australia for four years with at least one year as permanent residents can apply for citizenship. However, the government wants to increase the period of stay as a permanent resident to minimum four years regardless of the time spent in Australia before acquiring permanent residency.

Where are Australia's new citizens coming from?

India has emerged as the top source of Australian citizenship, overtaking the United Kingdom, with over 118,000 Indian-born migrants pledging allegiance to Australia since 2013-14.

Labor, Greens and some crossbench senators are staunchly opposed to some of the proposed changes, particularly the introduction of a stand-alone English language test.

Former Citizenship Minister Alan Tudge told SBS Punjabi in June 2018 that the government was still "consulting" about the key elements of the citizenship legislation. However, he said a "primary school-level, conversational" English test could be introduced instead of IELTS.

"What we are going to be looking at is some sort of conversational level of English, may be of primary school level," said Mr Tudge.

"We haven't settled on the precise formula and we would still like people to have that level of English before they become citizens," he said adding that the general residence requirement was also under consideration. However, the question of English testing hasn't been settled so far.

Minister for Citizenship Alan Tudge has said the government is still consulting about an English test and the waiting period for permanent residents before they can apply for citizenship.

Mr Tudge's successor, the current Minister for Immigration and Citizenship David Coleman told SBS Punjabi in October that the matter was still under consideration.

"Some level of English is good for migrants as well as for the country," said Minister David Coleman to SBS Punjabi. "I'm currently considering what level that should be at."

Mr Coleman did not comment on when the Bill would be brought for a debate in Parliament.

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The Government had first retrospectively implemented the changes in April 2017 and reversed those after the Bill was removed from Senate notice paper in October 2017. The Department of Home Affairs then said the changes would be implemented in July 2018 with the passage of the law.

Greens' Immigration spokesperson Nick McKim said the Government failed to bring the Bill for discussion because it didn't have the numbers in the Senate.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison suggested last month that the federal election won't be until May 2019, but SBS News reported that the most likely dates for the federal election could be the 11th or the 18th May 2019.

There will be just three Senate sittings if the election is held on 11th May and seven sittings if it's on the 18th.

With Labor and Greens' intransigent position against any changes in the general residence and English language requirements and the Central Alliance yet to be convinced on the key elements of the Bill, the Government would need almost all the crossbench senators to pass these changes through the upper house.

(Source www.sbs.com.au)

8) Free SNAPSHOT of your visa prospects in your occupation

Iscah are able to provide a Free SNAPSHOT of the visa prospects for YOUR occupation here

<http://www.iscah.com/free-snapshot-visa-prospects-occupation/>

9) FOUR visa answers in 5 minutes video series

We have commenced a regular series of short videos answering our clients questions. Here are the first 8 episodes.

Subscribe on youtube or follow us on facebook to be notified of future episodes.

Episode 1	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wI99RPlvQ7Y
Episode 2	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOL-t0XAhPY
Episode 3	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEeNDvndJNg
Episode 4	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFBUyZMVSUw
Episode 5	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYkRfw8qNik
Episode 6	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roqjOsRiYLE
Episode 7	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiPuXzV7TPk
Episode 8	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUfB_1vcnJI

10) Business Migration State Sponsorships reopen

Many states closed for Business Migration state sponsorships over the last month. QLD, NSW, Victoria and WA all announced temporary suspensions.

NSW, VIC and WA have all now re opened, we assume because the Immigration department have allocated new places to the program. We expect QLD has either or will shortly reopen also

11) DATA Matching for 482/457 visa holders with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019G00023?fbclid=IwAR2cmSzEgKSoiqNqZREokamTNK6hWIZ6XXyhceAL7KyNOGQ95pKlxC5XnrE>

12) Unofficial Skill Select results 11th January 2019

Our estimate is approximately 1200 invitations for January 2019.

Pro Rata Occupations look to have been given about 500 places and Non Pro Rata Occupations about 700 of the invites.

We also believe now that December 2018 had around 1200 invitations although not the same pro rata split. This is because we believe there were many wasted EOIs in the system from people who benefited from the increased invites of 11th October 2018, but did not take up these invites. This could be because they had other EOIs with improved marks that they had already received 189 invites for, or they had obtained other visa avenues (ie 190 sponsorship).

Those unaccepted invites from October 2018 would go back into the EOI system after 60 days and so the 11th December round would have reinvited these older EOIs. Hence also why the slower movements in dates that we would have expected from a round that DOHA claim was 4340 invitations.

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 with some details so that we can see if this table can be updated over the next 24-48 hours.

SO SOME BACK AND CHECK for updates

(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 January 2019	65 points	70 points	75 points	80 points	85 points © Iscah2018	
2211 Accountants	6/10/2015	24/10/2016	18/10/2017	24/09/2018*	10/01/2019*	
2212 Auditors	27/07/2015	26/12/2016	26/09/2017	4/07/2018	22/12/2018*	
2334 Electronics Engineer	18/09/2017	13/12/2017	29/11/2018*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © iscah 2018	27/04/2017	02/07/2018*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
2339 Other Engineer Profs	3/01/2017	30/10/2017	23/10/2018*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
2611 ICT Business Analysts	11/08/2016	13/09/2017	28/09/2018*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
2613 Software Applications Programmer @ iscah 2018	18/04/2017	6/04/2018	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
2631 Computer Network Prof	4/03/2017	03/09/2018*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
ALL the other NON-pro rata occupations	28/09/2017	08/12/2018*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	10/01/2019*	
Assumptions - Approximately 1200 total invitations (Split 500 Pro Rata , 700 Non Pro Rata)						
* Iscah estimates of CHANGED DATES from the latest round have an asterisk next to them * and are in dark GREEN						

13) When will you get a 189 invitation – Iscah predictions

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from 11th January 2019. 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 will now invite around 1000 EOIs per round for the rest of this program year

And we also assume that around 520 of these will go to Pro Rata occupations and 480 to non pro rata on average through 2018/19.

Clearly as well there is a very large number of EOIs being invited that are not being accepted as those people already have another invitation. This has been factored in too.

Assumptions							
AVERAGE of 1000 invitations per month for the rest of 2018/19							
Pro Rata to be given around 520 and NON Pro rata around 480 of these numbers							
And "not before July 2019" doesn't mean you will get an invite, just unlikely before then							
		EOI Lodged				Copyright Iscah 2018	
Iscah Estimated waiting period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 11th January 2019		today (11th January 2019)	3 months ago(11/10/18)	6 months ago(11/07/18)	9 months ago(11/04/18)	12 months ago(11/01/18)	
2211 Accountants	80 points	not before July 2019	11/06/2019	invited	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					
© Iscah							
2212 Auditors	80 points	not before July 2019	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					
©							
2334 Electronics Engineer	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	invited				
	65 points	not before July 2019	invited				
© Iscah							
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	11/03/2019	invited	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019					
© Iscah							
2339 Other Engineering Professionals	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	7 month				
	65 points	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite				
© Iscah							
2611 ICT Business Analysts	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	not before July 2019	11/03/2019	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	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	11/04/2019	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019					
©							
2631 Computer Network Professionals	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	not before July 2019	11/06/2019	invited	invited	invited	
	65 points	not before July 2019					
© Iscah							
ALL other NON pro rata occupations	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited	
	70 points	11/05/2019	invited	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

14) Request a FREE estimate of when you may get an invite

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.

(Source: Iscah)

15) Estimate of how many invites given for each occupation on 11th Jan 2019

This is our estimate based on the movement in dates and past correlation of occupations with each other :

2211 Accountants 103
2212 Auditors 37
2334 Electronics Engineer 8
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers 49
2339 Other Engineering Professionals 19
2611 ICT Business Analysts 40
2613 Software Applications Programmer 200
2631 Computer Network Professionals 60
ALL other NON pro rata occupations 700

(Source: Iscah)

16) ACTU wrong on working holiday visa benefits

Australia's peak body of tourism organisations, Australian Chamber-Tourism, is concerned by reports today that the Unions would be applying strong pressure on a possible Labor Government to wind back the Working Holiday Maker Scheme.

Australian Chamber-Tourism Executive Chair, John Hart said, "the Working Holiday Maker Visa Program is not only a vital source of labour for the tourism sector, it is a vital source of tourism revenue, particularly in the regions."

"Working Holiday Makers spend approximately two and a half times more than they earn, and create over 25,000 jobs in the Australian economy.

"The ACTU's proposals to cap numbers and abandon the second year of the Visa totally, ignore the benefits of the program and the importance of Working Holiday Makers to regional economies.

"On average Working Holiday Makers spend over \$10,000 per trip in Australia. Much of this spend is in regions, particularly for those Working Holiday Makers that are working toward their second year Visa."

"Recent changes by the Government to increase caps in a number of Countries and add a third year to the Visa under certain conditions, acknowledge the importance of Working Holiday Makers to the economy. The ACTU are clearly blind to these realities.

"In a major migration statement, Migration Works for All of Us, released last month the Australian Chamber pointed out, the Working Holiday Maker is a key part of a total migration program that fits Australia's particular need.

"The jobs Working Holiday Makers fill in regional Australia are often short term and seasonal, and there simply are not enough job seeking Australians who are willing to move for that type of work.

"Often the focus with the Working Holiday Maker Program is its importance to the agricultural sector, but for tourism, the program is as much about tourism spend as it is about supplementing the workforce. Any attack on the program would be a direct attack on Australia's stand-out industry performer, tourism."

(Source: www.Australianchamber.com.au)

17) Canberra Matrix results for 190 invitations

The next invitation round will be on 31 January 2019

Canberra Matrix - Invitation round

3. Invitation date: 15 January 2019

Number of invitations issued: 212

Matrix score range: 110 to 65 with a Matrix submission date: 16 December 18

(Source: ACT government)

18) Official DOHA 189, 190, 485 applications currently being processed

http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/UndecidedVisas31102018.pdf

19) Iscah Processing of your visa application



Visa Management of NEW applications

Full assessment on whether you meet the ELIGIBILITY for that visa

A realistic assessment of the likelihood of visa APPROVAL

Lodgement of the visa and all supporting documents to DOHA

Advice on any OTHER visa pathways available to you

We provide an easy to understand list of documents and information we require

Guidance and assistance compiling the required documents and information for visa lodgement

Iscah to manage all the correspondence with DOHA (which you receive a copy of each time) and manage all stages

You can ask us questions relating to your application and circumstances throughout the process

Our plan like yours is VISA APPROVAL

Email applications@iscah.com

For quality management of your visa application

20) WA 190/489 Invitation results for 18th January 2019

Last invited: 190
Qualification: Bachelor degree
Overseas work: 5 points
English Level: Superior
EOI Points: 65
EOI Submission Date: 23/04/2018

Last invited: 489
Qualification: Bachelor degree
Overseas work: 5 points
English Level: Proficient
EOI Points: 75
EOI Submission Date: 06/11/2018

Accountant (restricted) – Last invited: 190
Qualification: PHD/Masters
Work points: 0 points
English Level: Superior
EOI Points: 85
EOI Submission Date: 19/03/2018

Also the WA government have revised their policy to have Australian work experience as a ranking factor IN FRONT of overseas work experience

(Source: WA State Government and MIA)

21) Consultations have started for the 2019/2020 Migration Program

The Department of Home Affairs has developed a discussion paper here <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-pubs/files/discussion-paper-australias-2019-20-migration.pdf> and welcomes public submissions in response to this paper. We invite submissions to migration.policy@homeaffairs.gov.au by 31 January 2019.

(Source: DOHA)

OK folks, see you all on Monday
18th February 2019

Keep well



Steven O'Neill (Iscah Manager - MARN 9687267)

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Perth Western Australia, 6105
PO Box 75 Welshpool BC 6986



Registered Migration Agent 9687267

22) Official DOHA skill select results from 11th November 2018

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

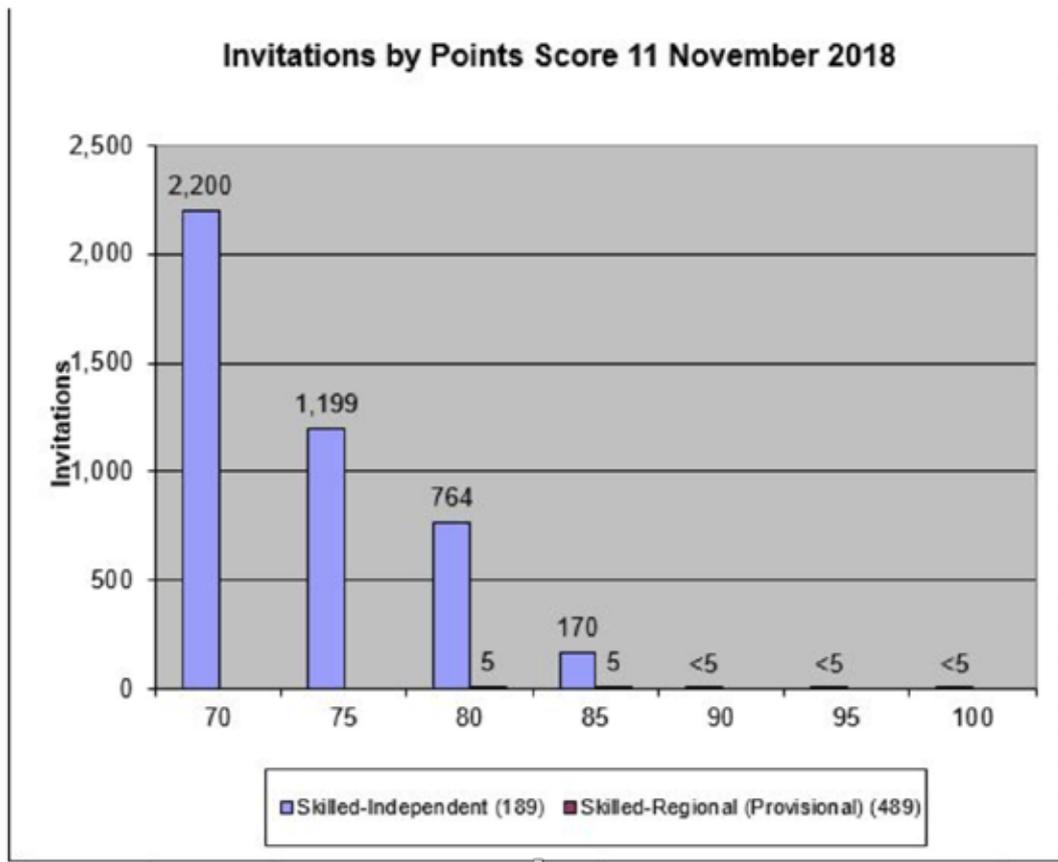
Invitations issued on 11 October 2018

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 November 2018 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 11 November 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	6/11/2018 1:48 am
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	80	31/07/2018 8:47 pm

Due to high levels of demand, and in keeping with previous years, the below occupation groups will be subject to pro rata arrangements to ensure availability of invitations across the program year.

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

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	80	10/08/2018 5:08 pm
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	80	4/07/2018 9:33 pm
2334	Electronics Engineer	75	9/11/2018 7:37 pm
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	70	19/06/2018 12:10 pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	75	3/10/2018 10:53 pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	75	6/09/2018 6:25 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	70	6/04/2018 3:39 pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	70	27/08/2018 6:13 pm

(Source: DOHA)