Migration program planning levels

The Migration program is designed to achieve a range of economic and social outcomes. The program is set annually, with the total places available capped at a ceiling of 160,000 for 2019-20. The total program is broken down into the following streams:

- Skill – designed to improve the productive capacity of the economy and fill skill shortages in the labour market, including those in regional Australia. The majority of the places in the program are in the Skill stream (108,682 places in 2019-20, 69.5 per cent of the program).
- Family – is predominately made up of Partner visas, enabling Australians to reunite with family members from overseas, and provide them with pathways to citizenship (47,732 places in 2019-20, 30.5 per cent of the program).
- Special Eligibility – this covers visas for those in special circumstances. This can include permanent residents returning to Australia after a period away, and is the smallest stream (236 places in 2019-20).
- At least 3,350 Child places will be available in 2019-20.

2019-20 Migration program planning levels

Stream and Category	2019-20
Skill stream	
Employer Sponsored	30,000
Skilled Independent	18,652
Regional	23,000
Skilled Employer Sponsored	9,000
Skilled Work Regional	14,000
State/Territory Nominated	24,968
Business Innovation & Investment program	6,862
Global Talent	5,000
Distinguished Talent	200
Skill Total	108,682
Family Stream	
Partner	39,799
Parent	7,371
Other Family	562
Family Total	47,732
Special Eligibility	236
Child (estimate; not subject to a ceiling)	3,350
Total	160,000

Program size and composition

The size and composition of the Migration program is set each year through the Australian Government's Budget process. It is informed following broad public consultations with state and territory governments, business and community groups and the wider public. Community views, economic and labour force forecasts, international research, net overseas migration and economic and fiscal modelling are all taken into account when planning the program.