

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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19th January 2015 | Edition 199

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*Hey Everyone,*

Welcome to the first visa newsletter of what I hope will be a fantastic year for you !

We include everything we hear about over the last month, and we then publish on the 3rd Monday of each month.

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## 1) New online visa trial to increase numbers of Indian tourists

A new pilot program for online lodgement of subclass 600 visas for Indian business and tourism visitors will be rolled out through selected travel agents in India.

Launching the pilot, Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb said “India is one of the world’s fastest growing outbound travel markets. This trial will make it easier for Indian visitors to apply for visas to travel to Australia.”

“Under the Australian Government’s national tourism strategy, Tourism 2020, India has the potential to contribute between \$1.9 and \$2.3 billion annually to our tourism industry by 2020. That’s why in the first half of 2015, the Australian Government is rolling out a trial of online visa applications to capitalise on this rapidly growing visitor market and create jobs,” Mr Robb said.

Mr Robb is leading Australia’s largest ever trade mission to India for Australia Business Week in India from 9-16 January.

“The trade mission and this visa trial are putting runs on the board under the Australia-India Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism I signed during Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Australia in November last year,” Mr Robb said.

Under the MOU, Australia and India will work together to encourage cooperation and information sharing on tourism policy, and encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders in Australia and India.

Australia is an attractive and popular destination for Indian visitors. For the year ending September 2014, Indian visitors to Australia reached 189,866, an increase of 14.5 per cent on the previous year. Indian tourists contributed almost \$800 million to the Australian economy. Tourism Research Australia forecasts arrivals from India to Australia will reach almost 300,000 by 2022-23.

(Source: Minister for Trade and Investment)

## 2) Abbott says planned 457 visa changes about flexibility

Prime Minister Tony Abbott says he will overhaul the 457 visa scheme as part of his innovation and competitiveness agenda.

Mr Abbott says he wants to make changes to the scheme to make the 457 visa process more flexible for business.

The Federal Government says the current 457 visa scheme is too rigid and any changes are not a way of substituting overseas labour for domestic labour.

Those planned changes include streamlining the processing of sponsorship, nomination and visa for low-risk applicants.

And they include increasing the sponsorship-approval period from 12 to 18 months for start-up businesses.

The Government says that would give start-ups more time to make their businesses sustainable.

There would also be more flexible English-language testing and skill requirements for 457 applicants. Mr Abbott says safeguards would be kept in place to prevent exploitation and protect local workers. And he says the Government would continue to require foreign workers be paid the same as Australians.

"We want these to be more flexible, and we want these to be a way of helping business to grow. 457s are not a way of substituting overseas labour for domestic labour. They are a way of helping Australian businesses to grow so that Australian workers have more opportunities and higher wages. So, where there is the chance of more investment and substantially more employment for Australians if we are more flexible, that's what we want to look at."

While business has complained the 457 visa scheme is too rigid, unions fear businesses seeking cheap overseas labour could rort the system. The main union representing construction workers has criticised the Government's planned changes, saying workers' rights would be undermined. The secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, Michael O'Connor, says they would be bad news for overseas workers and unemployed Australians. "The changes will basically impact badly on 457 visa workers, and it will impact badly on those people in Australia looking for work. It will increase the chances of 457 visa workers being seriously injured or even killed on the job, because it's going to water down English requirements and that's going to compromise health and safety on especially the areas that we cover. And by allowing employers easy access to 457 visa workers, it's going to make sure that young people and people who are looking for work, long-term unemployed, aren't going to get a chance for a job when they should do."

But the national president of the Migration Institute of Australia does not share CFMEU concerns about the effects of poor English-language skills. Angela Chan says current English-language requirements are too strict and she also agrees with the Government that more flexibility is needed in other areas of the scheme.

"What's happened is that the program had bogged down in red tape and requirements that made it very difficult for employers to sponsor skilled workers from overseas. People often don't need to have a high level of English to perform their trades. For example, a cook ... I would rather have a cook that could cook a beautiful and safe and hygienic and first-class sushi, or any other type of food that requires a high level of skill, then (for that cook) to be able to read the sports pages of the local newspaper."

The Opposition says Mr Abbott's announcement on the visas is unclear and it is concerned the changes could have occupational health-and-safety implications.

The Government says it will soon make further announcements on the recommendations of reviews into both the 457 and the Significant Investor Visa programs.

(Source: SBS)

### 3) Iscah Visa information videos

We have produced a number of short 4 minute videos that provide quality advice and pathways for visa applicants as well as details about the services ISCAH offer.

Hope you enjoy these :

Visa options for student graduates

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=crUQc6KXQcs&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crUQc6KXQcs&feature=youtu.be)

Advice to companies HR departments on visa assistance

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBBwAj\\_Q3D0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBBwAj_Q3D0)

RSMS (visa 187) Advice

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9q4X0wtDYJc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9q4X0wtDYJc)

Iscah visa consultations

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVX6Daz6RF4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVX6Daz6RF4)

## 4) Skilled Migration and Temporary visa DIBP review

For those interested in what is on the visa horizon, DIBP have just released their latest discussion paper on skilled migration and temporary visas ...

[http://www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Documents/discussion-papers/proposal\\_paper\\_dec14.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Documents/discussion-papers/proposal_paper_dec14.pdf)

## 5) Vetassess Skills Assessment Changes

Vetassess will from the 1st January 2015 not allow the FIRST year of work experience after obtaining a qualification (ie a degree) to be counted as skilled work. This will likely have the affect that DIBP will also not count this first year of post qualification work experience in the points test. This will affect applicants for 187, 189, 190, and 489 visas.

More details are here :

[http://www.vetassess.com.au/Portals/0/Downloads/qualification\\_assessment/VETASSESS-update-on-application-processes-for-skills-assessments-for-general-professional-occupations.pdf?vid=100](http://www.vetassess.com.au/Portals/0/Downloads/qualification_assessment/VETASSESS-update-on-application-processes-for-skills-assessments-for-general-professional-occupations.pdf?vid=100)

## 6) Trades Recognition Australia Changes

Provisional Skills Assessment - Removal of the International English Language Testing System eligibility requirement.

From 16 January 2015 Provisional Skills Assessment (PSA) applicants are no longer required to provide an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) result as part of the eligibility requirements.

When completing a new application through the TRA Online Portal, applicants must select 'yes' to the question 'Do you hold a passport from and are you a citizen of: United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, United States of America or the Republic of Ireland'. This will bypass the IELTS data field requirements.

Please note: When completing the 'Personal Details' page of the online application, you must enter your actual Country of Passport.

## 7) Skill Select results 9th January 2015

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 9 January 2015.

### Invitation issued on 9 January

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	60
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	60

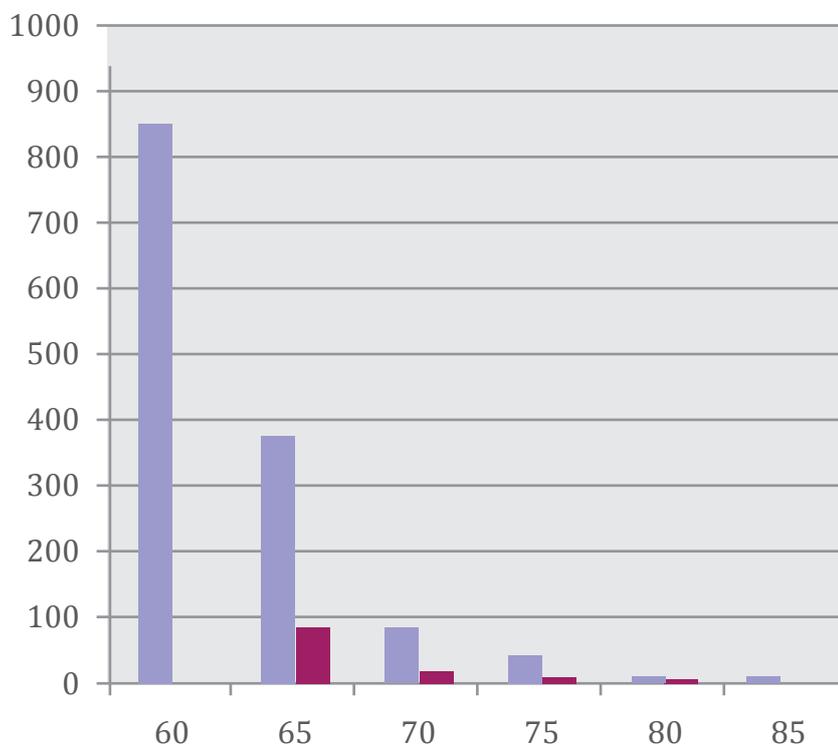
During 2014-15 the following number of invitations have been issued:

Visa subclass	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	TOTAL
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	2500	2500	2547	2430	2800	1983	1370	16130
Skilled – Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	20	110	100	100	100	200	100	730
<b>Total</b>	<b>2520</b>	<b>2610</b>	<b>2647</b>	<b>2530</b>	<b>2900</b>	<b>2183</b>	<b>1470</b>	<b>16860</b>

The above figures do not include invitations issued for state and territory government nominated visa subclasses. State and territory governments nominate throughout the month for specific points tested skilled migration and business innovation and investment visas. Separate results for these visa subclasses are provided monthly.

## 9 January 2015 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 9 January 2015 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 visa date of effect) determines their order of invitation. Expressions of Interest with earlier dates of effect are invited before later dates.

### Invitation process and cut off date by point score

Visa subclass	Points score	Visa date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	60	8/01/2015 11.49 pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	65	14/12/2014 12.37 am

Due to the continuing high numbers of EOIs received for the below occupations, invitations for these occupations will be issued on a pro rata basis in each twice monthly invitation round over the 2014-15 programme year. These arrangements are subject to change throughout the programme year. Please also note that SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent (Subclass 189) visas and then remaining to Skilled – Regional (Subclass 489) (Provisional – Family Sponsored) visas. If all places are taken up by Subclass 189 visas then there will be no invitations issued for Subclass 489 visas in these occupations:

- ICT Business and Systems Analysts
- Accountants
- Software and Applications Programmers.

The points score and the visa date of effect cut-off for the above occupation of ICT Business and System Analysts in the 9 January 2015 invitation round is as follows:

**Note:** Below points score and visa date of effect is for Skilled Independent (subclass 189).

<b>Occupation ID</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points score</b>	<b>Visa date of effect</b>
2211	Accountants	60	8/01/2015 10.32 pm
2611	ICT Business and Systems Analysts	60	8/01/2015 6.22 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	60	7/01/2015 11.23 pm

OK folks have a great month  
and see you all on  
Monday 16th January 2015



**Steven O'Neill**

 [iscah.migration](https://www.facebook.com/iscah.migration)

 [iscahmigration](https://twitter.com/iscahmigration)

 [iscah.com](http://iscah.com)

 Phone: 61-8-9353 3344

 Fax: 61-8-9353 3350

 E-mail: [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com)

 **Iscah Migration**  
Suite 14 (Kewdale Business Park)  
133 Kewdale Road, Kewdale  
Perth Western Australia, 6105  
PO Box 75 Welshpool BC 6986



Registered Migration Agent 9687267