

Iscah Migration Newsletter

18th May 2015 | Edition Number 203

Hey Everyone,

Welcome to May's edition of Iscah's super popular newsletter on visa changes. We have for you recent rule changes, a useful English language chart as well as our famous 20 Question/answers from recent emails and facebook queries, then DIBPs latest allocation times.

Before we get onto that, howwww good is the footy ?? The passionate purple army is roaring on top of the ladder with the Freo Dockers and West Coast fans have their team cozy in 2nd spot. My son's soccer team are undefeated and my golf ... is still, well, ^%\$... but who cares about that really.

Anyhow, on to this month's immigration news , enjoy it ...



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1) Significant and Premium Investor Visas: New Complying Investment Framework Announced

Today the Government announced the new complying investment framework (PDF) for the Significant Investor Visa (SIV) and Premium Investor Visa (PIV) programme (media release (PDF)). The Government intends that the new framework will be implemented from 1 July 2015 and will encourage investment into innovative Australian ideas and emerging companies. From 1 July 2015, Austrade will also become a nominator for the SIV, alongside State and Territory Governments, and the sole nominator for the PIV. The new arrangements are part of the Government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, announced by the Prime Minister in October 2014. Since the announcement, Austrade has undertaken extensive consultations with interested stakeholders, including public consideration of complying investment design options through two rounds of public written submissions (receiving approximately 170 submissions). Austrade and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection will continue to consult with stakeholders to explain the investment framework ahead of the changes to the programme being implemented on 1 July 2015.

Under the new arrangements, SIV applicants will be required to invest at least \$5 million over four years in complying investments, which must now include:

- At least \$500,000 in eligible Australian venture capital or growth private equity fund(s) investing in start-up and small private companies. The Government expects to increase this to \$1 million for new applications within two years as the market responds;
- At least \$1.5 million in an eligible managed fund(s) or Listed Investment Companies (LICs) that invest in emerging companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX); and
- A 'balancing investment' of up to \$3 million in managed fund(s) or LICs that invest in a combination of eligible assets that include other ASX listed companies, eligible corporate bonds or notes, annuities and real property (subject to the 10 per cent limit on residential real estate).

Previously, investment through the SIV programme was largely going into passive investments like government bonds and residential real estate funds – areas that already attract large capital flows. Direct investment in real estate has never been a complying investment for SIV and this will not change under the new arrangements. Indirect investment in residential real estate through managed funds will also now be limited. Importantly, a SIV holder can still independently invest in residential real estate so long as it complies with foreign investment rules, but this would not count as a complying investment to qualify for a visa.

The Government intends to introduce a new PIV from 1 July 2015, targeting talented entrepreneurs and innovators. The PIV will offer a more expeditious, 12 month pathway to permanent residency than the SIV, for those meeting a \$15 million threshold. The PIV will be available at the invitation of the Australian Government only, with potential recipients to be nominated by Austrade. This programme will be rolled out over the next year, focussing on attracting a small number of highly talented and entrepreneurial individuals. States and Territories will play an important role in helping to identify potential applicants. FAQs explaining the new complying investment arrangements. Information on the process of applying for a SIV can be found on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's webpage. Austrade thanks all of the stakeholders who contributed to the development of the new complying investment framework for the SIV and PIV programme.

(Source: Australian government)

2) Visa Application Charges from 1 July 2015

These adjustments include:

- A price increase in line with inflation (2.3 per cent) on visas which face strong international competition or have been impacted by recent price increases. o These include specific visas within the Permanent Migration Skill Stream, Skilled Graduate, Temporary Long Stay Business (Subclass 457), Visitor and Student visa streams.
- A 5 per cent price increase on visas which continue to see strong demand despite previous increases, or are likely to see a sustained volume increase through policy changes under consideration. o These include specific visas within the Temporary Resident Short Term Business and Entertainment visas, Working Holiday visas, Resident Return and Retirement Investor visas, and Contributory Parent visa streams.
- A 10 per cent price increase on specific visas within the Other Family (Remaining Relative, Carer and Aged Dependent Relative) visas, and (non-contributory) Parent visa streams where the underlying demand is not expected to be impacted by the price increase.
- A 50 per cent increase to the Significant Investor Visa (SIV) stream in the permanent migration Skill stream category where the VAC is a very small component of the minimum \$5 million of investments required under the visa regulation.
- An alignment of VAC prices where a differential currently exists for lodging an onshore and offshore application for specific visa subclasses.

Electronic Travel Authorities (ETA), eVisitor and Refugee and Humanitarian visas will not be affected by these changes. A comprehensive list of VAC price increases is included below.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Documents/budget/VAC-increases-fact-sheet.pdf>

(Source: DIBP)

3) Working Holiday Makers to pay more tax

The Federal Government will save hundreds of millions of dollars by increasing visa application fees and forcing some foreigners working in Australia to pay more tax.

From July 2016, those on a working holiday in Australia will no longer enjoy a tax free threshold of up to \$18,200, and will instead be forced to pay 32.5 per cent tax from their first dollar earned.

That measure will save the budget \$540 million over four years.

Treasurer Joe Hockey said the measure was fair and aimed at "levelling the playing field".

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-12/budget-2015-working-holiday-crackdown-to-yield-millions/6464330>

(Source: ABC)

4) Paperwork FAQs for your visa application

DIBP have a very useful list of FAQs here for any questions you have when preparing your paperwork for a visa application.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/FAQs/Pages/i-have-lodged-my-visa-application-but-some-of-the-answers-i-gave-are-wrong-what-can-i-do.aspx>

5) Review of Migration Agent profession

A review of the migration advice profession (ie Migration Agents) has just been completed by the Australian government/DIBP.

24 recommendations have been made here ...

<http://www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Documents/reviews/omara-review.pdf>

6) Working Holiday Changes

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is currently in the process of making a change to the second Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa initiative, to exclude volunteer work activities, such as Willing Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOF), from its eligibility framework. However, this change will take some time to introduce, and is not yet in effect, so it does not impact upon current second Working Holiday visa applications.

When the Department knows the exact date of implementation for the change, it will be announced publicly on our website. This public announcement will be made well ahead of the implementation date so that participants have suitable advance warning. While it is likely the change will commence towards the end of 2015, participants should regularly check this website for updates.

(Source: DIBP)

7) English Language Marks for 485 applicants applying as Accountants :

With DIBP reducing the English language marks required from 6,6,6,6 in IELTS to 6 average (minimum of 5 in each band) and there being an equivalent lower score required in the other English tests (OET, PTE, TOEFL, Cambridge), it is important to remember that you STILL need to meet the English marks of whatever assessing body is used for your nominated occupation.

So for example with Accountants, we have confirmed that at this stage a mark of 6,6,6,6 (or equivalent in other English tests) is STILL required for the provisional skills assessment used for a 485 visa.

Links are listed below for the various tests accepted by each of the 3 accounting bodies at present ...

<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/become-a-cpa/migration-assessment/english-language-requirements>

<http://www.charteredaccountants.com.au/The-Institute/Migration-assessment/How-to-Apply/Skills-assessment/English-language-requirement.aspx>

<http://www.publicaccountants.org.au/about-us/immigration/english-competency>

If any of the accounting bodies lower their English language requirement we will post this up as soon as we are aware of the change.

(Source: Iscah)

8) General Skilled Migration Issues paper

This is an Australia government proposal document about changes to the skilled migration process/model

This issues paper was released on 1 May 2015 and is intended to assist you in preparing a submission to the Commission. It covers a range of issues on which the Commission seeks information and feedback.

<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/migrant-intake/issues>

9) Change of name for DIBP

From 1 July 2015 email addresses will change from '@immi.gov.au' or '@customs.gov.au' to '@border.gov.au'.

This is to reflect the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service integrating into a single organisation - the Department of Immigration and Border Protection - on 1 July 2015. At this time the Australian Border Force will be established within the Department.

(Source: DIBP)

10) May's Q20 - Short visa questions we answered this month

Q) What is the required IELTS for Accounting Provisional skill assessment?

A) They all still require 6666 on each band of the IELTS. They have advised that they are not reducing their required score.

Q) Does Engineers Australia accept any other English except IELTS?

A) No, only IELTS accepted.

Q) Can I buy Australian Citizenship for \$50,000?

A) No, this announcement was just a proposal paper written by the Productivity Commission.

Q) Which occupations are flagged for removal from the SOL?

A) Please see here;

<http://www.awpa.gov.au/our-work/labour-market-information/skilled-occupation-list/pages/flagged-occupations.aspx>

Q) Can a friend sponsor me for a skilled visa?

A) No the 489 visa is only for relative sponsored. You must have a positive skill assessment for an occupation on the SOL, meet the points test and have an Australian Citizen/PR relative in a regional area to sponsor you for this temporary visa.

Q) What occupation can I be sponsored under for a 457?

A) You must be nominated in an occupation that is listed on the CSOL
<https://www.immi.gov.au/Work/Pages/skilled-occupations-lists/csol.aspx>

Q) What occupation can I be sponsored under for a RSMS visa?

A) Any skill level 1, 2 or 3 occupation

Q) Does my child need a chest x-ray?

A) If under 11 years of age they do not need a chest x-ray

Q) I require a full time job offer for WA state sponsorship. Can I combine 2 x part time jobs to meet this criteria?

A) Yes, you can have 2 x part time jobs in the nominated occupation to meet this criteria

Q) Can you advise about New Zealand and Canada migration?

A) Sorry, we are only in the field of Australian migration

Q) How do all the English tests compare to each other?

A) Please see our comparison table;

http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015Englishmarks.pdf

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Q) I want to apply for 186/187 via the temporary stream....what IELTS score do I need?

A) You still need 5555 on each band of the IELTS (or comparative English tests).

Q) Does work experience for Provisional TRA skill assessment need to be paid?

A) It can be paid or voluntary.

Q) Whats the difference between Cook and Chef?

A) The duties vary according to the links below. In general, Cook requires Cert III plus 2yrs work experience or a Cert IV.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/171A4AC9F7BF1501CA2575DF002DA793?opendocument>
Chef requires a Diploma

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Product+Lookup/1220.0~First+Edition,+Revision+1~Chapter~UNIT+GROUP+3513+Chefs>

Q) I am a NZ Citizen (not an eligible NZ Citizen), how can I obtain PR?

A) You have to meet criteria for any one of the skilled, business, employer sponsored or family visa's.

Q) My visa got refused, what do I do now?

A) You may have review rights. If applying for review with the MRT you have 21 days from the date of decision to lodge your review application.

Q) Can you help me find a sponsor?

A) Unfortunately we are not in the field of recruitment. Happy to help with your visa application though.

Q) I don't live in Perth, can ISCAH still process my application?

A) Yes, we can process most applications from anywhere in the world you may be.

Q) Where can I see what DIBP's new fees will be from 1st July 2015?

A) <http://www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Documents/budget/VAC-increases-fact-sheet.pdf>

Q) Do I need to use a Registered Migration Agent to lodge my application?

A) You do not need to use a migration agent to lodge a visa application. However, if you choose to use an agent, ensure you use a registered migration agent. ISCAH has 5 x registered migration agents, who will give professional advise to ensure your visa application has every chance of success.

(Source: Iscah)

11) English Language Marks – comparison for visas

Here is a supa cool table showing all the different english test options you have and the scores you require for different visas.

Press like if you want to be kept up to date with all the latest visa news ...

http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2015Englishmarks.pdf

12) Accountants about to close for the 2014/2015 program year

The latest round of invitations for skilled points test migration (189, 190, 489) show that for the occupation of Accountant there are only 46 places left out of the allocation of 5478 for the program year.

These 46 places will be used sparingly over the next 2 months and when exhausted there will NO more invitations for 489, 189 and 190 visas as Accountants before the 1st July 2015.

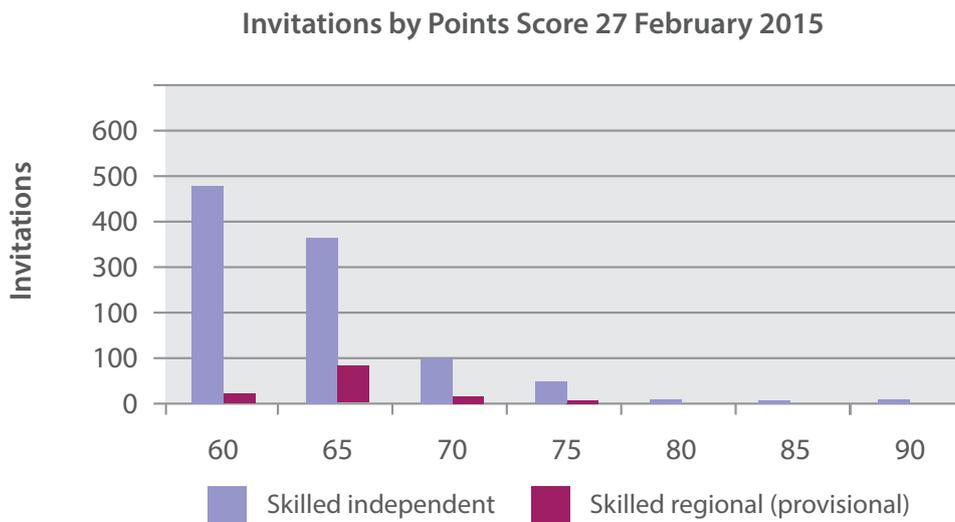
We will then have to wait and see if DIBP include Accountant on the skilled list after 1st July 2015, and if they do, how many places they allocate to that occupation.

The occupation of External Auditor still has 488 places left. So if you have completed Auditing in your studies you would be well advised to obtain a full skills assessment as an External Auditor and apply under that occupation instead.

(Source: Iscah)

13) Skill Select 24th April 2015

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 24 April 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.

Visa subclass	Points score	Visa date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	60	23 March 2015 1.05 pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	60	18 July 2013 10.55 am

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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:

- Accountants
- Software and Applications Programmers

The points score and the visa date of effect cut-off for the pro-rata occupations in the 24 April 2015 invitation round is as follows:

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

Occupation ID	Description	Points score	Visa date of effect
2211	Accountants	60	23 March 2015 1.05 pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	60	23 March 2015 1.04 pm

*Please note that ICT Business and Systems Analysts has reached the occupation ceiling for this financial year and no further invitations will be issued for the year 2014-2015.

Okay folks
Have a great month and see you
all on Monday 15th June
Cheers



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