

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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17th June 2015 | Edition Number 204

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## Hey Readers,

Hope you had a grrreat last month and your sporting teams have done well. Did I tell you that the Freo Dockers are flying at the moment ?? We are starting to collect a few injuries so I'd better just "put it out there" whilst we are still top. It won't last much longer ha !

Anyhow on to the visa stuff.

This newsletter is sent out free to around 4000 subscribers each month as well as our large social media audience, and covers all the changes we have had heard about in the last month. It is free and if you want to have it emailed to U to then just drop an email to us at [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com) Also if you have any suggestions for articles or simply brickbats/ bouquets then email us to the same address.

On to this months (shortish) news ...



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## 1) Change to Accountants skills assessments

Both of the main Accounting skills assessing bodies have announced similar changes to the academic units required for a skills assessment. This will affect any assessments completed AFTER 1st July 2015 ..

### News: June 2015

Minor changes to the assessment criteria will be implemented with effect from Wednesday 1 July. The total number of core knowledge areas will be consolidated to nine (9) from the current twelve (12):

#### Pre-July core knowledge

Accounting Systems and Processes  
Financial Accounting  
Accounting Theory  
Management Accounting  
Finance  
Commercial Law  
Corporations Law  
Economics  
Quantitative Methods  
Accounting Information Systems  
Auditing  
Taxation Law or Australian Taxation Law

#### Post-July competency areas

Accounting Systems and Processes  
Financial Accounting and Reporting "  
Management Accounting  
Finance and Financial Management  
"Business Law "  
Economics  
Quantitative Methods  
Removed – no longer required  
Audit and Assurance  
Taxation or Australian Taxation Law

The Degree and English language requirements will remain unchanged.  
All assessments, reviews and updates completed on or after Wednesday 1 July will be completed according to the restructured competency areas.

### Competency area requirements per occupation

You will need to meet at least seven (7) competency areas for all occupations, with the exception of External Auditors and Taxation Accountants, who will need to meet at least eight (8) as indicated below.  
Accountant (General) ANZSCO code 221111, Corporate Treasurer ANZSCO code 221212, Finance Manager ANZSCO code 221212, Management Accountant ANZSCO code 221112

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**Mandatory**

Accounting Systems and Processes  
Financial Accounting and Reporting  
Management Accounting  
Finance and Financial Management  
Business Law  
Economics  
Quantitative Methods

**External auditor 221213****Mandatory**

Accounting Systems and Processes  
Financial Accounting and Reporting  
Management Accounting  
Finance and Financial Management  
Business Law  
Economics  
Quantitative Methods  
Audit and Assurance

**External auditor 221213****Mandatory**

Accounting Systems and Processes  
Financial Accounting and Reporting  
Management Accounting  
Finance and Financial Management  
Business Law  
Economics  
Quantitative Methods  
Audit and Assurance

**Optional**

Audit and Assurance  
Taxation Law

**Optional**

Taxation Law

**Optional**

Taxation Law

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## Mandatory

Accounting Systems and Processes  
Financial Accounting and Reporting  
Management Accounting  
Finance and Financial Management  
Business Law  
Economics  
Quantitative Methods

## Optional

Audit and Assurance

### What does this mean for me?

If you have submitted your application already or plan to submit your application for assessment in June, and we have received all the documents required for your assessment, we will endeavor to complete your assessment before Wednesday 1 July 2015. Please consider the current processing times when submitting your documents.

If you have already received a positive assessment outcome from CPA Australia, your assessment remains valid and the changes will not affect you.

If you have received an assessment outcome from CPA Australia and have been advised to complete further studies to meet the core knowledge criteria, you will need to consider the new competency areas when choosing your study plan.

(Source: CPA Australia)

## 2) Priority Group 5 Applicants

An article in the media last month ..

Skilled migrants waiting several years for permanent residency applications to be processed  
Thousands of skilled migrants living in Australia want to know why their valid applications for permanent residency have not been touched for several years.

The Federal Government has said the Immigration Department is dealing with a large backlog of cases. Those people at the very bottom of the skilled migration queue are classified as "priority five".

They have spent thousands of dollars on their applications, which appear to be on hold indefinitely. One of those applicants is Sydney man Syed Sakib, who desperately wants to be a permanent resident in Australia.

Mr Sakib, 30, applied for a skilled migration visa in 2010 and after five years of waiting, he cannot get an answer on when his application will be processed by the Immigration Department.

"Our situation is we [are] doing everything right, we paid the money, we're working full-time, we work for the Australian community," he said.

Mr Sakib moved from Bangladesh in 2007 to study in Wollongong and now works full-time helping refugees to get work placements.

When the former Rudd government was dealing with a backlog of cases in 2009, it changed the rules to cherry-pick some occupations over others, instead of processing applications by the date they were lodged.

That meant Mr Sakib's application was put at the bottom of the pile.

He has been living in Australia on a bridging visa.

"It will be five years this June and there is no answer from Immigration," Mr Sakib said.

"I cannot take a house loan, I cannot get a mobile phone plan and there [are] so many restrictions. [It is] very frustrating."

Like Mr Sakib, 3,300 priority five skilled migrants are living in Australia on bridging visas, waiting to hear if they will become permanent residents. Another 17,000 have applied offshore.

Mr Sakib said Priority Five skilled migrants were all worried their cases might not ever be looked at.

"Our future [got put on] hold ... the Immigration Department told us 'we don't know when your application is going to be approved, you better try other options,'" he said.

Fellow applicant Ilaria de Fusco has been in Australia for 15 years and has spent thousands of dollars on application fees.

Her application has been with the Immigration Department since 2009.

"Anytime I try to approach [the Immigration Department] I get the same answer — they refer me to the website," Ms de Fusco, an Italian-born Sydney resident, said.

Backlog concerning, Migrant Institute says

The Migration Institute of Australia represents migration agents, who charge a fee to help skilled migrants with their applications.

President Angela Chan said the institute was concerned by the backlog of priority five applications.

"People's applications are not being processed and they have to wait for inordinate lengths of time, up to eight years," Ms Chan said.

"People need to know what their future is going to be."

Peter Mares, an adjunct researcher on migration at Swinburne University in Melbourne, said the Government had a responsibility to deal with the caseload quickly.

"I think it's only fair to give an answer to people who've been waiting longest," Mr Mares said.

"Before this system was introduced, people had their visa applications processed in order. The Government made a decision to do things differently.

"That's reasonable to a point but I think it becomes unreasonable to expect people to wait four, five, six years when they've paid money up front."

Ms de Fusco has started a support group for about 250 priority five skilled migrants in the same position as her, who all share the same frustrations.

"We have been waiting for a long time and we can't really progress in our lives," Ms de Fusco said.

A spokesman for the Assistant Minister for Immigration, Michaelia Cash, said the Government was aware the priority processing system had impacted on waiting times.

The spokesman said the Government had to take into account the state of the labour market when processing visa applications.

(Source: ABC)

### 3) Work visa scams. Don't pay the price

A scam is an attempt to intentionally mislead people to steal money, property, or personal information, or to dishonestly obtain something else of value.

We are aware that criminals around the world and in Australia use scams with false promises of work and permanent residence in Australia as a way to exploit or steal money from people.

We are committed to educating people about the correct processes for applying to live and work in Australia and to assist them to protect themselves from migration fraud and scams. It is important that you understand your rights and your employer's obligations to ensure you are protecting yourself.

Most people follow the appropriate and lawful process in meeting visa and sponsorship requirements, a minority do not. We undertake a range of measures to identify those who are engaging in fraudulent activities and have penalties in place to deal with visa holders and sponsors who are found to be doing the wrong thing.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/Work/Pages/work-visa-scams.aspx>

## 4) Polio risk

Visa applicants who have spent 28 days or longer in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia or Syria, or in any combination of these countries, on or after 5 May 2014 should provide a vaccination certificate as evidence that they have been vaccinated against polio if they are applying for a visa from outside of Australia. This is in response to the World Health Organization's declaration of polio as a public health emergency of international concern.

(Source: DIBP)

## 5) Significant Investor Visa

The SIV188 nominations will reopen on 1 July 2015 under the new complying investment framework.

### Points Test

As from 1 July 2015 the minimum points required for the Visa 188 Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) [both streams] Points Test will be 50.

### Visa 188 Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) - Investor Stream

As from 1 July 2015, for the Investor Stream of the Subclass 188, a government bond investment held jointly will allow either the primary or secondary applicant to meet the criteria for the Subclass 888. The primary applicant can meet the criteria for the grant of the Subclass 188 with assets in their name, and jointly held investments could then be the subject of a Subclass 888 application by either the primary or the secondary applicant.

(Source: WA government)

## 6) New simpler Student requirements from 2016

Joint media release - The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education and Training, Leader of the House and Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, and Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, today announced the introduction of a simplified international student visa framework (SSVF) to support Australia's education services sector.

The changes will mean:

- a reduction in the number of student visa subclasses from eight to two, and
- the introduction of a simplified single immigration risk framework for all international students.

"Australia is open for business and welcomes genuine and high quality international students who provide a much-needed boost to our economy, our local communities and jobs, and who boost our country-to-country relationships," Minister Pyne said.

"We warmly welcome genuine international students and we are committed to improving and protecting the integrity of our immigration system."

"After coming to office the Government moved immediately to improve competitiveness and it is pleasing to see growth in international student enrolments in Australia has resumed."

Minister Cash said an improved approach to the administration of student visas as part of the SSVF will have clear benefits. The overall integrity of the student visa programme will be maintained, and the improved regulatory arrangements will avoid placing unnecessary burden or cost on education providers.

The SSVF will replace both the Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP) arrangements and the current Assessment Level Framework and will apply to all international students.

It will lay out a student's financial and English language evidentiary requirements based on two things: the immigration profile of the student's country of citizenship and of their education provider.

"The SSVF will support the growth of the international education sector by enhancing both competitiveness and integrity while extending streamlined processing to all education sectors and all course types," Minister Cash said.

She said the changes follow consultations on the Government discussion paper Future Directions for Streamlined Visa Processing.

"SVP served a very good purpose but it is now time to implement a broader, simpler, fairer framework," Minister Cash said.

A working group with international education sector stakeholders is being formed to guide implementation of the new framework on the expiry of SVP arrangements on 30 June 2016.

The agencies responsible for the quality assurance and regulation of education services for overseas students will work closely with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on the new regime.

Minister Pyne said the SSVF would contribute to the objectives of the Draft National Strategy for International Education released for consultation in April and the subject of a roundtable on international education this week.

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The first of two roundtables to discuss the Draft National Strategy will be held at Parliament House, Canberra, on Thursday 18 June. Chaired by Minister Pyne, it will involve Ministers whose portfolios relate to international education, including Minister Cash.  
Full report is here <http://www.immi.gov.au/Study/Documents/future-directions.pdf>

(Source: Assistant minister for Immigration)

## 7) Push for NZers in Australia to have more rights

A New Zealand advocacy group in Australia will present a petition to the Australian Parliament next week calling for New Zealanders to be given the same rights as other permanent residents residing. Oz Kiwi aims to put pressure on the Australian government to allow New Zealanders living permanently in Australia to naturalise within a designated time period so they can vote.

Spokesperson Timothy Gassin said the OZ Kiwi proposal was simple: that New Zealanders who move to Australia, who have been self sufficient and pay tax, should be given the full rights of other Australian residents and be allowed the option of becoming an Australian citizen. He said the petition had close to 40,000 signatures.

Mr Gassin said Oz Kiwi would meet with senators and parliamentarians from Monday to present their concerns and the petition.

The lobby group campaigns to overturn 2001 changes to social security law and subsequent law changes which have withdrawn New Zealanders' access to a variety of services.

Mr Gassin said New Zealanders currently enter Australia on a Special Category Visa that lets them work and live in Australia indefinitely and buy a house, but the visa did not allow an avenue for citizenship or access to services even though they paid the same taxes as everyone else.

Some of the services New Zealanders are excluded from include access to student loans and a variety of benefits.

"New Zealanders living in Australia can't get the unemployment benefit or any help if they or their partner or children become disabled, even if their spouse is an Australian."

He said the issue of benefits was particularly relevant when it came to New Zealanders trapped in a relationship where they experienced domestic violence.

He said a lot of processes within domestic violence required someone to show that they were in receipt of an Australian Government payment, and New Zealanders are now ineligible for those.

"Women who are fleeing domestic violence often can't get access to women's refuges."

Mr Gassin agreed that people shouldn't be able to just come off the plane and be given every right that an Australian has.

"It's fair the Australian Government puts restrictions in place. People should show some commitment before they have every single right in a new country."

But he said New Zealanders had a greater shared history and agreements with Australia and that was why the laws around New Zealanders should be revisited.

"Where is the New Zealand in ANZAC? Equality and fairness is all we are asking for."

(Source: Radio New Zealand)

## 8) Bridging Visa for people who travelled overseas to lodge their visa application

We see many instances where a person has lodged a review at the MRT and whilst waiting for that review, will fly outside Australia to lodge a 187, 189, 190 application. They then return to Australia as part of their MRT and if this MRT appeal fails they normally have 28 further days to depart Australia or seek Ministerial/Federal Court intervention.

Many people are unaware of another option to which is a bridging visa E to remain in Australia until a decision is made on this 187/189/190 (there are others visas to) that was lodged overseas

A brief summary of the steps are :

For any application

lodged electronically/hard copy in Australia  
when the person was physically offshore

And the visa can be granted while the person is in Australia (187, 189, 190 etc)

a bridging visa E can be obtained to stay in Australia for the processing

So when their current substantive or bridging visa ceases a client can go to DIBP

Apply for Bridging Visa E under 050.212(3) which will be linked to their offshore application

It is granted with no work

Can apply for Permission to work on form 1005 if financial hardship can be shown)

(Source: Iscah)

## 9) Some Random Q and As answered by Iscah in the last month

Q If I travelled overseas on a Bridging visa B to lodge a visa application and return to Australia can I obtain a bridging visa to stay in Australia for the processing of this application ?

A In some cases you can, if it was lodged electronically or hard copy in Australia whilst you were

Q I am holding a 485 visa that is still valid for another 12months, can I apply for another visa?

A Yes you can apply for as many visa's as you like (as long as you meet criteria), however you only ever hold one visa at a time.

Q I am holding a 457 visa, can I have a second job?

A No, you can only work for the sponsoring company if you are the MAIN visa holder. If you are a secondary applicant you can work for any employer.

Q I am holding a 186/187 visa, can I have a second job?

A Yes, you should be working full time in the nominated occupation for the sponsoring company, however you may also work for other companies.

Q Has CPA and the other Assessing Bodies for Accountant changed their English criteria?

A No this is still the same, 6666 on each band of IELTS for the Provisional (subclass 485) assessment and 7777 on each band of Academic IETLS for the full skill assessment

Q I have been on a 457 but my employer is selling the business which will have a new ABN. The new owner will take over my current 457 sponsorship. Can the time count with the first company towards the 2yrs required for ENS?

A Yes, if you are working in the same occupation, performing the same duties and at the same location, you may still count this time.

Q Can my employer cancel my visa?

A No, only the Department of Immigration can do that.

Q What are Biometrics?

A Biometrics refers to a measurable characteristic that is unique to an individual such as fingerprints, facial structure, the iris or a person's voice.

Countries and visa subclasses included in the biometrics programme can be found here; <https://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Pages/biometrics/biometrics-countries.aspx>

(Source: Iscah)

## 10) Skill Select – 8th May 2015 round results

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 8 May 2015

| Visa subclass                                 | Number |
|---|--------|
| Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)          | 1000   |
| Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489) | 100    |

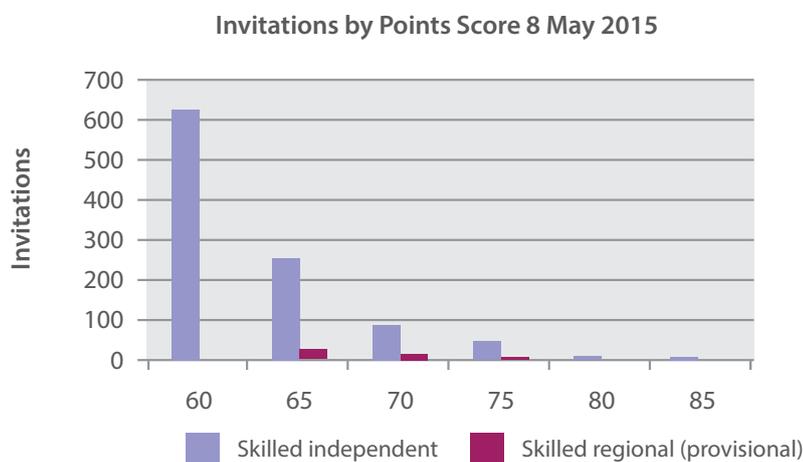
During 2014-15 the following number of invitations have been issued:

| Visa subclass                                 | Aug         | Sep         | Oct         | Nov         | Dec         | Jan         | Feb         | Mar         | April       | May         | Total        |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)          | 2500        | 2547        | 2430        | 2800        | 1983        | 2770        | 2400        | 2200        | 1000        | 1000        | <b>25430</b> |
| Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489) | 110         | 100         | 100         | 100         | 200         | 830         | 700         | 300         | 100         | 100         | <b>2130</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>2610</b> | <b>2647</b> | <b>2530</b> | <b>2900</b> | <b>2183</b> | <b>2970</b> | <b>3100</b> | <b>2500</b> | <b>1100</b> | <b>1100</b> | <b>27260</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.

### 8 May 2015 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 10 April 2015 round.



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### 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           | 13 April 2015 11.37 am   |
| Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489) | 60           | 25 February 2015 8.18 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:

- Accountants
- Software and Applications Programmers

The points score and the visa date of effect cut-off for the pro-rata occupations in the 8 May 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                           | 65           | 28 April 2015 3.21 pm |
| 2613          | Software and Applications Programmers | 65           | 28 April 2015 3.05 pm |

Okay folks  
Have a great month and see you  
all on Monday 20th July 2015.  
Cheers



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