

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Edition Number 237 | 20th March 2018

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Hey Everyone

Hope you have had a super month and welcome to the latest edition of our monthly visa newsletter.

We bring together all that we have heard over the last 4 weeks from various sources as well as some of our own comments about visa policy and changes.

If you want backcopies, want to go on the mailing list , wish to unsubscribe or have an idea for content then email us at [newsletter@iscah.com](mailto:newsletter@iscah.com) (note this is not the robot email address that you receive our newsletter from).

Hope you find something useful and let's get cracking ...



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## 1) Possible laws to screen migrants before arrival in Australia

The Turnbull government is reportedly considering laws that will allow the Home Affairs department to gather intelligence on the 'lived behaviour' of would-be migrants

The Coalition government is considering laws that would allow Peter Dutton's new Home Affairs department to gather intelligence on migrants when they first apply to come to Australia, the department's secretary has revealed. Home Affairs secretary Michael Pezzullo, the department's top public servant, told The Daily Telegraph the government was actively considering the idea. "Prior to you even getting citizenship, before you even migrate, the government is looking at how do you make an assessment using intelligence, using all sources of information," Mr Pezzullo told the newspaper.

The laws have not been tabled in parliament and have not been publically canvassed before the drop to the Telegraph.

Mr Pezzullo said the assessments would use a range of "data sources" to check whether would-be migrants were likely to "conform with and live by Australian values" by analysing their "lived behaviour". "There will be three assessment points; before they get here, while they are here and then when they apply for citizenship," he said.

Minister for citizenship Alan Tudge told the Telegraph the government wanted to move to a model of "ongoing assessment" of migrants before they apply for citizenship. SBS News has contacted the minister's office for comment.

Mr Pezzullo was in Parliament House on Tuesday for Senate Estimates to answer questions from senators on his new Home Affairs department.

SBS News approached Mr Pezzullo on the morning tea break and asked if he could answer a few questions on the proposal. "Of course not," he said, adding his interview with the Telegraph was "part of a different thing". Mr Pezzullo said subsequent attempts to ask questions anyway were "incredibly disrespectful but expected".

Annual immigration reports show Australia has accepted roughly 190,000 permanent migrants every year since 2011, mostly on skilled and family visas. It remains unclear what proportion of these would be vetted under the proposal.

Labor senator Doug Cameron accused the government of using coded messaging and dog-whistle politics. "It wouldn't surprise me that this government would use whatever dog whistle it can against potential refugees, potential migrants to this country," Labor senator Doug Cameron told reporters at Parliament House on Tuesday.

But another Labor senator, Jenny McAllister, said the opposition would wait to see the detail of the government's plan.

(Source [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au))

## 2) Queensland suspend occupations on their State skilled list

BSMQ update to QSOL: Registered Nurses (including those with specialisations)  
27 February 2018

Due to a high numbers of EOIs, BSMQ will not be issuing any more invitations for EOIs lodged on or after 27 February 2018 for the below occupations:

254412 Registered Nurse (Aged Care)  
254413 Registered Nurse (Child and Family Health)  
254414 Registered Nurse (Community Health)  
254415 Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency)  
254416 Registered Nurse (Developmental Disability)  
254417 Registered Nurse (Disability and Rehabilitation)  
254418 Registered Nurse (Medical)  
254421 Registered Nurse (Medical Practice)  
254422 Registered Nurse (Mental Health)  
254423 Registered Nurse (Perioperative)  
254424 Registered Nurse (Surgical)  
254425 Registered Nurse (Paediatric)  
254499 Registered Nurse nec

BSMQ also will not be issuing any more invitations for EOIs lodged on or after 27 February 2018 for 141111 Cafe or Restaurant Manager (visa subclass 489)

Please note: this is a temporary suspension until the 1 July 2018.  
(Source: Queensland government)

### 3) Critics should remember that Immigration drives Australia's success

A recent media article in an Australia newspaper :

Immigration has been one of the keys to Australia's emergence as one of the world's most culturally, economically and socially successful nations. In recent times, it has accounted for more than half our population growth, which has driven economic growth and helped make Australia so prosperous. Half of us were born overseas or have at least one parent who was. That diversity has helped forge an economy and society envied throughout the world.

The Age has long supported immigration because it is so evidently beneficial, as pretty much every modern study into the issue has concluded. We have also long championed freedom of speech, so we defend the right of former prime minister Tony Abbott to call for a sharp reduction in immigration, as he did last week while Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was in Washington to meet US President Donald Trump, and of One Nation leader Pauline Hanson to urge a zero net intake of people from offshore. But we believe evidence shows them to be wrong.

Other things being equal, immigration increases the rate of economic growth by stimulating demand, consumption and employment. It enriches our society and culture by creating a wonderful mix of tastes, practices and traditions. Immigration buttresses human values, because it engenders, on balance, understanding, empathy and tolerance.

The solution to a lack of infrastructure is to, well, invest in infrastructure – not smash one of the main engines of our marvellous nation with a sledgehammer. Sure, there is a reasonable discussion to be had about immigration levels and population growth, but obviously that is not what the current debate is about. What's happening is primarily political posturing, not rational analysis. Yes, traffic congestion is a problem in our expanding cities. Yes, we need to build more homes, and to offer options far beyond high-rise apartments and quarter-acre blocks. Yes, we need more public transport and roads. But these are growing pains, not a compelling argument to slash immigration. The pace of change of technology, the stupendous innovation and creativity of humanity, the ability to solve problems – these are the things that will continue to lift this and other nations.

We can and should have confidence that remains the case, and we should have confidence in ourselves and those who bring so much to this part of the planet. In Europe, the debate has become unhelpfully politicised by the suffering of an unprecedented number of displaced people, as some leaders successfully stir up nationalistic and anti-immigration sentiment. We should avoid such needless, self-defeating tension by taking the politics out of the issue and focusing on the unambiguous evidence. Almost half a century ago, the Club of Rome, a group of former heads of state, bureaucrats and scientists, alarmed the world with a report called *The Limits to Growth*, which held that the world was imminently doomed because of population growth.

There's another level. Protectionist nationalism is ethically dubious; the world's most pressing issues do not stop at borders. We need to take a much longer, comprehensive view and realise that "Fortress Australia" policies would diminish Australia economically, politically and culturally.

(Source: Canberra Times)

## 4) Message from Immigration about Skill Select

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) created without clear identity information, including name and date of birth details, will be removed from SkillSelect on a regular basis.

(Source: Department of Homeaffairs)

## 5) Plan to make it harder for migrants to get welfare benefits

Plan to make it harder for migrants to get benefits to affect 110,000 children  
Government hopes to save \$1.2bn by making migrants wait three years before accessing some benefits

Changes to migrant welfare payments will affect 110,000 children, Senate estimates has heard. Photograph: Jonny Weeks for the Guardian

The Coalition's plan to make it harder for new migrants to claim government benefits will affect 110,000 children, Senate estimates has heard.

The government hopes to save \$1.2bn by making new migrants wait three years instead of two before they can access certain government payments, including family tax benefit, paid parental leave, and carers' allowance.

The changes would hurt those arriving on family and skilled visas, but would not apply to humanitarian visas.

The Australian Council of Social Services (Acoss) has condemned the measures as harsh. The delays threaten to push migrants into poverty and hardship, creating a new "underclass of migrants", Acoss says.

Plan to restrict pension for older migrants 'unprecedented' in Australia

On Thursday, Senate estimates heard the measure would affect 110,000 children between July 2018, when it takes effect, and 2021.

It would also affect 50,000 families eligible for family tax benefit part A, and 30,000 individuals waiting for other payments.

The Department of Social Services said on Thursday it did not consult migrant resettlement services or anyone outside government about the changes.

The government says the changes are designed to help new migrants become "self-sufficient" when they first arrive in Australia.

But new Labor senator Kristina Keneally questioned how denying people government support would achieve that aim.

Keneally recounted her own experience as a migrant arriving in Australia, saying social security was critical in supporting her while she established herself and found a job.

"In my circumstance I arrived here and went and sought assistance in terms of finding a job and accommodation, and my entire intent was to be able to support myself," Keneally said. "I was seeking employment and indeed found employment, but without those types of support when I first arrived here, those two things would have been much more difficult."

Liberal senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells rejected the criticism. She said she knew of individual migrants who had come here without a cent of social security support, and were now among the most wealthy in the country.

"Let's just park your experience," Fierravanti-Wells said to Keneally. "From our perspective we believe that new migrants who are granted a permanent visa or a relevant temporary visas on or after the first of July 2018 should be placed and well-placed to support themselves through work, existing resources, or family support.

"That is a decision of government and might I say, plenty of people have come to this country and not got a cent in terms of support, and today are amongst our most wealthy in Australia."

Keneally responded: "So is that what you hope will happen for every person who comes? If we deny them support they are going to become amongst our most wealthy citizens?"

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There are a range of exemptions from the changes to account for hardship or difficult circumstances.

Humanitarian visas are completely exempt.

Those who come on a partner visa but then have their relationship break down will also be exempt.

Acoss's director of policy and advocacy, Edwina MacDonald, said late last year the changes would only serve to harm a group that makes "an enormous contribution to our society".

"This will hurt people who lose their job, people who need to care for a child with disability, or a family member with a terminal illness," MacDonald said. "It will disproportionately affect women and see more children live in poverty. This will drive more people to our charities for meeting the essentials of life, such as food and shelter."

(Source: [www.theguardian.com.au](http://www.theguardian.com.au))

## 6) New business visa for South Australia

The Australian Government is committed to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation and has given an undertaking to the Steven Marshall Liberal Team to pilot a new visa initiative in South Australia. Under this initiative, new visa arrangements that allow State Governments to partner with business incubators in attracting foreign entrepreneurs to Australia will be piloted in South Australia, before a national rollout in 2019.

"I commend Steven Marshall and the SA Liberal Team on taking the initiative to secure this arrangement for South Australia," Mr Dutton said.

"South Australia has suffered from 16 long years of Labor Government". "Steven Marshall is committed to restoring South Australia's economy".

Under this initiative, foreign entrepreneurs and investors with an innovative idea and a supporting business plan will be able to apply for a temporary visa to take forward their venture in Australia.

Applicants will not need capital backing, unlike the current Entrepreneur Visa which requires demonstrated funding of at least \$200,000.

Instead, applicant's proposals will be vetted by State or Federal Government entities, with these entities able to partner with incubators and accelerators to identify potential applicants for nomination.

Entrepreneurs who are successful in establishing their business venture in Australia will become eligible to apply for permanent residence.

"The Turnbull Government is focussed on increasing job opportunities and standards of living for Australians and we are doing this by fostering business growth and investment in Australia," Mr Dutton said.

"Encouraging seed-stage entrepreneurs to take forward innovative ideas in Australia will assist in growing the jobs of the future".

(Source: Dept of Homeaffairs)



## 7) Iscah Analysis of Accountants for 2018/19

Iscah analysis of Accountants in 2018 for the 189 visa –

[http://www.iscah.com/wp\\_files/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Accountants-and-their-future.pdf](http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Accountants-and-their-future.pdf)

final paragraph - Obviously when DHA come to set their program targets for 2018/19 a lot will depend on how many numbers they give to the 189 program and Accountants. As well as how they manage the fake and double invite problems. But the collapse of company sponsored migration, less NZ citizens applying and the backlog gone suggests a likelihood of increased numbers for points test migration. Also the continued support of the countries two major Accounting bodies could well see a more enlightened approach from DHA in regards whether Accountants should be artificially limited in numbers from July 2018 onwards. I would think after a period of time those with 80 points will all get invites and it may sneak into the 75 pointers through the program year.

(Source: Iscah)

## 8) Joint submission to DHA from Accounting bodies

Joint submission from Accounting bodies (CPA and CAANZ) to DHA about Accountants and skilled migration –

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Visasupport/Documents/visa-simplification-submissions/cpa-australia-chartered-accountants.pdf>

## 9) When will you get your 189 invitation – Iscah’s latest estimates

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from TODAY - 9th March 2018. Depending on when you lodged your EOI, what the effect date is and the occupation.

We have extended it this time through to the new 2018/19 program year and listed some assumptions. As a result it allows us to say whether we think you will get an invitation before or after July 2019 also. These may not turn out to be DHA settings, we are just trying to give a rough estimate in this age of uncertainty.

| Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa                                     |           | as at 8th March 2018   |                      |                      |                      |
|--|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assumptions</b>   |           |                        |                      |                      |                      |
| no more Accountant invites until July 2018   |           |                        |                      |                      |                      |
| All other pro rata to continue with a ceiling of 25% of their normal numbers until July 2018 |           |                        |                      |                      |                      |
| average of 300 per round until June 2018 and then 1000 per round after that (Full Pro Rata)  |           |                        |                      |                      |                      |
| Same occupational annual ceilings for 2018/19 as in 2017/18                                  |           |                        |                      |                      |                      |
| Approximately 25% wastage for fake and double invites to continue                            |           |                        |                      |                      |                      |
| Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa                                     |           | EOI Lodged             |                      |                      | Copyright Iscah 2018 |
| as at 9th March 2018   |           | today (9th March 2018) | 3 months ago         | 6 months ago         | 12 months ago        |
| 2211 Accountants<br>© Iscah  | 80 points | 6 months               | 4 months             | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | not before July 2019   | 14 months            | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2212 Auditors<br>©   | 80 points | 5 months               | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 15 months              | 12 months            | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2334 Electronics Engineer<br>©   | 80 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 2 weeks                | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 5 months               | 6 weeks              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | invited              | invited              |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers<br>© Iscah  | 80 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 2 weeks                | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 7 months               | 4 months             | invited              | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | invited              |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2339 Other Engineering Professionals<br>© Iscah  | 80 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 1 month                | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 9 months               | 6 months             | invited              | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2611 ICT Business Analysts<br>©  | 80 points | invited                | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 3 months               | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 11 months              | 8 months             | 5 months             | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2611 Software Applications Programmer<br>©   | 80 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 3 months               | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 5 months               | 4 months             | invited              | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | invited              |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| 2631 Computer Network Professionals<br>©   | 80 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | 1 month                | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 11 months              | 9 months             | invited              | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | 13 months            |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 |
| ALL other NON pro rata occupations   | 80 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 75 points | next round             | invited              | invited              | invited              |
|  | 70 points | 9 months               | 3 months             | invited              | invited              |
|  | 65 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | invited              | invited              |
|  | 60 points | not before July 2019   | not before July 2019 | not before July 2019 | invited              |

Note that Non-Pro ratas may be invited much quicker if DHA decide to restrict Pro Ratras again from July 2018 or invite more than 1000 per round - we will update then

<http://www.iscah.com/iscah-estimates-will-get-189-invite-9th-march-2018/>

These estimates are heavily influenced by the number of invitations that DIBP/DHA issue each round, the limitations against some of the pro rata occupations, and a number of other factors listed here – <http://www.iscah.com/use-189-eoi-predictions/>

(Source: Iscah)

## 10) Changes to TRA processing for 4 licenced trades

From 27 March 2018, if you are seeking a skills assessment in one of the following licensed occupations: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic, Electrician (General), Electrician (Special Class) and Plumber (General), you must have your skills assessed by a registered training organisation approved by Trades Recognition Australia (TRA-approved RTO) under the Offshore Skills Assessment Program (OSAP). You will no longer be eligible for assessment under the TRA Migration Skills Assessment Program.

Successful OSAP applicants receive an outcome letter for migration and an Offshore Technical Skills Records (OTSR) to meet state and territory licensing requirements.

TRA-approved RTOs offering skills assessment services for the licensed trades can be found through the RTO Finder on the TRA website.

If there is no assessment centre in your country of residence, you are required to travel to the nearest TRA-approved RTO assessment centre in your geographic region for a skills assessment. You should ensure the assessment centre you choose offers skills assessments in your nominated occupation before starting a skills assessment process.

(Source: Trades Recognition Australia)

## 11) Migrants must integrate says Minister

Citizenship Minister Alan Tudge says he wants new migrants to demonstrate they've integrated into Australian life before becoming citizens.

Joining a Rotary Club could be enough for a migrant to demonstrate to the federal government that they're integrating into Australian society, Alan Tudge says.

The citizenship minister says there are indications Australia's not doing as well as it has in the past on developing a multicultural society and migrants must integrate, not separate.

He's in talks with crossbench MPs to garner support for a renewed push by the government to reintroduce citizenship laws shot down in the Senate last year.

That includes an English language test and a demonstration by migrants that they're committed to Australian values and integrating themselves into society.

Typically migrants are in the country for three to four years before coming a citizen, so that's when the effort should be made, Mr Tudge believes.

Migrants must be able to speak, read and write in English to improve their chances of getting a job and taking advantages of the opportunity Australia has to offer, he says.

"In addition ... we want to have migrants demonstrate that they've made an effort to integrate before they become a citizen," he said.

"That could be as simple as sending your kids to school, endeavouring to get work rather than always being on welfare and also involving yourself in the community because you've joined the local soccer club or Rotary Club."

Mr Tudge has warned failures to achieve integration could lead to separatism, where enclaves of migrants don't adhere to national values or speak a common language. In a speech last week the minister warned "ethnic separatism" was shaking Australia to its core.

(Source: [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au))

## 12) Bangladesh is removed from Work and Holiday visa scheme

Bangladesh removed from Work and Holiday Visa scheme

The purpose of this instrument is to remove Bangladesh as a foreign country for the purposes of paragraph 1224A(3)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Regulations, which will cease the ability for Bangladeshi passport holders to make an application for a Work and Holiday (Temporary) (Class US) visa

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L00249/Explanatory%20Statement/Text>

(Source: DHA)

## 13) Registration to be required for Victorian Engineers

Registration to be required to work as an Engineer in Victoria. This may effect company sponsored visas in the future ..

Engineers in Victoria will be required to undergo mandatory registration under a new Bill introduced by the Andrews Labor Government.

The historic Engineers Registration Bill will ensure Victorian engineers providing professional services meet the highest safety and qualification standards expected of the profession.

Engineers Australia Victorian President Alesha Printz says the Association has been working closely with the Victorian Government on the legislation.

'This Bill provides a legislative framework that will give the community, policymakers and industry confidence that engineers working in Victoria meet a strict set of professional standards and have the qualifications expected of being an engineer.'

'Registration of engineers is vital to accountability and safety standards within the profession. It will help determine that engineers have the adequate skills and competency to undertake complex projects including around infrastructure and fire safety.

'At the moment in Victoria, anybody can call themselves an engineer with little accountability. Mandatory registration will put an end to this,' Ms Printz said.

Five areas of engineering practice will be included in the Bill of Registrations:

Civil

Structural

Mechanical

Electrical

Fire Safety

Ms Printz said the Bill will be of significant benefit to the profession - and more importantly for the wider community. She called for bipartisan support.

Engineers Australia hopes other states and territories will follow Victoria's lead, citing benefits of reduced risk to community safety, legislative efficiency and consumer protection.

(Source: The Institution of Engineers Australia)

## 14) Summary of changes to Occupations lists on 18th March 2018

This page summarises changes to the Lists of eligible skilled occupations for Australia's skilled visa programs that will come in to effect on 18 March 2018 to coincide with the introduction of the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa (subclass 482) and complementary reforms to permanent skilled visas.

The main change being implemented on this date is the introduction of an interim Regional Occupation List (ROL) that will be available for a number of skilled visa programs as indicated below, where the nominated position will be in a regional area. The Department of Jobs and Small Business conducted labour market analysis to inform this interim ROL. It will be reviewed as part of the regular update in mid-2018, and industry and the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback at this time.

<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/work/work/2018-changes-of-eligible-skilled-occupations>

(Source: DHA)

## 15) DHA latest newsletter on Company visa changes for TSS, 186, 187 visas

DHA latest newsletter released on all the March company visa changes -

<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/work/newsletters/march-2018>

Including this point about skills assessments

When the occupation lists are updated in mid 2018, subject to further consultation processes, it is anticipated that mandatory skills assessments may be expanded for the Direct Entry (DE) stream of RSMS for all occupations (not just trade occupations), unless the visa applicant is exempt or holds the relevant Australian qualification.

(Source: DHA)

## 16) Allocation dates for lodged Skilled visa applications

### Allocation dates for General Skilled Migration applications

Effective 1 July 2017, the Minister set priority processing arrangements for certain skilled migration visas. We allocate General Skilled Migration (GSM) applications in accordance with priority processing arrangements.

Migration Program planning levels take precedence over priority processing arrangements in determining the order in which applications are considered. This means that when necessary applications in Priority Group 4 are allocated ahead of Priority Group 3.

Within each priority group, complete applications receive preference for assessment.

Further information about Priority processing groups and order of processing applications is available on our website.

### Achieving a faster visa decision

Most 'complete' applications in Priority Groups 3 and 4 can be finalised at the time of assessment.

For your application to be 'complete' undertake health examinations and upload all required documentation to ImmiAccount before the application is allocated for assessment.

Refer to the online document checklist for your visa subclass on our website for details of required information.

Attach documents to your application or update your application details using ImmiAccount. If you cannot attach documents using ImmiAccount then you can email colour scans of documents directly to the processing team once they have contacted you.

We will contact you about the status of your application within two weeks of your allocation date.

### GSM allocation dates

The tables below list the earliest lodgement dates for applications that have been allocated to processing teams. You can use this information to calculate when your application may be allocated and to ensure your application is complete and ready for assessment.

The following allocation dates will be updated in early April 2018.

### GSM SkillSelect allocation information

#### Priority processing information for GSM SkillSelect applications

| Visa subclass                                    | Priority group 3 | Priority group 4  |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 189 Skilled – Independent (Points-tested) stream | N/A*             | 26 November 2017  |
| 190 Skilled – Nominated                          | 21 December 2017 | N/A               |
| 489 Skilled – Regional                           | 21 December 2017 | 25 September 2017 |

\*N/A - indicates that the relevant visa subclass is not specified for this priority group

## 16) Allocation dates for lodged Skilled visa applications

### **GSM priority exempt allocation information**

Visas listed below are exempt from the priority processing direction and applications are processed in the order in which they were received

| Visa subclass                                | Application date |
|--|------------------|
| 489 Second Provisional Stream (Renewal)      | 6 March 2018     |
| 489 Subsequent Entrant                       | 6 March 2018     |
| 887 Skilled – Regional                       | 16 October 2017  |
| 189 Skilled Independent (New Zealand) stream | 16 January 2018  |

(Source: DHA)



## 17) New Highly skilled visa for those earning over \$180,000 per year

The federal government will make it easier for highly-skilled migrants and those working for STEM start-ups to come to Australia.

The Turnbull government will create a new visa to compete with other countries for “high-tech skills and talent”, with companies allowed to sponsor migrants for jobs paid more than \$180,000. There will also be a new visa for start-up companies seeking talent in STEM fields like biomedicine and agricultural technology. Both visas will require the migrant to have three years of relevant experience, while the sponsor companies will need to demonstrate they tried to hire Australians first.

“The Government recognises there is fierce competition globally for high-tech skills and talent, and that attracting these people helps to transfer skills to Australian workers and grow Australian-based businesses,” a Turnbull government media release reads. There will not be a cap on the overall number of visas, but individual companies will have a limit on how many migrants they can employ.

Businesses will be able to take up to 20 skilled migrants under the new stream per year, while start-ups will be able to take up to five. The visas for jobs paid more than \$180,000 will only be available to businesses with a turnover of more than \$4 million. The start-up visas will be available to any that is authorised by an industry body, yet to be chosen by the government.

The migrants will have the option of a “transitional pathway” to permanent residence after three years in the country. The details of the scheme will be ironed out over the next few months before a 12-month pilot begins on July 1.

The need for visa changes to attract high-value employees from overseas has been the “number one priority” in the emerging startup sector, according to an industry group. StartupAUS chief executive Alex McCauley said the government’s changes to 457 temporary work visas last year, which restricted the list of occupations and cut off the path to permanent residency for many jobs, had made it harder for start-ups to compete.

“The single biggest challenge for Australian start-ups is getting access to the best talent in the world,” Mr McCauley told SBS News.

“It got more difficult when the 457 visa announcements were made last year and start-ups in this country are really crying out for a way to get access to talent.”

“Everybody’s looking to hire product managers, software engineers, digital growth specialists, data scientists.” Mr McCauley said the jobs in question were highly specialised and the visa workers were unlikely to take jobs away from Australians.

“They’re hiring people at a very high skill level in a space where there aren’t a huge number of Australians competing for those jobs,” he said.

“And the Australians that are competing for those jobs are getting jobs.”

Alan Tudge, Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, said the visas required companies to seek Australian workers first.

“We want to ensure that Australian businesses can access the best talent in the world because this will underpin business growth, skills transfer and job creation,” Mr Tudge said.

"At all stages, Australians are prioritised for the jobs, but where the skills and experience are not available here, we want to be able to attract talent from overseas."

Labor claims policy inspired by opposition

Labor released a statement accusing the government of "playing catch up" on special visas for skilled migrants.

The opposition proposed a four-year "SMART visa" for workers in "science, medicine, academia, research and technology" last year.

"Turnbull and his conservatives are playing catch up and following Labor's lead," the press release reads.

"Turnbull's scheme is only a pilot and, by the Government's own admission, they haven't finalised the details of the pilot including the number of visas set to be made available or which specific jobs they'll be available for."

(Source: [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au))

## 18) New Parent visa delay raised in Parliament

The Federal Government announced the new parent visa before the 2017 federal budget which is yet to be made available.

The Federal Government unveiled a temporary sponsored parent visa last year that would allow parents of migrants to stay in Australia for up to ten years without having to leave the country. However, the visa has not been made available so far.

Federal Labor MP Rob Mitchell raised the issue in Parliament calling out the government on its “broken promise” to migrants.

“This inept Turnbull government said one thing before the election and is doing something entirely different one they won,” he said prior to the question time in the House of Representatives.

The Federal government promised a parent visa in the run-up to the 2016 Federal election following a campaign by migrant communities, particularly Indian migrants. The visa unveiled last year would allow parents of migrants to live in Australia for up to five years and can be renewed for a second time but has been criticized for its \$10,000 fee.

“The government announced before the election that children will have to pay a bond. “After the election, as we come to expect, the government announced a non-refundable fee of \$20,000 if families choose the ten-year option,” said the MP for McEwen. He also slammed the government for allowing just one set of parents on this visa and capping the number of visas each year to 15,000.

The Federal Government, at the time of announcing this visa, said it would be available by the end of 2017. However, the visa has not been made available so far.

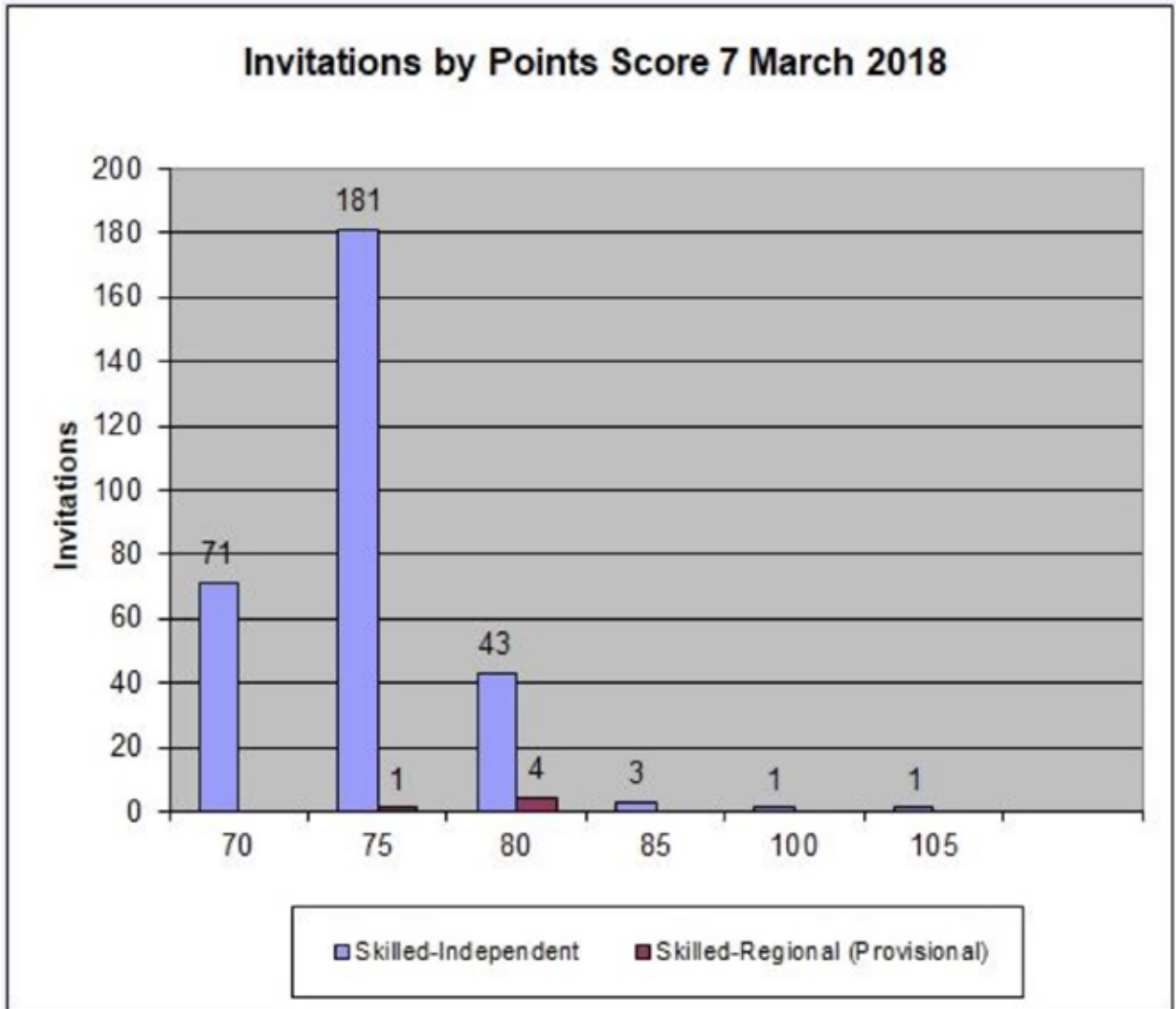
The Department of Home Affairs has told SBS Punjabi that the implementation of the visa is subject to the passage of the Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016 through Parliament.

(Source: [www.sbs.com.au](http://www.sbs.com.au))

## 19) Skill Select Results 7th March 2018

### 7 March 2018 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 7 March 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 visas (subclass 189) and then the remaining to Skilled – Regional (Provisional) visas (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     | 20/11/2017 7:22 AM |
| Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489) | 75     | 22/08/2017 9:38 AM |

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 programme year.

### Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 7 March 2018 invitation round.

| ID   | Description  | Points score | Date of effect     |
|------|--|--------------|--------------------|
| 2211 | Accountants  | N/A          | N/A                |
| 2212 | Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers | 80           | 23/01/2018 8:06 PM |
| 2334 | Electronics Engineer                                   | 70           | 19/11/2017 7:49 PM |
| 2335 | Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers        | 70           | 10/11/2017 6:05 PM |
| 2339 | Other Engineering Professionals                        | 75           | 24/02/2018 7:25 AM |
| 2611 | ICT Business and System Analysts                       | 75           | 1/02/2018 12:04 AM |
| 2613 | Software and Applications Programmers                  | 75           | 22/02/2018 1:14 AM |
| 2631 | Computer Network Professionals                         | 75           | 27/02/2018 9:09 PM |

(Source: DHA)

OK folks, see you all on  
Monday 16th February 2018 !!

Have a great few weeks.




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