

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 244 | 15th October 2018

Hiya,

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly update on all the Australian migration news we have heard of, as well as our own facts and figures to help you with your visa journey.

This monthly newsletter is free and if you want backcopies go to our website at www.iscah.com If you want to get on the mailing list or unsubscribe, email us to newsletter@iscah.com

On to October's news ...



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1) Queensland close sponsorships on Accountants (489/190 visa)

Accountant (General) (221111) will be removed from all the Queensland Skilled Occupation Lists (QSOLs) on 17 September 2018 as BSMQ has received many expressions of interest for this occupation and has filled the quota.

If you have not received an invitation by today, BSMQ is no longer able to issue any new invitations.

BSMQ may open this occupation later if the current invitees do not respond in the required time frame.

If this happens, information will be posted to this page.

(Source: Queensland State Government)

2) Orana (NSW) 489 visa processing

As you are aware, RDA Orana has been inundated with applications and enquiries since the middle of June 2018. Whilst we have the capacity to assess your applications quite rapidly, and indeed have bought more staff on board to speed this process up, we are limited by the number of applications we are able to submit for nomination on a weekly basis. This does however mean that we are able to give you an estimate of how long it may be for your application to be submitted for Nomination by the State of NSW.

We anticipate;

- Those applications submitted Online in July to begin being submitted in mid-late October and these will be complete by the end of December.
- Those applications submitted Online in August will commence at the end of December and be completed by the end of March 2019.

We have been inundated with requests for priority assessment for those with expiring visas. In the past we have endeavoured to assist you in extenuating circumstances, however, due to the sheer number of those claiming expiring visas, THERE WILL BE NO PRIORITISATION OF ASSESSMENTS due to expiration of visas.

If your visa is due to expire before the time we anticipate having your application assessed, please make other arrangements.

For those of you that the above timeline does not suit, we would ask you to REPLY TO THIS EMAIL by the end of September and we will arrange a refund of your application fee. Refunds will be processed in the second half of October 2018.

Thank you for your patience in this matter and your understanding of how difficult it can be to manage extreme workflows and customer expectations.

(Source: NSW State Government)

3) Skills Australian Fund possibly to be disallowed

A motion to disallow the Skills Australia Fund payments pertaining to the 482, 186 and 187 visas has been lodged in Parliament.

If successful this will mean the SAF training fees are no longer required.

More news as this develops ...

(Source: Australian Federal Parliament)

4) New Parent visa discussions with Labor Party

The campaigners of Long Stay Visa for Parents are meeting with the Shadow Minister of Immigration MP Shayne Neumann today to discuss their demands.

Many people who have parents living overseas might want to bring them to Australia either temporarily or permanently.

There are several parent visas available in Australia, but they are either expensive or there's a very long wait time.

The three major pathways involve contributory, non-contributory and visitor visa categories.

On 21 June 2016 during the campaign for the last federal election, the Liberal party promised a temporary sponsored parent visa with up to five years' continuous stay in Australia.

This visa is yet to become a reality as its passage has been caught up in delays for over two years now.

Arvind Duggal, the convener and the founder member of the Long Stay Visa for Parents campaign committee has expressed his 'disappointment' over the delays.

"We feel deceived by the government. Coalition failed to deliver its promises to the migrant community. The Long stay visa campaign has a very genuine and reasonable demand that should have been met by now," said Mr Duggal.

"It has been a long journey for us as a family, as a team, and as a community. The government made our simple proposal so complicated that we are still struggling to achieve it.

"Now we're meeting with the shadow minister and the other members of the Labor party on Tuesday to address this issue. It'll be an open and upfront discussion. We've high hopes from them.

Mr Duggal told SBS that ever since the last federal election, they've been in touch with the all major political parties.

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"The matter was so important that they all [Liberal, Green, Labor] announced their version of the Long stay visa," he said. "The community appreciated the announcements, but we believe it has taken a long way for this visa to become a reality."

"After the elections, the government did community consultations, but we're not taken into confidence. Some of the people who made submission had very limited or no knowledge of this issue. . . . And now everyone knows the result."

"We're very thankful to local MP Steve Georganas - Member for Hindmarsh, Dana Wortley - Member for Torrens and Russell Wortley MLC who have been instrumental in setting up this important meeting."

Earlier, Opposition immigration spokesperson Shayne Neumann said the government has broken their promise to the multicultural and migrant communities.

"I've written to the new Immigration Minister asking why the divided, unstable and illegitimate Liberals have broken their promise to Australia's multicultural and migrant communities," reads the statement shared on social media.

"Migrants waiting for the long-awaited temporary sponsored parent visa say they are disappointed at the 'inordinate delay' in making the visa available despite its announcement in May last year."

The visa was first promised during the run-up to the 2016 federal election when Turnbull Government promised a parent visa with up to five years' continuous stay in Australia.

The Department of Home Affairs says the availability of the visa is subject to the passage of Migration Amendments (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill through the Parliament.

The Bill has already been passed by the House of Representatives and is currently before the Senate.

But the government has not listed it to be brought before the Senate yet.

"It is very important for the government to recognize and respect our genuine demand. We're in touch with Labor and Greens but there's no room for politics on this matter," Mr Duggal says.

"It's our privilege as an Indian community that we are leading this campaign which can change the lives of many migrants' families in Australia."

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

5) Estimate on what you will get your 189 invitation

WA finally open for State nomination
New graduate stream for State nomination now available

A new graduate stream is now available for Western Australian State nomination.

The new stream is available to eligible university graduates who have studied for at least two years in Western Australia at a Western Australian university, and have an available occupation on the new Graduate occupation list for the intended visa subclass.

https://www.migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/occupation%20lists?fbclid=IwAR1ec4aqfrs7GlvBEybi63-8jOTX_hj_sDSJsCOOys-kR941saXpLgvcl0M

<https://www.migration.wa.gov.au/Pages/Skilled%20Migration%20WA/State-nomination-requirements.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3TM5tCDzgKS55uwyGBWr-aY07p4QJcITViC1iJXB9BrWc49U7GzTzAQSE>

https://www.migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/occupation%20lists?fbclid=IwAR1ec4aqfrs7GlvBEybi63-8jOTX_hj_sDSJsCOOys-kR941saXpLgvcl0M

(Source: WA State Government)

6) Special Offer to WA graduate

(Offer open until 30th November 2018)

A BIG thankyou to all the WA students who took part in our many surveys, provided comments on FB and followed our many radio and newspaper articles putting pressure on the WA state government to RE-OPEN a feasible WA state migration plan.

Finally this has helped turn around the governments decision making and the WA government have now opened a new graduate program for WA students.

If you want us to manage your 489/190 state sponsorship process through Iscah then if you are a FB follower of ours and as a THANKYOU for everyones combined efforts to get the WA government to reintroduce this new graduate sponsorship ... we will reduce our fees to a special graduate price of

- 489s \$2200+GST (if you have already obtained your skills assessment and lodged your EOI)

- 190s \$2200+GST (if you have already obtained your skills assessment and lodged your EOI)
(WE CHARGE 25% initially, 25% ONLY on visa invite, 50% on visa lodgement)

(If you used us for your 485 visa we will reduce these fees by a further \$300)

If you want us to assess your chances and manage this new WA 489/190 visa stream for you, drop an email to query@iscah.com

(Source: Iscah)

7) WA results for 190/489 State invitations October 11th

We have had it clarified by the WA state government they do not RANK the 489/190 EOIs by work POINTS.

Rather they rank firstly by Australian work experience and it seems that even work of just a few months is crucial. Even if you get 0 points for Australian work experience.

As a result we are adjusting who we think got an invite. We now believe that anyone who :

- Completed a PHD or Masters of at least 2 years in WA
- And has at least 10 months Australian work experience in their occupation
- English, work and total points DO NOT MATTER this round

Received a 489/190 invitation in October.

(If you have have this qualification, more than 10 months Aussie work, and did NOT get an invite, then email us with details to wa@iscah.com)

Further if you lodged a 489 and 190 together, WA would have given you a 489 invitation (as that will have attracted 10 points for state sponsorship instead of 5). And so you will not have received a 190 invitation.

If you now want a chance of a 190 invitation you need to lodge a new 190 EOI and let the 489 invitation lapse after 28 days. Then hope to get an invite.

It is highly likely that the next WA invitation round will no longer be on the second thursday of each month, but rather after DOHAs 11th November 189 skill select round.

(Source: Iscah)

8) Article on concerns of Privatising Visa Processing

https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-privatising-visa-processing-the-alarm-bells-are-ringing-part-1/?fbclid=IwAR2-eWQ-TCFoy7av1L_CrW4v62qp5oA-D91Ua80ikT2zEyi2kyHYdXOaUxg

9) New Citizenship laws face difficulties being approved

The Government's proposal to make Australian citizenship tougher for migrants may face a new hurdle from The Greens.

The Government's proposed citizenship legislation is listed for introduction and passage through Parliament in the current Spring sittings, but the Immigration Minister says the Government is still consulting about the key components of the legislation.

Immigration Minister David Coleman told SBS Punjabi that the Government has been "involved in consultations". He did not give any timeframe on when the Bill may be brought in Parliament.

"In terms of the timing of the legislation is not something that the Government comments on the specificity," Mr Coleman told SBS Punjabi.

Greens Immigration Spokesperson Senator Nick McKim says the Government doesn't have the numbers to have the Bill passed through the Senate.

"If the Government thought they had the numbers in the Senate to pass this Bill, they would have moved for debate and passed it already," Senator McKim told SBS Punjabi.

He says if the Government delays a debate on it, his party would once again move to have it removed from the Senate notice paper.

"The Greens aren't prepared to just sit by and just allow this legislation to remain on notice paper if the Government isn't going to bring it on. We will certainly consider once again to have this legislation struck off the notice paper if we think the government is using it for political posturing."

The Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill was removed from Senate notice paper last year. The Government then failed to bring it in Parliament before 1 July 2018, which is when they intended to implement it.

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet later included it in the list of Bills intended to be introduced for passage in the Spring session of Parliament, which began in August.

The Government's first draft Bill sought to make migrants wait four years as permanent residents before applying for Australian citizenship, and required them to prove competent English proficiency.

A united opposition forced the Bill off the Senate notice board in October last year after it was passed by the lower house. The key sticking points were increased general residence requirement for permanent resident up from one year and a stand-alone English test for migrants.

The Government has since softened its position on some elements of the law, including the English test which now could be a "primary school-level conversational test" - something that the previous Citizenship Minister Alan Tudge referred to in June.

Mr Coleman says it makes "a lot of sense" for people to learn English.

"I think it's common sense to say that some level of English is a positive thing and the more English people are able to speak, the more they are able to speak, the more they are able to participate in the Australian life," he said

Both the Greens and Labor remain firm on their opposition to a stand-alone English language test.

"We don't think it's appropriate to be testing for English because there are a number of people who history has shown have made fantastic contributions who would have failed a primary level English test," Senator McKim said.

The party is also opposed to making migrants wait longer to be able to apply for citizenship and the legislation seeking to give the minister powers to overturn decisions of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in matters of Australian citizenship.

Shadow Citizenship Minister Tony Bourke has also made his party's opposition to the citizenship changes known. In the face of a united opposition, the Government will need nearly all the crossbench senators to help pass the changes through the Senate. Senator McKim says the Government hasn't brought the Bill for a debate is an admission that it doesn't have the numbers to pass it through Senate.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

10) No more visiting the department of immigration without an appointment

Letter from DoHA ..

Re: Changes to our online services

Following on from the email sent to you on 6 September 2018, in relation to changes to our phone services, the following is information about the Department's changes to its online services.

The Department of Home Affairs is progressively transforming its online channels to allow you to self-serve for the majority of information and services.

This is in line with the whole-of-government Digital Transformation Agenda, which ensures all government services are delivered in a simple, clear and easy to use manner that is designed around your needs.

New Home Affairs' website

The Department is redesigning its website to make information simple and easy to find.

We have listened to your feedback about our website—and are now trialling a test version of our website.

You can access this test site at <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au>. Please let us know what you think by providing feedback using the in-page feedback link.

Following user testing and extensive client research, the new website is expected to go live in November 2018.

Changes to our client service offices

As we continue to invest in our digital service channels, more people are choosing our online channels first when seeking our services – and the number of people visiting our offices across the country has reduced substantially in the past three years.

From late-2018, our Home Affairs' offices will only provide services to people who have a letter from the Department inviting them to attend an appointment in-person. Visa or citizenship enquiries can be resolved more quickly online due to the new website. The vast majority of visa applications will be lodged online—or by post. However, we understand there may be complex issues that need attention in-person, and by seeing people by appointment, we can provide a better level of service.

If there's a complex issue, or the Department needs to see someone for biometrics collection or citizenship tests for example – a departmental officer will book them an appointment to either come into the office or discuss by telephone.

Our Australian offices will continue to provide the following services:

- citizenship tests by appointment
- biometrics collection
- interviews for certain visa subclasses
- status resolution.

(Source: DoHA)

11) Labor's plan for Immigration policy

LABOR leader Bill Shorten has written a letter to Scott Morrison, asking for him to consider a new move to tackle Australia's immigration policy.

BILL Shorten wants to tackle Australia's population issues in a joint-party plan tackling the country's growth.

The Labor leader has written a letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison asking that he consider creating a population taskforce that would outline recommendations both parties could accept.

That taskforce would look at temporary work visas, infrastructure development, service delivery such as health and education and settlement policy.

In his letter seen by The Weekend Australian, Mr Shorten has placed population growth among the great policy challenges facing the nation.

He indicated he could support a new settlement policy that would redistribute people away from the congested capitals of Sydney and Melbourne.

Mr Morrison is yet to comment on the letter but is in Tasmania today.

The Coalition is expected to deliver a major policy on the issue before the end of the year.

Australia's population passed 25 million in July, two decades earlier than was forecast.

"Population policy runs the risk of being politicised by those seeking to divide Australia, and (who) see political opportunity in polarising opinion in the community," Mr Shorten wrote in the letter.

"The best way to ensure enduring policy settings is for a bipartisan approach — one that sets overarching principles to guide policy development, regardless of the party in government.

"This would give the community and business comfort that the national interest is driving government policy.

"I am therefore asking you to join Labor in the establishment of an independent and expert population taskforce that would provide recommendations that both parties could accept and use to underpin

Under Mr Shorten's plan, the taskforce could be established under Treasury with six members agreed upon by the government and opposition.

Both parties would then need to agree to a set of recommendations.

In his letter to Mr Morrison, Mr Shorten wrote: "As you would be aware, there is no single policy lever — a multifaceted approach is needed that ensures we maintain our standard of living.

"More important is a consistent approach that will last well beyond the political cycle and that requires the support of both major political parties."

In August it was revealed the Morrison Government was considering a plan that would require new migrants to settle outside of Sydney and Melbourne for up to five years.

Between 2006 and 2016, the majority of arrivals have settled in Sydney or Melbourne, at 27.6 per cent and 26.3 per cent of total arrivals respectively.

By comparison, only 3.2 per cent moved to regional NSW, and 1.9 per cent to regional Victoria.

But last month Mr Morrison took aim at Australia's obsession with population growth, saying it is a "fairly irrelevant statistic" and immigration policy is far more nuanced than many of us realise.

He said temporary migration and natural population growth, caused by the people who already live here having children, were far more significant factors than immigration.

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"I've never bought this idea that the permanent immigration intake is the thing fuelling population growth. Because it's not borne out in the actual maths," Mr Morrison said in an exclusive interview with news.com.au.

"When it comes to population growth at the moment, there are 10 extra people that have got on the bus. Just over four of them are temporary migrants. Just under four of them were born here, a natural increase. And only two of them are permanent migrants."

(Source: www.news.com.au)

12) Orana (NSW) in talks with DoHA to expand Skilled migration

Stakeholder consultation for proposed Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) for RDA Orana
RDA Orana has been working on the issue of the workforce for our region and through employer responses has identified that there are critical labour shortages holding back business growth.

We've also identified a project pipeline of \$7.9 B that is a mix of mining, infrastructure, renewable energy, manufacturing and health projects between now and the next 5 years.

With 5 of 12 LGA's recording full employment, an ageing regional population and declining participation rates, access to and availability of labour is a critical factor in all employer feedback. This is across the board and no industry is unaffected. (Full details of our research can be found in our Bracing for Change report, which is available to view on our website).

To address the critical shortages being experienced by business, RDA Orana has been in discussion with the Commonwealth Government and is preparing to lodge a proposal for a DAMA for the Orana region. DAMAs are custom-designed arrangements which support a tailored, regional response to labour needs. They are an important tool in assisting regions to manage workforce strategies that support local growth. The over-arching nature of these agreements allows employers targeted and streamlined access to a broader range of overseas workers than allowed under standard State and National skilled migration programmes. The DAMA will negotiate terms and conditions cutting down on individual employer visa worker hiring costs.

The specific advantages of having a DAMA in place for our region include:

- simplification of visa application system for employers

- the ability to bring semi-skilled labour into the region to meet and address real labour shortages

- the ability to bring in semi-skilled labour, which will cut the retraining costs associated with using holiday visa workers to fill unfilled job vacancies currently unrecognised in the Australian Skill Shortage lists

- the ability to allow our ageing population to continue to live in the region where they have grown up and had their working life will be underpinned by access to a professional workforce and

- provide an opportunity for overseas workers to embed in our region, supporting the possibility of permanent residency and addressing population decline, particularly in our rural communities

The DAMA will not:

- provide an advantage to overseas workers over Australian workers or

- be used to erode wages and conditions of any worker in the region or

- provide any avoidance of the Fairwork Australia legal obligations of employers

RDA Orana is committed to the principles of

- Jobs for Australian's first and

- Wages and condition equality

RDA Orana is seeking the advice and input of stakeholders into the proposal to have the RDA Orana geographic area being approved as a DAMA. This approval if successful will be granted by the Commonwealth Government and RDA Orana intends to act as the Designated Area Representative (DAR) on behalf of the region.

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A list of occupations that we will be seeking to have included in the DAMA is available as a starting point for discussion purposes. During the consultation, we will be talking with employers to firm up occupations, numbers for each occupation; as well as concessions (i.e. English language test, variations to work experience and age).

The Commonwealth requires all organisations seeking access to a DAMA to consult with: relevant unions which best represent employees in occupations and locations proposed under the DAMA; the industry bodies which best represent employers in the industry; and any other agency, union, individual employers or community group that may be impacted by the proposed DAMA.

We are formally seeking input and submissions to allow the preparation and lodging of the proposal to request a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) which we intend to lodge by the 14 November 2018.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the department) will take your views into account when considering our request.

The consultation period is for 28 days and we invite you to respond to RDA Orana before 5 pm 31 October 2018.

To assist stakeholders with understanding the proposal and responding we are available to meet with you to provide further detail and respond to your questions. Meeting requests should be lodged with Miranda Riley, on 02 6885 1488 or miranda.riley@rdaorana.org.au.

(Source: NSW State government)

16) New health cover rule proposed for tourists

In a letter to his state and federal counterparts, NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard has suggested health insurance be made mandatory for all visitors on temporary visas, including tourists, to ensure that taxpayers' funds are not used for providing health care to visitors.

All visitors coming to Australia will be required to have a health insurance under a proposal mooted by the New South Wales Health Minister, Brad Hazzard.

In a letter to his state and federal counterparts, Mr Hazard suggested health insurance be made mandatory for all visitors on temporary visas, including tourists to ensure that taxpayers' funds are not used for providing health care to visitors.

The Daily Telegraph reports NSW taxpayers paid around \$30 million a year on medical bills for tourists and visitors who are ineligible for Medicare.

"Every time an uninsured visitor does not pay for their treatment in one of our public hospitals, taxpayers foot the bill," Mr Hazzard is quoted as saying.

Currently, health insurance is mandatory only for certain visas, such as student and some temporary work visas.

Overseas visitors on temporary visas are not eligible for Medicare benefits unless they are from a country with which Australia has a 'Reciprocal Health Care Agreement'.

Currently, Australia has agreements with the United Kingdom, Malta, Finland, Sweden, Italy, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, Norway and Slovenia. If you are visiting Australia from these countries, you are generally covered for medically necessary treatment in a public hospital.

"Expensive but necessary"

Many Indian families in Australia have learnt the importance of travelling with private health insurance the hard way.

Pradeep* Singh's mother had to be admitted to hospital when she lost consciousness on a visit to Melbourne.

The family had not considered travel insurance and incurred thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs.

"We have seen many families learn it the hard way," Jasvinder Sidhu, Melbourne based community worker told SBS Hindi.

He believes a mandatory health insurance policy, especially for senior people, will be beneficial.

"Evidence shows many families have realised the importance of health insurance for their visiting parents after having incurred huge costs. Many times our community has come together to raise funds in such cases.

"I believe having a health insurance especially for our senior people is necessary, even if it adds to the expenses. Maybe for younger tourists and visitors, with no prior ailments, it can be optional. But for seniors and aged-parents, it will prove to be beneficial," he says.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

13) Skilled Migrants to spend a few years in regional areas

The Morrison government has promised visa reforms that will force a significant chunk of Australia's annual intake of 190,000 permanent migrants to spend "at least a few years" in regional areas before they can move to a city like Sydney or Melbourne.

The move, advocated by the Nationals and key lobby groups like the Farmers' Federation, is part of the government's bid to tackle population growth in the country's congested capitals while stimulating regional areas crying out for more labour.

Scott Morrison's newly appointed "congestion-busting" minister for population and cities, Alan Tudge, announced the plan at a speech in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Existing regional visas only divert around 5,000 of the annual permanent intake, which is capped at 190,000 places.

The new scheme would be much more ambitious and could force nearly half of the migration stream to settle in regional areas and the smaller states.

Mr Tudge said the policy would not impact the 25 percent who come on employer-sponsored visas, where a specific company vouches for the migrant, or the roughly 30 percent who come on family reunion visas.

"But about 45 percent of our visas aren't attached to a geographical location as such, and therefore there are those opportunities to provide those incentives and encouragements to reside elsewhere," Mr Tudge said.

The visas would require migrants to live outside the major cities for "at least a few years", he said, using a "combination of encouragement and some conditions".

The government's proposal relates to skilled visas, but Mr Tudge said there was an ongoing discussion about moving more of the humanitarian refugee intake to rural areas as well.

The minister would not specify what punishments might apply to migrants who breach their conditions, or how long the conditions would be imposed.

"Nearly every visa has some conditions attached to it," he said, flagging more detail in the coming "months".

The former head of the Australian Border Force, Roman Quadvlieg, questioned how the policy would be enforced.

Mr Quadvlieg, who was sacked for misconduct in March and has since been vocal in criticising the government's moves in the migration space, said it would be impossible to "police" the visa rules without "substantial resources".

Border Force is the agency that enforces existing visa rules.

Twitter Ads info and privacy

The country welcomed 4,766 skilled workers to regional areas in 2016-17, but almost half settled in Perth.

The government removed Perth as a "regional" destination in November but Darwin, Adelaide, Canberra and Hobart remain eligible.

Under some of the other population measures, Canberra will work with the states to implement new infrastructure planning and population controls to claw back some of the \$25 billion year in lost economic activity due to city congestion.

A new \$1 billion pool of federal money, which the government is calling a 'congestion-busting fund', will be set up to fix local traffic "hotspots".

Labor's shadow employment minister Brendan O'Connor said Mr Morrison was a "hypocrite" because he had failed to protect Australian jobs from temporary foreign workers.

He said there were "too many" international students and working holidaymakers, who do get limited work rights, who were exploiting the system and were actually just coming to work.

A Shorten government would set up a new independent body, he said, to investigate which industries had true labour shortages.

The Migration Council has previously questioned Labor's claim that international students often work in breach of their conditions. They said the level of non-compliance was not "particularly high".

The opposition also points to examples of Mr Morrison rubbishing ideas similar to his new proposal back when Labor was in government.

In 2011, Mr Morrison said Labor was making "unrealistic promises that all of this can be turned around by everybody moving to regional areas".

"We simply know, through centuries of migration experience, that that simply isn't how it happens," he said at the time.

Asked if Australia should set a population target, Mr Tudge said there was no need to set "an exact number". He said there needed to be "controlled population growth" and flagged future announcements on high-speed train lines "early next year".

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

14) NSW Premier wants to reduce migration to Sydney

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced a radical new plan for migrants that she thinks will combat Sydney's population woes.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian wants the state to drastically slash its overseas migrant intake by up to 50 per cent, in a return to Howard-era immigration levels. Speaking to the Today show this morning, she said this was not a decision taken lightly.

"I am a proud daughter of migrants and I also always want NSW to be the capital of multiculturalism to continue to be a welcoming place," Ms Berejiklian said.

"What I've said is we definitely need to take a breather. We need to look at the numbers. They have gone up from 45,000, 10 years ago, to now 100,000. We are welcoming 100,000 into NSW every year.

"I am suggesting that number needs to be reduced. We need to take a breather, because my government is building more roads and rails, schools and hospitals than ever before in our state. We are playing catch-up and we need to take a breather to make sure that we have that infrastructure in place and to make sure that our population growth is sustainable."

She said she would be having discussions with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and her federal colleagues on how to go about implementing this in the future.

"We need to plan properly for the future and I am looking forward to having those discussions with the Prime Minister and our federal colleagues. I'm really relieved the Prime Minister has invited the states for a seat at the table. I've been calling on this for a long time. The states have never had a voice ... the states are the ones that need to build the infrastructure, to make sure we can have a sustainable population.

"The citizens of NSW expect me to have a say on these very important matters.

"I want to stress that I am absolutely committed to keeping NSW the great, multicultural place that it is. I have benefited from it and my family has. I want to ensure that we take a breather, because at the moment we are not coping with the growth."

The Premier's comments come as the Federal Government has announced a new plan to force thousands of overseas migrants to settle in cities outside Sydney and Melbourne for up to five years.

Population and Urban Infrastructure Minister Alan Tudge said our unplanned population growth had led to an infrastructure and settlement imbalance, costing the nation up to \$25 billion per year due to congestion in capital cities.

He also warned this would reach more than \$40 billion within 10 years.

"Overall, the costs of congestion to the economy are already great, and rising steeply," he said at a speech to the Menzies Research Centre in Melbourne yesterday.

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“This is a serious challenge for families and a serious economic challenge for the nation. There was insufficient infrastructure built in the early 2000s, particularly in Melbourne and Sydney, to cater for forecast growth, let alone the actual growth.”

The new visa condition will be placed on a pool of skilled migrants who are not tied to geographic areas — like those sponsored by companies or granted family visas.

Those who try to defy these conditions could have their visas revoked, or lose their chance at permanent residency to apply for citizenship.

Over the past six months, concerns have been raised over whether our biggest cities can continue to cope under the strain of new arrivals, with Australia’s population surpassing 25 million earlier this month.

According to recent Department of Home Affairs figures, 87 per cent of the 111,000 skilled migrants who arrived in the country this past financial year had permanently settled in Sydney or Melbourne.

Between 2006 and 2016, the majority of arrivals have settled in Sydney or Melbourne, at 27.6 per cent and 26.3 per cent of total arrivals respectively.

By comparison, only 3.2 per cent moved to regional NSW, and 1.9 per cent to regional Victoria.

Under the new model, it’s understood the five-year period would be based on a threshold, after which migrants could stay in their location or move around.

(Source: www.news.com.au)

15) PM claims migration program to remain at 2017/18 levels

Prime Minister Scott Morrison says he expects Australia's permanent annual immigration intake to remain at year's level "just a little over 160,000" against the planning level of 190,000.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison says Australia's annual immigration intake will continue to remain at last year's level, which was nearly 28,000 less than the planning level of 190,000.

"Our current permanent immigration levels are running just a little over 160,000. That was the level of the permanent immigration that was running at the time of the conclusion of the Howard Government," Mr Morrison told reporters.

"They used to be a bit higher than that in terms of what the permanent intake had been a few years ago and that has come down somewhat over the last year or so. And I expect it to remain at those levels," he said responding to a question about NSW Premier Gladys Berejickian's call to slash the state's overseas migration intake to John Howard-era levels.

Last year, Australia's permanent immigration intake fell to below 163,000 – the lowest since 2007-08 under John Howard.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton who was responsible for the Immigration portfolio before Mr Morrison took the reins of the country from Malcolm Turnbull, attributed the decline in immigration to enhanced security checks.

Earlier this week, Immigration Minister, David Coleman indicated that his department would continue the approach adopted since last year.

"We did see last year, the impact the increased security process had," Mr Coleman said in Melbourne.

"It is absolutely fundamental that we in no way absolutely compromise on security. We are not going to do that. We are going to be very careful."

Australia's annual immigration planning levels have been consistent at 190,000 since 2011. The actual intake has been consistent with the planning levels since then for most of the time until 2016-17 when the intake was just over 183,000.

Last year's figures showed a decline of over 21,000 in the number permanent visas issued compared to the previous year, primarily driven by a cut in skilled and family stream visas.

In 2017-18, the skilled stream visas saw a cut of over 12,000 and family stream visas were also cut by 15 per cent.

The continuing visa squeeze reflects in the number of invites issued by the Immigration Department to visa aspirants who have submitted their expression of interest to apply for a permanent visa.

According to the department monthly figures, the invites issued to Skilled Independent visa applicants within the skilled stream, fell by 20 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year compared to the last year.

Mr Coleman said those figures are incomplete at the moment and when the department releases the full figures for the September month, they should match last year's level.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)

16) Unofficial Skill Select results for 11th October 2018

Our estimate is around 2500 invites.

Pro Rata Occupations look to have been given about 1700 places and Non Pro Rata Occupations about 800 of the invites

To produce our results we collect data from our own clients, online forums, other online sources, and feedback from our FB and newsletter followers. As well as using mathematical logical assumptions we know in the past to be correct.

If you aware of any more recent invites for any of these occupations please email us at query@iscah.com with some details so that we can see if this table can be updated over the next 24-48 hours.

(Please note it is highly likely there are more recent invites we are unaware of ... this is just the best we know so far)

Iscah estimated invitation dates after Skillselect round of :	EOI points score			All EOIs to this effect date we believe have been invited		
11th October 2018	65 points	70 points	75 points	80 points	85 points © Iscah2018	
2211 Accountants	6/10/2015	24/10/2016	18/10/2017	05/07/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2212 Auditors	27/07/2015	26/12/2016	26/09/2017	08/06/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2334 Electronics Engineer	18/09/2017	13/12/2017*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © Iscah 2018	27/04/2017	30/03/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2339 Other Engineer Profs	3/01/2017	30/10/2017	17/08/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2611 ICT Business Analysts	11/08/2016	13/09/2017	20/07/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2613 Software Applications Programmer © Iscah 2018	18/04/2017	16/01/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
2631 Computer Network Prof	4/03/2017	02/05/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
ALL the other NON-pro rata occupations	28/09/2017	02/09/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	10/10/2018*	
Assumptions - Approximately 2500 total invitations (Split 1700 Pro Rata , 800 Non Pro Rata)						
* Iscah estimates of CHANGED DATES from the latest round have an asterix next to them * and are in dark GREEN						

(Source: Iscah)

OK folks, see you all on Monday
19th November.

Stay safe and have a fun few weeks.



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17) When will you get your 189 visa invitation

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from TODAY - 11th October 2018. Depending on when you lodged your EOI, what the effect date is and the occupation. These may not turn out to be DoHA settings, we are just trying to give a rough estimate in this age of uncertainty. If their policies change .. WE WILL CHANGE OUR ESTIMATES ACCORDINGLY

Our main assumptions are based on DOHA continuing to invite around 2500 EOIs per month.

And we also assume that 60% of invites will go to Pro Rata occupations as advised by DoHA, on average through 2018/19.

We have also added the text of "EOI to expire before invite" to some EOIs. This is because any that were lodged 12 months ago that we are predicting will not get an invite before July 2019 will mean that the 2 year period of the EOI will expire. So they cannot get an invite on current estimates.

This month we have slowed down the Accountant invite estimation given that DoHA have advised the Accountant quota will continue to be limited further by Accountants granted visas in other categories. And also the significant slowing down of the EOI invite date in the October results we have seen so far.

Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 11th October 2018		EOI Lodged				Copyright Iscah 2018
		today (11th October 2018)	3 months ago(11/7/18)	6 months ago(11/4/18)	9 months ago(11/1/18)	12 months ago(11/10/17)
2211 Accountants © Iscah	80 points	3 months	next round	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite
2212 Auditors ©	80 points	4 months	1 month	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite	EOI to expire before invite
2334 Electronics Engineer ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	4 months	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited © Iscah
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers © Iscah	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	4 months	2 months	next round	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019
2339 Other Engineering Professionals © Iscah	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	2 months	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	8 months	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019 © Iscah	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite © Iscah
2611 ICT Business Analysts ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	2 months	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019	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	EOI to expire before invite
2613 Software Applications Programmer ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	4 months	3 months	2 months	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019
2631 Computer Network Professionals ©	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	2 months	1 month	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019 © Iscah	not before July 2019			
ALL other NON pro rata occupations	80 points	next round	invited	invited	next round	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	next round	invited	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	6 months	3 months	1 month

Note the assumptions that we listed at the top of the spreadsheet. These predictions will change if DoHA change their current selection policies

These estimates are heavily influenced by the number of invitations that DoHA issue each round, the limitations against some of the pro rata occupations, and a number of other factors listed here - www.iscah.com/use-189-eoi-predictions/
(Source: Iscah)

18) Official DoHA Skill Select Results for 11th September 2018

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	21/06/2018 5:55pm
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	80	10/07/2018 11:22am

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 11 September 2018 invitation round.

ID	Description	Points score	Date of effect
2211	Accountants	80	25/05/2018 9:59am
2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	80	1/05/2018 10:54am
2334	Electronics Engineer	70	15/11/2017 10:32am
2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	70	18/01/2018 9:55pm
2339	Other Engineering Professionals	75	3/07/2018 6:37pm
2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	75	28/05/2018 6:25pm
2613	Software and Applications Programmers	75	20/08/2018 3:13pm
2631	Computer Network Professionals	70	17/01/2018 11:36am

(Source: DOHA)