

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 245 | 19th November 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) Iscah interviewed in relation to Student numbers and State migration in WA

Iscah interview on ABC radio this morning related to WA State Migration for international students

http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/abc-perth-steven-oneil-23-oct-2018.mp3?fbclid=IwAR32BK9jZpbS7EVBLQBdRZpC3jLnINHTUzbTqPi8JCd56QwzPCtP4QzjsQ

2) Numbers of New Zealand citizens that are given 189 visas

Here is a document from DoHA showing how many of NZ citizens applied for or were granted a 189 visa in 2017/2018.

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2018/2018-180601401-document-released.pdf>

This is important as the previous minister counted this as part of the 189 visa program. And so it reduced how many could be granted to points test applicants in that category.

11614 - applied (including family members)

4820 - were granted.

There is likely to be a very low refusal rate and so this balance of 6794 is likely to take places from the 189 program this program year. Plus any additional applicants (which will be a low number) this year.

3) Migration appeal numbers – newspaper article

Courts swamped by migrant visa appeals

Australia's courts and tribunals are struggling to keep pace with huge increases in migration appeals. The federal courts and Administrative Appeals Tribunal are both scrambling to secure more government funding to help deal with their rapidly worsening backlogs.

Migration appeals in the Federal Court are on track to increase by 50 per cent this year, following a 34 per cent spike last year. Principal registrar Warwick Soden said less than one per cent of appeals were lodged by the government.

"My instinct is the great majority of appeals by applicants - many of which are unrepresented - are not successful," Mr Soden told a Senate estimates hearing in Canberra on Tuesday.

The lower Federal Circuit Court is also being overwhelmed by migration matters. Its backlog of migration appeals has blown out to 7607 pending cases and it is continuing to fall behind, principal registrar Stewart Fenwick told the committee.

The Federal Circuit Court's chief judge has been in discussions with the government to secure extra resources.

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal is also locked in talks about appointing more part-time members to help deal with its own migration workload. The AAT has received 9461 migration and refugee division applications in the past three months.

Registrar Sian Leathem said the heavy workload was identical to the same period the previous year, following two "very large increases" in previous years. The AAT finalised almost 18,000 migration and refugee visa decisions in the last financial year, but did not finalise all cases.

Roughly 26 per cent of finalised cases resulted in changes to visa decisions made by the government.

"We are obviously in the territory at the moment where we are accumulating backlog," Ms Leathem told the committee. "Because we do not have sufficient resources to be able to finalise not only the backlog but the continuing large trend in increased applications in that jurisdiction."

The tribunal has asked the federal government for more resources.

Iain Anderson, from the Attorney-General's Department, was asked whether the AAT's requests for more funding were being considered as part of the normal budget process.

"I'd say they're being considered more broadly than that," Mr Anderson said.

(Source Channel 9/AAP)

4) State Government updates to Sponsorship criteria

Queensland - 24 October 2018

Civil Engineer (233211), Electrical Engineer (233311) and Mechanical Engineer (233512) will be removed from all the Queensland Skilled Occupation Lists (QSOLs) on 24 October 2018 as BSMQ has received many expressions of interest for these occupations 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 these occupations later if the current invitees do not respond in the required time frame. If this happens, information will be posted to this page.

Queensland OFFSHORE applicants -

IT applicants now need 80 points AND 5 years work experience as assessed by the ACS

<https://migration.qld.gov.au/skilled-occupation-lists>

Western Australia –

NEW RSMS Checklist 1st November 2018

<https://www.migration.wa.gov.au/services/regional-sponsored-migration-scheme>

489 - Regional NSW sponsorship

The following occupations were removed from the RDA Northern Inland Occupation List on 8 November, 2018. Applications received before this time will be considered BUT they must be complete applications, with all requirements met or a negative outcome may result:

Architect

232111

Transport Engineer

233215

Agricultural Engineer

233912

5) Citizenship approvals

Australian citizenship approvals plunge to 15-year low

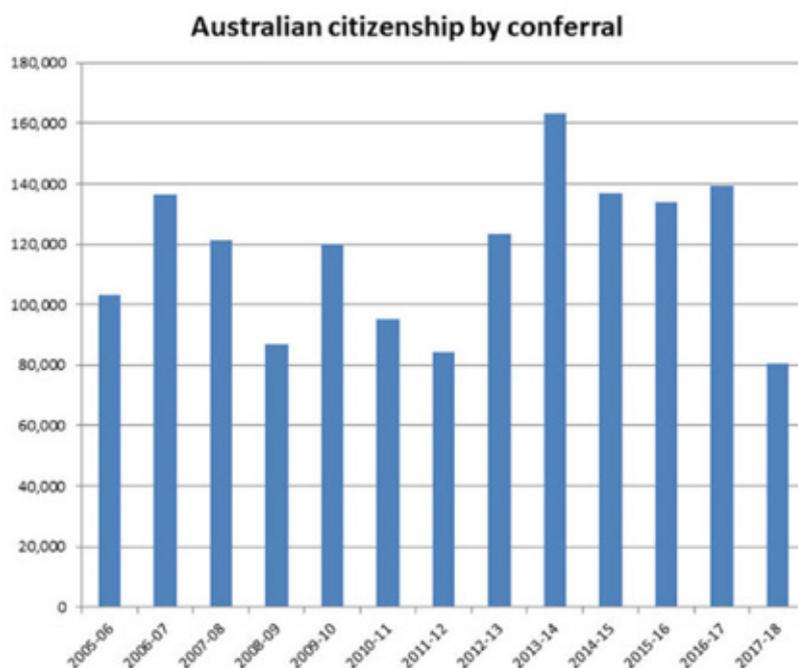
While Australian citizenship approvals have fallen to the lowest level since 2002-03, the number of citizenship applications awaiting processing is at a record high with migrants waiting longer than ever before to pledge their allegiance to Australia.

Australian citizenship conferrals have plunged to a 15-year low as the backlog of applications yet to be processed mounts to a record high, causing longer waiting time for migrants wanting to pledge allegiance to Australia.

In 2017-18 the number of people who were conferred with Australian citizenship fell to 80,562 - a level not seen since 2002-03 when just over 79,000 people received citizenship by conferral.

It comes as the Federal Government is already facing criticism for citizenship application backlogs mounting to over 240,000, making applicants to wait 17-19 months, some even longer.

The Department of Home Affairs has confirmed to SBS Punjabi that 244,765 citizenship applications were awaiting processing as of 30th June 2018.



Those waiting to pledge their allegiance to Australia by becoming an Australian citizen say the long waiting time causes them to live in uncertainty.

“Given the circumstances and the recent events, migrants have never felt more vulnerable,” says Atul Vidhata who is waiting for the outcome of his citizenship application and runs social media forums for other applicants.

“Applicants are becoming less driven by the commitment to the country than they are seeking the safety of Australian Citizenship because of what the government might do to them as non-citizens,” he adds.

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National security

The Department of Home Affairs attributes the long processing times to “greater national security threats” and its efforts to ensure the safety of all Australians by additional integrity measures to verify the identity and good character of applicants.

“These measures have been progressively introduced since 2015 and follow the report into the Lindt Café Siege that recommended the Department better assess the possible risks posed by individuals at the pre-visa, post-visa and pre-citizenship stages,” a Department spokesperson told SBS Punjabi.

The spokesperson added that a high demand for Australian citizenship and an increase in the number of complex cases were also contributing to delays in the processing of applications.

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, David Coleman, said the Government is taking steps to boost resources to process applications.

“The Government has established a 50-person task force within the Department of Home Affairs to deal with highly complex citizenship applications and ensure they are dealt with as efficiently as possible,” Mr Coleman told SBS Punjabi.

“An additional 150 staff are also being allocated to focus solely on the processing of applications, with all additional staff expected to be in the role by the end of the year.”

Over 4,000 migrants were refused Australian citizenship in 2016-17. Here are some of the most common reasons that can have your citizenship application knocked back.

Mr Coleman says due to these measures, more than 33,800 citizenship were processed in the first three months of this financial year, up from 18,700 during the same period in 2017-18.

Proposed changes in Citizenship law

The application backlog climbed to its current level from 81,000 in June 2017, after the federal government announced an overhaul of the citizenship legislation, proposing an increase in the general residence requirement and a stand-alone English language test.

However, it was struck off the Senate notice paper in October last year after the government failed to bring it for a debate.

Though the revised legislation was listed for introduction in Senate during the Spring sitting of parliament, Mr Coleman told SBS Punjabi earlier this month that the government was still consulting on the elements of the Bill.

Greens Immigration spokesperson Nick McKim said the Government was using the Citizenship Bill for political posturing and claimed it didn't have the numbers to pass the Bill. He told SBS Punjabi that if the Government delayed 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,” he said.

“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.”

Indians top Australian citizenship charts

Of the 54,419 citizenship applications approved as of 28th February this year, Indian migrants were at the top of the nationalities chart with 10,168 Indian-born people becoming Australian citizens, closely followed by 9,195 people from the United Kingdom.

Indian migrants have emerged as the top source of citizenship by conferral in Australia during the last five years, overtaking the United Kingdom.

In 2016/17, 22,006 Indians pledged allegiance to Australia, ahead of 19,617 people from the UK.

Since 2012/13, over 118,000 people Indian-born migrants have become Australian citizens.

(Source: SBS)

6) Immigration Minister's warning about Australian citizenship

Australia's recently appointed Immigration and Citizenship minister has issued a stern warning to citizenship applicants amid a rising application backlog and dwindling citizenship conferrals.

"Australian citizenship is a privilege and it should be granted to those who support our values, respect our laws and want to work hard by integrating and contributing to an even better Australia," David Coleman, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship said in a recent statement.

"Any conduct that is inconsistent with Australian values will be considered as part of the citizenship application process, including violence against women and children, involvement in gangs or organised crime, and any behaviour that threatens our national security," he added.

While Australian citizenship approvals have fallen to the lowest level since 2002-03, the number of citizenship applications awaiting processing is at a record high with migrants waiting longer than ever before to pledge their allegiance to Australia.

The warning comes in the wake of Australian citizenship conferrals plunging to 80,652 in 2017-18 - the lowest in 15 years. The Department of Home Affairs attributed the decline in citizenship approvals to an enhanced focus on security measures. The minister says he makes no apologies for it.

"Those who choose to become Australian citizens are making a solemn commitment to our democracy, to our way of life. And that commitment, made by five million people over the past 70 years has helped secure and enrich our nation.

"We will always work to make the system as functional and effective as possible for legitimate applicants. However, we make no apologies for ensuring only those who meet our security and character requirements are given the privilege of Australian citizenship," said Mr Coleman.

Citizenship applicants are currently waiting 17-19 months to know the outcome of their applications with the backlog ballooning to nearly 245,000. According to the Department of Home Affairs, 244,765 were waiting for the processing of their applications, as of 30th June this year.

Mr Coleman said more investment and resources, including 150 additional staff, are being directed towards processing of citizenship applications.

"Applications are at a record high—we are a country that many people want to live in and be a part of... We are investing heavily to meet this demand, while also protecting the security and integrity of the system to ensure only legitimate applications are approved."

An Indian national has been refused Australian citizenship for not disclosing his court conviction over a stolen pair of shoes and possessing a credit card that was suspected to be stolen.

The minister said, as a result of boosting resources, more than 33,800 citizenship applications were processed during the first three months of the current financial year as compared to 18,700 during the same period last year.

The Department says one of the reasons behind increasing waiting times is an increase in cases requiring "complex identity assessment".

"The Government has established a 50-person task force within the Department of Home Affairs to deal with highly complex citizenship applications and ensure they are dealt with as efficiently as possible," Mr Coleman said.

(Source: SBS)

7) New pathway to PR for retiree (405/410) visa holders

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-subsite/Pages/2018-Nov/-pathway%20to%20permanent%20residence%20for%20retirees.aspx>

8) Commonwealth International Student visa Ombudsman

Don't forget if you have serious complaints about your education provider you can always approach these guys. Here is their latest report -

http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/87754/Overseas_Students_Ombudsman_Quarterly_Update_April-to-June-2018.pdf

9) NSW population levels to be assessed by State Government

Immigration and population levels in NSW to be assessed by 'expert panel'

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has taken another step in her bid to drive down immigration rates into the state, appointing an "expert panel" to assess the current rate of population growth.

Key points:

- The panel will report to the Premier within two months
- It will assess population growth rates, infrastructure and advise the Premier on immigration policy
- Today's announcement comes after the Premier said NSW should slash its overseas migrant intake by up to 50 per cent

Highlighting what she said was the pressure immigration was putting on the infrastructure of "the largest and most successful state in Australia", Ms Berejiklian this morning said it was time to "take stock and get ahead".

"NSW's economic success is attracting a far greater share of total immigrant numbers than it has in the past," she said.

"We are in the midst of an unprecedented infrastructure boom in NSW.

"But it is clear that despite a record infrastructure pipeline, Sydney and NSW are still playing catch-up."

Immigration has become a prominent issue for Ms Berejiklian, with the Premier raising it on multiple occasions as congestion, housing affordability and urban development look set to become hot topics ahead of next year's state election.

Earlier this month she suggested NSW should slash its overseas migrant intake by up to 50 per cent, returning it to Howard-era immigration levels.

She renewed that call this morning, and said the review, provided by the panel, would allow NSW to take a "strategic approach" to planning around population.

Ms Berejiklian also pressured Prime Minister Scott Morrison on the population issue and wrote to him requesting a COAG meeting on the issue next year.

Opposition spokesman Michael Daley said the announcement of the panel was a sign the Premier was worried about her polling ahead of the state election.

"This is really the height of hypocrisy from her. Over the last eight years her Government has tweaked the planning system so much that she's now wrecked it," he said.

"She's allowed overdevelopments in some parts of Sydney, other parts of Sydney are getting nothing. "They haven't been listening to communities and now five months out of an election she's panicking because she's realised she's got it wrong and people are angry."

He said Labor's position is for the states to sit down with the Commonwealth and the Productivity Commission to decide on an immigration policy with the states able to have their say.

"She's proposing the gimmickry of an expert panel to slash immigration. She knows, everyone knows the immigration rate is set by the Commonwealth."

The "expert panel" will assess the current rate of population growth and infrastructure pipeline in NSW, the time needed for infrastructure to "catch up" with population growth rates and assess NSW's role at upcoming discussions with the Federal Government on the issue.

The panel will include Infrastructure NSW chief executive Jim Betts, University of Western Sydney chancellor Peter Shergold and NSW Department of Planning and Environment Secretary Carolyn McNally.

It is expected to report to the Premier within two months.

(Source: ABC News)

10) Changes to the Working Holiday visa (417/462)

The Australian Government has announced changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program to support regional and rural communities.

Changes to the WHM visa program include:

- From 5 November 2018, expanding the regional areas where subclass 462-visa holders can work in agriculture (plant and animal cultivation) to qualify for a second year of stay in Australia. Currently only those who work in Northern Australia are eligible.
- From 5 November 2018, increasing the period in which subclass 417 and 462 visa holders can stay with the same agricultural (plant and animal cultivation) employer, from 6 to 12 months.
- The option of a third-year for subclass 417 and 462 visa holders who, after 1 July 2019, undertake 6-months of specified work in a specified regional area during their second year.
- Over the coming weeks, offering an increase in the annual caps to a number of countries that participate in the subclass 462 visa program.
- Increase the eligible age for subclass 417 visa applicants from Canada and Ireland to 35.

How will these changes address regional workforce shortages

The key focus is on providing farmers with immediate access to workers in key parts of regional Australia.

The changes aim to increase the number of Working Holiday Makers available for seasonal work needs.

Employers will be able to retain trained and experienced employees doing agricultural (plant and animal cultivation) work for up to 12-months, rather than the previous 6-months.

The availability of a third-year visa will attract working holiday makers to work for longer in regional Australia.

What does plant and animal cultivation include

Plant and animal cultivation includes most agricultural work, such as:

- the harvesting and/or packing of fruit and vegetable crops
- pruning and trimming vines and trees
- general maintenance crop work
- cultivating or propagating plants, fungi or their products or parts
- immediate processing of plant products
- maintaining animals for the purpose of selling them or their bodily produce
- immediate processing of animal products including shearing, butchery, packing and tanning
- manufacturing dairy produce from raw material.

What additional parts of regional Australia will be included in the expanded arrangements

From 5 November 2018, this will be extended to regional areas in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia, and all of Northern Territory, South Australia, and Tasmania. Details of specific postcodes will be published on the Department's website shortly.

Are any changes being made to the subclass 462 Northern Australia initiatives

No change is being made to the existing Northern Australia concessions:

- subclass 417 & 462 visa holders can continue to work with one employer in northern Australia for up to 12 months in Aged & Disability Care; Agriculture; Construction; Mining; and Tourism & Hospitality
- subclass 462 visa holders can continue to complete specified work in northern Australia in tourism and hospitality or agriculture, forestry and fishing industries, to become eligible for a second year visa.

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How long will subclass 462-visa holders need to work in the additional regional areas to get the second year

Participation in the second-year program is voluntary. Subclass 462-visa holders need to complete a total of three-months (88 calendar days) of specified work to be eligible to apply for their second-year visa. They may combine work completed in any existing specified industry and location with new industries and locations to meet the work requirement.

What types of work completed will count towards third-year eligibility

Specified work for the third-year visa are the same as the eligibility for specified work for the second-year visa.

(Source: DoHA)

11) Making sense of the 2017/18 Migration Numbers

The report on the 2017-18 migration program has now been publicly released, more than two and a half months after an exclusive to The Australian newspaper and a short time after the Home Affairs department appeared before Senate estimates. As reported in The Australian, the outcome was indeed 162,417, over 27,500 below the ceiling of 190,000 – by far the largest program shortfall in at least 50 years.

The explanation for this outcome so far below the ceiling is “shifting risks and an increased focus on integrity resulted in the number of visa refusals and withdrawals increasing significantly in 2017-18. Total refusals increased by 46.2 per cent, while withdrawals increased by 17 per cent.” No one can object to increased integrity in the migration program. It is what the Australian community demands.

We cannot know, however, if this was the real driver unless Home Affairs is prepared to provide a detailed breakdown of the increased refusals and withdrawals by visa category; the main reasons for these; and the visa planning levels for each category that were provided to the department’s regional and overseas processing offices.

Certainly there were sufficient applications to meet the ceiling – backlogs generally grew in 2017-18, including the backlog of people in Australia on bridging visas waiting for a decision. Processing times slowed to alarming levels – even in visa categories where the application rate fell significantly.

Numerous examples have been given to me of visa refusals for bizarre reasons or because the processing delays led to information provided in the application becoming out of date. While some were corrected with the cases being re-worked by a more senior officer, often this was not possible forcing the applicant or sponsor to seek review at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). The backlog at the AAT is now almost 50,000 applications – well beyond current AAT resourcing levels.

In my experience managing the migration program for 12 years, massive backlogs and ballooning processing times would have attracted severe criticism from ministers, stakeholders, the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman. But that no longer seems to be the case.

It should be noted that fees for processing applications are well beyond the resources devoted to this function (ie the government profits from almost every application lodged) even though the client service provided has deteriorated markedly, with no concrete evidence of increased integrity.

The 2017-18 skill stream was delivered at 111,099 visas with the two largest categories declining most significantly – employer sponsored migration and independent skilled. Visas issued in the employer sponsored categories were down from 48,250 in 2016-17 to 35,528 in 2017-18. While the application rate fell by 27.1%, the pipeline only declined from 53,094 persons at end June 2017 to 52,503 at end June 2018. This suggests a growing number of very old applications in the pipeline. Given that research consistently indicates these migrants have the most positive economic and budgetary impact, allowing these to age means non-genuine onshore applicants are being allowed to remain in Australia longer than they should while genuine skilled migrants who are urgently needed by Australian employers are being delayed. This is poor administration, not increased visa integrity.

Within the employer sponsored categories is the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS). The RSMS outcome in 2017-18 declined by 39% to 6,221 compared to 2016-17. Demand for RSMS places decreased in

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2017–18 with 17,003 applications received compared to 20,236 applications in 2016–17. This decline is driven by major policy tightening making it harder for employers in regional Australia to access the skills they need. But the RSMS pipeline grew to 22,661 persons by end June 2018, an increase of 21.2 per cent (3,965 persons) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017. Both policy and administration of the RSMS, which is the flagship visa for encouraging migration away from the major cities, is heading in the opposite direction to that publicly stated by the new Prime Minister.

The outcome for the skilled independent category in 2017-18 was 39,137 compared to 42,422 in 2017-18. The key to the lower outcome was the slow rate at which former Immigration minister Dutton released places for processing. There is no publicly available evidence this decline had anything to do with increased integrity. From 2017-18, and contrary to practice since the Howard Government, this category now includes New Zealand citizens who have been long-term residents of Australia and subsequently obtain a permanent resident visa. Thus to make migration program figures strictly comparable, 2017-18 figures should exclude permanent resident visa grants to New Zealand citizens. While this may have had only a small impact in 2017-18, it will from 2018-19 have a much larger impact, possibly around 10,000 places per annum. The outcome for State and Territory Nominated visas increased from 23,765 in 2016-17 to 27,400. This reverses the downward trend in these visas of recent years.

The outcome for the Business Innovation and Investment Program in 2017-18 was 7,260 visas, exactly the same as in 2016-17. Demand for places in this category continued to grow strongly with the pipeline increasing in 2017-18 by 34.8 percent to 20,610.

The family stream outcome in 2017-18 was 47,732, down from 52,220 in 2016-17. Surprisingly almost all of the decline was in the partner category which fell to 39,799 visas issued. In each of the previous three years, exactly 47,825 visas were issued in the partner category – an astonishing outcome given, by law, spouse visa applications must be managed on a demand driven basis so some degree of variation would be expected. This also raises a question of whether the department has been operating in breach of s87 of the Migration Act which prohibits the government from capping the number of spouse visas issued. The internal legal advice on this would be fascinating.

While partner visas issued in 2017-18 fell, new applications increased by 5.4 percent. The size of the pipeline fell by 0.8 percent to 80,936 suggesting a substantial number of applications were withdrawn, possibly due to lengthening processing times and applicants changing their minds as to where they will live. At end September 2018, the AAT had almost 5,000 partner visa decisions for review. Its set aside rate for partner applications year to date is over 50 percent (ie over half of home affairs decisions that are appealed to the AAT are remitted to the department to re-process).

At some stage, government will need to address the growing backlog of partner applications. But if it continues to reduce the size of the skill stream, it will also need to abandon the policy of ensuring there is a two third to one third balance in favour of the skill stream over the family stream.

Abul Rizvi was a senior official in the Department of Immigration from the early 1990s to 2007 when he left as Deputy Secretary. He was awarded the Public Service Medal and the Centenary Medal for services to development and implementation of immigration policy, including in particular the reshaping of Australia's intake to focus on skilled migration. He is currently doing a PhD on Australia's immigration policies.

(Source: www.johnmenadue.com)

12) Prime minister says immigration to be reduced

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has flagged a cut to immigration, declaring Sydney and Melbourne at capacity and he is ready to agree to state calls for curbs to new Australians.

But Mr Morrison predicted regional centres, including Rockhampton in Queensland, Tasmania and Adelaide, want more migrants and have the capacity to accept more new arrivals.

The Prime Minister's confirmation he wants to slash immigration to Australia's largest capital cities follows NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian's call to halve the migration intake on the grounds that "rates have gone through the roof".

Broadcaster Alan Jones pressed the Mr Morrison on immigration levels during his Radio 2GB program Wednesday, warning that it was a "big issue" for voters.

Mr Jones asserted that Australia had the highest per capita immigration intake in the world.

"What our immigration policy should be is the sum of the number that our infrastructure can support," Mr Morrison replied.

"Instead of doing a top down approach, what I am doing with the states and territories now is saying, 'you tell me. You tell me how many people you can accommodate ... around your state.'" he said.

"Our immigration numbers will be based on how many people those states can support."

Mr Jones interjected that people will say that means an immigration cut.

"Well, we will do the sums and in Sydney and Melbourne I think that's true," Mr Morrison said.

"But they say they can take an extra 10,000 people here in Rockhampton. In Adelaide they want more people and more jobs. In Tasmania they are increasing their population and they want more," he said.

Earlier this year Ms Berejiklian established an expert panel to build the case for a lower immigration policy to take to the Federal Government next year.

The Prime Minister and Mr Jones also clashed over climate change policy and the Paris agreement during the interview.

"You don't need Paris. Rip it up!," Mr Jones said.

Mr Morrison replied that Paris was "important to our Pacific neighbours".

"Why? Because global warming is going to wash away islands in the Pacific? That's crap," Mr Jones answered.

Mr Morrison said Mr Jones was "entitled to that view" and the region was also entitled to its view.

"Do you think that Bondi Beach is going to end up in Bathurst?," Mr Jones asked, in reference to warning of rising sea levels.

"No, I don't think that at all," Mr Morrison said.

(Source: www.thenewdaily.com.au)

13) Unofficial Skill Select results 11th November 2018

Our estimate is again 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.

(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 November 2018	65 points	70 points	75 points	80 points	85 points © Iscah2018	
2211 Accountants	6/10/2015	24/10/2016	18/10/2017	08/08/2018*(poss 10/8)	10/11/2018*	
2212 Auditors (no results seen this round)	27/07/2015	26/12/2016	26/09/2017	8/06/2018	10/10/2018	
2334 Electronics Engineer	18/09/2017	13/12/2017	10/10/2018	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
2335 Ind. Mech. Prod Engineers © Iscah 2018	27/04/2017	15/06/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
2339 Other Engineer Profs	3/01/2017	30/10/2017	02/10/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
2611 ICT Business Analysts	11/08/2016	13/09/2017	04/09/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
2613 Software Applications Programmer @ Iscah 2018	18/04/2017	06/04/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
2631 Computer Network Prof	4/03/2017	10/06/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
ALL the other NON-pro rata occupations	28/09/2017	31/10/2018*(poss 1/11)	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	10/11/2018*	
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						

http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/11thNovember2018Results.png

(Source: Iscah)

14) Invited for your 189 visa ? Now do the right thing !

So you finaaaaally have your 189 invite !

All that study, stress and hard work and you have it.

Bet you are stoked !!!

But you have one more duty left...

Please do the right thing and WITHDRAW any other 189 EOI that you do not need.

As if you do, that gives other people more of a chance to get that prized 189 invitation. After all they have been through allllll the same pain and wait you have just experienced.

(Also if you have an unnecessary 489/190 state EOI , withdraw that too)

THANKYOU

(Source: Iscah)

15) When will you get your 189 invitation – Predictions

Here are Iscah's latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from 11th November 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.

Assumptions					
AVERAGE of 2500 invitations per month for the rest of 2018/19					
Pro Rata to be given around 60% and NON Pro rata around 40% of these numbers					
And "not before July 2019" doesn't mean you will get an invite, just unlikely before then					
Iscah Estimated Time period for an EOI invite - 189 visa as at 11th November 2018		EOI Lodged			Copyright Iscah 2018
		today (11th November 2018)	3 months ago(11/8/18)	6 months ago(11/5/18)	12 months ago(11/11/17)
2211 Accountants	80 points	3 months	next round	invited	invited
	75 points	not before July 2019			
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite			
© Iscah					
2212 Auditors	80 points	4 months	next round	invited	invited
	75 points	not before July 2019			
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	EOI to expire before invite
	65 points	EOI to expire before invite			
©					
2334 Electronics Engineer	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	invited
© Iscah					
2335 Ind, Mech, Prod Engineers	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	3 months	next round	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019			
© Iscah					
2339 Other Engineering Professionals	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	2 months	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	7 month
	65 points	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
	75 points	2 months	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	not before July 2019			
	65 points	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
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	4 months	2 months	next round	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019			
©					
2631 Computer Network Professionals	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	next round	next round	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019			
© Iscah					
ALL other NON pro rata occupations	80 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	75 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	70 points	next round	invited	invited	invited
	65 points	not before July 2019	not before July 2019	7 months	2 months
Note the assumptions that we listed at the top of the spreadsheet. These predictions will change if DoHA change their current selection policies					

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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/

You are also welcome to email us to estimateinvite@iscah.com asking us when you will get your invite with the following information

- Occupation
- Points Score
- EOI effect date

and we will give you our current estimate.

(Source: Iscah)

16) New ACT/Canberra State 190 sponsorship guidelines

Details of the new ACT/Canberra 190 sponsorship process -
(Courtesy of the MIA)

- The program reopens on Thursday 29 November 2018
- The ACT Government's current system will go OFF LINE on Tuesday 27 November 2018 to enable the change over to the new Expression of Interest (from hereon called the Canberra Matrix to avoid confusion with Home Affairs EOI)
- Any existing ACT Government application commenced which has not been lodged and unpaid on 27 November 2018 will disappear from the system and will not be able to be accessed.
- Any lodged and paid applications lodged before Tuesday 27 November will be assessed and finalised under the existing guidelines.
- The ACT is reopening its 190 program with about 500 available places for the remainder of 2018-19 Financial Year
- The Canberra Matrix is benefit to Canberra based and not first in, best dressed as with the previous system
- The ACT Government will have practice runs for issuing invitations etc in December 2018, January and February 2019 before moving into full operational mode.

The Process

- Intending applicants will be required to express their interest by completing the Canberra Matrix
- No documents are required to be lodged with the Canberra Matrix
- There is no application fee for completing and submitting the Canberra Matrix
- Either once or twice a month (to be decided) the ACT Government will determine which Canberra Matrix applicants, based on the Matrix points test (has no relationship or impact on Home Affairs points test) will be issued an invitation to apply for ACT Government 190 nomination
- The ACT Government reserves the right to use other levers to select applicants based on economic benefit to Canberra
- The Canberra Matrix points are frozen upon submission and cannot be updated
- If points allocation change, for any reason, a new Canberra Matrix will be required to be submitted
- A Canberra Matrix will remain valid for 6 months before it is removed from the system
- The matrix scoring for Canberra residents has 12 factors

Length of residence in Canberra
English language proficiency
Spouse / partner English language proficiency
Nominated occupation (open or closed)
Length of current employment in Canberra (not tied to nominated occupation)
ACT employment type
Spouse / Partner employment in Canberra
Education (can be in Canberra, interstate or overseas)
Canberra education
Grandfathering of applicants who arrived to live in Canberra on or before 29 June 2018)
Assets in Canberra (personal or business and unencumbered)
Close family ties to Canberra

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- The Matrix for overseas residents has essentially the same factors except the grandfathering factor mentioned above
 - Intending applicants who live in Canberra and commute to Sydney, for example, for study and/or work, regardless of the time spent in or out of Canberra will not meet the requirements for an invitation
 - To meet the Canberra residence requirements, the intending applicant can live in Canberra (this goes without saying) or live within a 30-minute commute radius of Canberra (for example, live in Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Murrumbateman)
 - Intending applicants who work in Queanbeyan, for example, are also ineligible to receive an invitation
- Key points to note
- There will be no requests for further information (applications not complete will be refused)
 - If the documents provided at the application stage do not support the information provided in the Canberra Matrix, the application will be refused
 - There are no waiver provisions
 - The ACT Government will not respond to requests for special treatment based on
 - Expiry of English language results, skills assessments
 - Change of age
 - Visa expiry, etc
 - ACT Government will not respond to requests about an individual's ranking, selection or invitation process

(Source: Migration Institute of Australia)

OK folks, see you all on Monday
17th December.

Stay safe and have a fun few weeks



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17) No decision on 2019 Migrant intake yet

The government has not made a decision on how many permanent migrants Australia will accept next year, immigration minister David Coleman has told SBS News.

The annual cap has been set at 190,000 since 2011 under both Labor and Coalition governments.

For most of those years, the real intake has nearly met the cap.

But in 2017-18 the intake plummeted to its lowest level in a decade, with just 163,000 permanent arrivals – made up of both skilled and family visas.

On Friday, the Daily Telegraph reported the Home Affairs minister Peter Dutton was working on a plan to lower the formal ceiling by 30,000 places, so it would roughly reflect last year's real intake.

SBS News contacted the offices of both Mr Dutton and Mr Coleman.

They said no decision had been made, and the cap for 2019-20 would only be set after a standard, annual "consultation" with states, employer groups and other stakeholders.

"A decision on the 2019-20 planning levels has not yet been taken," a spokeswoman for Mr Coleman said.

The minister himself said the process would take into account "Australia's needs" and the "needs of our regions", in a reference to the Morrison government's plans to divert more skilled workers to non-metro areas.

The 190,000 permanent intake is exclusively for entrants under skilled and family visas that offer permanent residency in Australia.

It does not include the humanitarian stream for refugees, which is less than 20,000 most years.

It also excludes temporary entrants – like students, tourists and short-term workers – which actually make up the majority of arrivals each year.

(Source: SBS)

18) Western Australia invitation results November 16th 2018

Results from the WA invitation round for 489/190 on 16th November 2018 -

From what we have seen so far ...

Accountants were invited up to :

Work - At least 3 years experience

ALL other occupations were invited up to :

Qualification - Masters or PHD

Work - not required

English points - 20

Points (without state points) - 70

Date of EOI lodgement - 25th September 2018

PLEASE NOTE

The WA government now tell us that the work criteria (overseas and Australia) will be rounded down and measured in years. So 10 months counts as 0 years. 15 months counts as 1 year ... etc

Also the date of your EOI is when you FIRST submitted it. NOT any longer the date your last updated your points.