Hey folks,

Welcome to another quality edition of all the latest news we are aware of in the Australian migration and visa world

Big week for Mr13 in our house. He scored his first ever goal for his school team and followed it up with his first goal for 5 ears for his club team. He was obviously super stoked as was dad watching in the rain ☔️

This newsletter is produced on the 3rd Monday of each month. If you want backcopies check out here www.iscah.com/free-newsletter
Or if you want to go on the mailing list email us to newsletter@iscah.com

Sooooo let’s get cracking with July’s news …
1) Visa news article in the media
2) Personalised Visa Report each month
3) State updates on 489/190 sponsorships
4) WA State updates on 489/190 invites for June 2019
5) Update on Kalgoorlie DAMA (482 visa) concessions
6) NSW Regional 489 sponsorship news
7) NSW Regional 489 sponsorship news
8) Working Holiday visa changes
9) Unofficial 189 Skill Select Invitation results for 11th July 2019
10) Invitation predictions for your 189 EOI
11) Media article on some of the visa changes over the next few months
12) DHA update on the new 491 and 494 visas and the closing of the 489 visa in November 2019
13) Citizenship processing speeding up
14) Iscah FOUR visa answers in 5 minute videos for the last month
15) Trades Recognition Australia, Job Ready Program changes
16) Skill Select results from 11th June 2019 round
1) Visa news article in the media

Useful newspaper articles on visa issues in the last month


2) Personalised Visa Report each month

Thanks for the great feedback following our first edition of our monthly visa reports

It takes away the work needed to keep in touch with which regions are sponsoring YOUR occupation, the changes expected for the new 491 visa, as well as giving you a personal estimate as to when your 189 may get an invite and the amount this can be improved by if you gain 5, 10, 15 more points.

We will also incorporate the new 16/11/2019 points test to our predictions shortly

To get your own report related to your occupation, points and EOI effect date, subscribe here –

www.iscah.com/members

(Here is a sample btw for a different occupation -
3) State updates on 489/190 sponsorships

Queensland
Queensland Skilled Occupation Lists remain closed until late July 2019 (opening date to-be-confirmed).

Tasmania
The Tasmanian government have clarified the type of work not accepted for Category 2 as follows

* There are areas of non-skill shortage in Tasmania that are not supported for visa state nomination under the 'Working in Tasmania' visa state nomination category. Occupations relating to supermarkets, service stations, limited service restaurants, massage clinics and taxi/uber driving are some examples of these areas.

Update on their 489 processing -
The Department of Home Affairs has announced the 10th of September is the last day for state and territory governments to nominate and for invitations to be issued for the subclass 489 visa.

We will be focusing on processing all subclass 489 applications prior to this date. The processing times for subclass 190 applications may become extended during this period.

As the current processing time is up to 12 weeks, we urge all applicants who are ready to apply for a subclass 489 nomination to lodge their applications by early August at the latest.

We (Tasmanian government) cannot guarantee that applications for 489 nomination lodged after early August will be able to be processed before the 10th of September.

South Australia
South Australia announce new state lists and criteria
https://mailchi.mp/a7c3c388b667/occupation-lists-update-for-201920-program-year

ACT/Canberra
Invitation date: 5 July 2019
Number of Invitations Issued: 194
Matrix score range:
All Matrix submitted with 125 to 75 points

(Source: Various state authorities)
WA State (489/190) invites for June 2019
The profile of the last invited EOIs from the 21st June 2019 SNMP Graduate Stream invitation round.

Last invited EOI – Visa subclass 190
Bachelor Degree
5 Australian Work experience
0 Overseas work experience
10 English points
65 Total points

EOI submission date 17/05/2019
Last invited EOI – Visa subclass 489
Bachelor Degree
5 Australian Work experience
0 Overseas work experience
10 English points
75 Total points

EOI submission date 107/06/2019
During the selection and ranking process the number of invitations issued to applicants with the nominated occupation 221111 Accountant (General) was restricted, due to the high representation of this occupation in the eligible EOIs. The profile of the last invited EOI with this nominated occupation was as follows.
489 – Accountant
PhD / Masters
0 Australian work experience
0 Overseas work experience
20 points for english
90 points

EOI submission date 12/02/2019
This occupation remains available for nomination, however, this may change for future rounds. Any change in the status of the occupation will be communicated via the Migration Portal.

Things to note:
• During the ranking process work experience was considered by points indicated in eligible EOIs and factored in both on and offshore work experience, with priority given to eligible EOIs with Australian work experience;
• For the selection and ranking process we use the date that the EOI was first created (initial submitted date), not the ‘Date of Effect’.

(Source: WA state government)
A new website has been established with all the new DAMA (482 visa) criteria for this regional area of WA. There are work concessions available that mean some company sponsored applicants do not need the full 2 years of work experience in their occupation.

www.ckb.wa.gov.au/GoldfieldsDama
Central West (RDACW)
IMPORTANT: Do not register with RDACW until the new 2019-2020 Central West Occupation List is posted HERE. The new list will be posted by 5th August 2019. Please check if your occupation is listed for our region BEFORE registering. Registrations that are not on our new list will not be accepted.

Northern Inland (RDANI)
Applications for regional sponsorship for the Northern Inland region are currently closed.

Applications for Skilled Regional State Nomination by the Northern Inland region open from Midday on Thursday 18 July, 2019. The Occupation List for this region will go online at that time.

We are optimistic that the NSW Government will re-commence nominating by Monday 22 July, 2019.

This Northern Inland region will not accept 489 applications any later than 3 September 2019. The last day that nominations will be processed and invitations from the Department of Home Affairs will be issued for the visa sub-class 489 is 10 September 2019. The new Skilled Regional State Nominate visa sub-class 491 will commence on 16 November 2019. The last day that invited applicants can lodge their application with the Department is 15 November 2019.

Orana
Orana in NSW have added the following to their 489 occupation list:
Accountant (General) 221111
Management Accountant 221112
External Auditor 221213
Internal Auditor 221214
Finance Manager 132211
The following additional work is required -
** Accountant Occupations will require a minimum of Proficient English, AND 6 months relevant work experience in Australia. This does not need to be assessed, but will need to be verified. You will need to be living and working in the Orana Region.
Orana have confirmed that the "related" work for an Accountant can be as a bookkeeper. They have also said that it is not mandatory to have moved to Orana and commenced work to be considered. This region is now CLOSED until 1 August 2019, if you have genuine full time employment in a related role in the Orana region please contact us.

Central West (RDACW)
RDACW will post a new list of occupations for the year 2019-2020 in early August 2019.

IMPORTANT: Do not register with RDACW until the new 2019-2020 Central West Occupation List is posted. The new list will be posted by 5th August 2019. Please check if your occupation is listed for our region BEFORE registering.

Registrations that are not on our new list will not be accepted.
CHANGES TO THE SKILLED REGIONAL VISA PROGRAM: The Australian Government’s Department of Home Affairs advised that two new skilled regional provisional visas will be introduced from November this year. For more information on the changes read here.

Due to the new Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa, Round One will be a short referral process in line with Department of Home Affairs new visa commencement date.

RDACW processing dates for Round One will be adhered to:
• Registration open 5th August and close by 9th August
• Full applications will be required within 7 days following an ‘Invitation to Apply’
• RDACW referrals will close 9th September

RDA Central West have a two-step process for applying for the Skilled Regional 489 Visa nomination. The two-step process will assist RDACW in managing the number of applications received against referral places for occupations. Occupations will be closed as referral places are filled. RDACW has limited referral places available for each occupation listed.

(Source: Regional NSW state bodies)
Changes to the NSW Skilled Regional Migration Program
The Department of Home Affairs has recently announced that the Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional
(Provisional) visa will be replacing the current 489 visa in November 2019.
The new subclass 491 visa will have a lot of the same features of the current 489 subclass however, some
differences will include a visa validity period of 5 years and the imposition of conditions which will enforce
the government’s intentions that visa holders live, work and study only in regional areas, which for NSW will
now include all regions outside of Sydney (Hunter and Illawarra regions will be awarded regional status) for
at least the first three years.
The NSW Government has been awarded a fixed allocation of nominations for the 2019-20 and is in the
process of distributing these positions across the participating Regional Development Authorities in NSW
who currently deliver this aspect of the NSW Skilled Migration Program to provide regional employers with
access to skilled talent. Please keep reviewing individual RDA website for more details over the coming
weeks but please also be mindful that RDA offices have limited resources.
The skilled migration points test will change from November 16, 2019. The changes will affect subclass 491
applicants as well as applications for other skilled migration visas that have not been assessed at that time.

The new points details are:
• 15 points for nomination by a State or Territory government agency or sponsorship by a family member
  residing in regional Australia, to live and work in regional Australia
• 10 points for a skilled spouse or de facto partner
• 10 points for certain Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) qualifications
• 5 points for a spouse or de facto partner with ‘competent English’
• 10 points for applicants without a spouse or de facto partner.

A new NSW Priority Skilled Occupation List is in development and will be announced shortly.
Please note some RDAs’ nomination processes may include an initial expression of interest step, which may
attract an upfront, non-refundable fee. Please check the relevant RDA website listed above for more details.
Please note that this is NOT the same EOI in SkillSelect detailed above in point 1.
The RDA expression of interest step has been established by some RDAs to assist in selecting the most
suitable applicants for nomination consideration. It is not an application for nomination and it does not
 guarantee a successful outcome.
Whilst the NSW Government does not endorse the RDA expression of interest step, each RDA has the ability
to manage its own delivery of the 489 program. The NSW Government strongly encourages all potential
applicants to seek specialist advice from a registered migration agent prior to completing in an expression
of interest step with a RDA.

(Source: NSW State Government)
An expansion of the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program which takes effect today will have benefits for farmers and regional communities, while fostering closer ties with dozens of countries. More places are now available to young people from more countries, and we are giving travellers an option to stay for a third year if they work in the regional areas that need it most.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said the changes will further address regional labour shortages.

“The WHM program has been running successfully since 1975, and sees thousands of travellers visit, work in and support regional and remote economies each year,” Mr Coleman said. “The program also boosts people-to-people links between young adults from Australia and the 44 countries now involved.”

New Work and Holiday arrangements with Greece and Ecuador also commence today, adding 500 and 100 places respectively. Annual caps for Spain, Israel, Peru and Chile have been increased recently, and those for Argentina, Malaysia, Singapore and Portugal, will also increase from today. In addition, the maximum eligible age for French applicants has been raised to 35 years.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said working holiday makers were vital to Australia’s tourism industry,

“We know working holiday makers who travel to Australia, stay longer, spend more and travel further into regional areas than most other international visitors,” Minister Birmingham said. “They also spend every dollar they earn while in Australia, in addition to the savings they bring here, creating more jobs for Australians in our tourism and hospitality industry.

“Summary of changes to Working Holiday Maker visas:

Working Holiday Makers who have completed at least six months specified regional employment in their second year may be eligible for a third year visa. The 6 months of work must all be carried out on or after 1 July 2019, with applications able to be lodged from January 2020.

Extension of the period a WHM (subclass 417 and 462) may work with the same agricultural employer, from six to 12 months.

Increase in the number of places available for travellers from, Spain (1,500 up to 3,400), Israel (500 up to 2,500), Peru (100 up to 1,500), Chile (2,000 up to 3,400), Argentina (from 1,500 up to 2,450), Malaysia (100 up to 1,100), Singapore (from 500 up to 2,500) and Portugal (200 up to 500).

Greece (500 places) and Ecuador (100 new places) added to WHM visa program, taking the total number of eligible countries to 44.

The maximum eligible age for French applicants has been raised to 35 years.

For more information visit the Department of Home Affairs website.

(Source: DHA)
DHA had a 189 skill select round last night and it looks like the numbers were around 800-1200.
We have assumed again that DHA have Pro Rata’d the same occupations, and allocated 60% to those and
40% to the non pro rata occupations.
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 are 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.
Also looks like there were a fair few 489 (family sponsored) invites given as we have been advised of one at
85 points and an EOI effect date of 1st July 2019 and another at 10th December 2018 at 80 points.

(Source: Iscah)
Here are Iscah’s latest estimates of how long we think you will have to wait for a 189 invitation from TODAY – 11th July 2019. Depending on when you lodged your EOI, what the effect date is and the occupation. These may not turn out to be DHA 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 That DHA will invite an amount equal to the number of 189 visas they intend to grant
  – 18,652 for the 2019/2020 year as published, less around 2000 for NZ citizens
  – 2.0 applicants on average per application means around 9,362 primary invites (777 a month)
  – Allowing for 30% wasted invitations = 1110 per month. Split 60% pro rata, 40% non pro rata

We will continue with the 1110 per month as that looks roughly the same as what DHA invited in July 2019

Our estimates do not yet take account of the new points test starting 16/11/2019 that gives extra Partner and STEM points. We need more information from DHA before we can incorporate these. In general though most invite marks will rise 5 points

(Source: Iscah)
Immigration crackdown, more foreign workers in regional towns - and good news for parents: The huge visa changes coming to Australia

Two new regional focused visas are designed to entice migrants out of the city
New points will be given to those in regions and a permanent region focused visa
Permanent residents will be allowed to apply for a five year visa for their parents

Scott Morrison announced in March the immigration intake would be cut from 190,000 to 160,000 for the next four years, but this is unlikely to have a major impact as immigration rates fell to a record low of 162,000 in 2017-2018. Those falls come largely on the back of a rapid decline in Skilled Independent visa approvals, which fell from 43,000 to 18,000 in the same time period.
Now, some immigrants already in Australia are concerned they will be unable to gain permanent residency.
Cuts to immigration, major changes to visa programs and a focus on giving a leg up to regions will soon come into effect in Australia after Scott Morrison announced new rules in March

Parents
Coming into effect on July 1, the Temporary Sponsored Parent visa application has been opened up for Australian citizens and permanent residents.
People can lodge a request to bring their parents over for five years and can apply for a second time after that period has finished. Before parents can apply, their sponsor must first be approved by the government and there is a maximum of 15,000 applications per year.

Regional Areas
Regional Australia is set to get a boost in November when two new visas come into effect with 23,000 skilled visas reserved for those planning to move to regional areas.
The regional requirements of the new visas are designed to fight over population in city centres that leave thousands unemployed, while regional areas struggle with often declining populations.
The new visas are known as the Skilled Employer Sponsored Visa with 9,000 allocated spots and 14,000 under the Skilled Work Regional Visa. Those immigrating with the hope to be become permanent citizens will be required to spend three years in regional areas before they are allowed to apply.
The government also announced a regional specific permanent visa will be made available in 2022.

Students
If international students choose to study at an educational institute in regional areas outside of Perth, Melbourne, southeast Queensland and Sydney - they can be given an extra year on the visa after they graduate. This will give many skilled workers the opportunity to look for work in Australia.

Extra points
Those coming to Australia alone or with a skilled partner will be given 10 extra points towards their points test. For those with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) qualifications there are also various points available. An additional five extra points will go towards those nominated or sponsored in the new regional focused visas.

(Source: www.dailymail.co.uk)
The Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491) visa will commence on 16 November 2019. The Skilled Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) visa will cease at 11:59pm on 15 November 2019. This will affect the ability of states and territories to nominate and issue invitations for the subclass 489 visa and for intending migrants to lodge EOIs and lodge applications for this visa in accordance with the table below.

10th September 2019
LAST day for states and territory governments to nominate and for invitations to be issued to an intending migrant for a subclass 489 visa.
LAST day for intending migrants to lodge an EOI in SkillSelect for the subclass 489 visa.

15th November 2019
LAST day for people who have been invited to apply for a subclass 489 visa to lodge a subclass 489 visa application.

16th November 2019
Intending migrants can lodge an EOI for the subclass 491 visa.
State and territory governments can nominate and invitations are able to be issued to an intending migrant for a subclass 491 visa.
Visa applications can be lodged for the subclass 491 visa for intending migrants issued with an invitation to apply.

It is important to note that throughout this period nominations, invitations, EOIs and applications are NOT affected for the 189 or 190 visa subclasses.

FAQs on the new 491/494 visas -

(Source: DHA)
13) Citizenship processing speeding up

Waiting time for Australian citizenship has dropped, queues have decreased and there has been a significant increase in citizenship approvals in last one year, according to the latest figures by the Department of Home Affairs. Melbourne-based Harshdeep Singh Gill, who is registered nurse by profession, lodged his citizenship by conferral application in September 2018. On Monday, he attended his Australian citizenship ceremony. Mr Gill who was granted citizenship in less than ten months says he was able to move his citizenship test date which sped up his application process.

"My initial test date was September 2019 but I kept checking online and was able to move my test date to May 2019. I passed the test by 100 per cent," he told SBS Hindi.

"I encourage people to go on the online portal and keeping checking rescheduling test date and that might work in getting an earlier test date."

Approvals have increased by 88 per cent in a year

‘Between 1 July 2018 and 31 May 2019, more than 132,000 citizenship by conferral applications have been approved, up from 70,000 in the same period last year. This represents an increase of 88 per cent,’ Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said.

Minister Coleman attributed these outcomes to a range of reforms implemented by the Department of Home Affairs.

These measures include the establishment of task forces within the Department of Home Affairs to focus on complex citizenship cases, system enhancements to automate processes and a $9 million investment in the recruitment and training of extra staff to ensure applications are dealt with as efficiently as possible.

"As a result of these measures, the number of citizenship by conferral applications on-hand has decreased to about 222,800, down from almost 250,000 last year. This number is expected to continue to decline," Mr Coleman said.

According to the Department of Home Affairs, the waiting time for citizenship by conferral has dropped from 20 months in April 2019 to 16 months in June 2019 for 75 per cent of applicants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application type</th>
<th>Period counted</th>
<th>Timeframe for 75% of applications</th>
<th>Timeframe for 90% of applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian citizenship by conferral (general eligibility and other situations)</td>
<td>From date of application to decision</td>
<td>14 months</td>
<td>19 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From date of approval to ceremony</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From date of application to ceremony</td>
<td>16 months</td>
<td>20 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian citizenship by descent</td>
<td>From date of application to decision*</td>
<td>56 days</td>
<td>98 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of Australian citizenship</td>
<td>From date of application to decision*</td>
<td>4 days</td>
<td>11 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long queue of pending application remains

Despite the drop in the waiting time and an increase in the number of approvals, the long queue of people awaiting the outcome of their citizenship application is still well above 200,000.

According to the Department of Home Affairs, there were 221,695 applications in the queue as of May 31st.

(Source: www.sbs.com.au)
Episode 16 - This episode is about the new Partner points, 489 Family sponsored, claiming work experience, What the new invite marks may be from November 2019, and PHD work experience. Lots in this one .. so bit more than 5 minutes!
www.iscah.com/episode-17-four-visa-questions-5-minutes/

Episode 17 - This episode is about Special Education points, Orana (NSW) 489 sponsorship, WA state sponsorship, 189 invitations for July 2019
www.iscah.com/episode-17-four-visa-answers-5-minutes/

(Source: Iscah)
The following changes will commence on 10 July 2019.
Change to Job Ready Journal monthly / quarterly journal process
TRA is changing the way it monitors a JRE participant’s work experience and skills development during steps 2-4 of the program.
JRE participants will no longer be required to complete a monthly work journal entry through the online portal. This will be replaced by a new, simpler Quarterly Progress Report process.
The new template for this quarterly report will be emailed to participants every three months, or as required, for completion until a successful Job Ready Workplace Assessment is achieved.
Current JRE participants will no longer have access to the JRE Journal page in the online portal after 10 July 2019, but the number of validated work hours can still be viewed.

Claiming Prior Employment
New JRE applicants must claim any prior employment period at the time they submit their JRE application. Claims will not be accepted at any other time.
Applicants enter the date they started working with an employer during the online JRE application process and must provide supporting pay evidence for the period being claimed with their application documents. Only pay evidence submitted as part of the application will be considered.

Employment Verification Report
As from 10 July 2019, applicants and current participants will be able to download an Employment Verification Report relevant to their nominated occupation from the TRA website. The Report must be completed and signed by the employer and/or supervisor who signs the Employment Registration Form. It must be provided to TRA with any Employment Registration Form.

Further Information
Further information on the new processes will be provided in the Job Ready Program Applicant Guidelines and on the TRA website. FAQS for the new processes will also be available on the TRA website.

(Source: TRA)
16) Skill Select results from 11th June 2019 round

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 11 June 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa subclass</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Regional (provisional) visa (subclass 489)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2018-19 program year the following numbers of invitations have been issued:

11 June 2019 results

The following graph shows the points for clients who were invited to apply in the 11 June 2019 round.
**Invitation process and cut off points**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points score</th>
<th>Date of effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2211</td>
<td>Accountants</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>10/06/2019 10:14pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2212</td>
<td>Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>28/05/2019 5:08pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2334</td>
<td>Electronics Engineer</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>10/06/2019 2:06pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2335</td>
<td>Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>20/05/2019 10:18pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2339</td>
<td>Other Engineering Professionals</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>23/05/2019 4:08pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2611</td>
<td>ICT Business and System Analysts</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10/05/2019 3:16pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2613</td>
<td>Software and Applications Programmers</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>7/06/2019 11:32am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2631</td>
<td>Computer Network Professionals</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>31/05/2019 12:32am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DHA)
OK folks, see you all on Monday 19th August

Be good

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