

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Edition Number 255 | 17th September 2019

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Okay folks

Welcome to another busy edition of our monthly visa newsletter. It brings together all the changes we have heard about and interesting news items over the last 4 weeks

We publish on the 3rd Monday of each month, and if you want to read backcopies check us at [www.iscah.com](http://www.iscah.com)

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On to September's news ...



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## 1) WA 190/489 invite results for 8th August 2019

Graduate stream - profiles of the last invited EOIs for the Graduate stream were as follows.

Last invited EOI - Visa subclass 190 06/08/2019	Bachelor Degree	5 points	Proficient	70
Last invited EOI - Visa subclass 489 27/07/2019	Bachelor Degree	5 points	Proficient	85

### SNMP General stream

No occupations were restricted

SNMP Graduate stream

Occupation	Visa subclass	Qualification level	Work experience points	English level	EOI points score	Submission date
<b>221111 Accountant (General)</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>PhD / Masters</b>	<b>5 points</b>	<b>Superior</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>01/06/2019</b>

(Source: WA State Government)

## 2) Interesting Migration related articles in the media

Links to interesting migration articles in this last month

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-23/permanent-migration-cut-looms-coalition-home-affairs/11438240>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/visa-changes-spark-concerns-of-creating-permanently-temporary-migrants-in-australia>

<https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-dysfunction-in-home-affairs-officially-confirmed>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/30/thousands-of-public-servants-want-to-quit-peter-duttons-home-affairs-department>

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/migration-intake-drops-to-lowest-level-in-decade/news-story/>

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2019/09/06/migrants-infrastructure>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/coalition-loses-control-of-visa-system,13104>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/plans-to-tighten-character-test-wins-senate-committee-approval-despite-deportation-concerns>

<http://online.isentialink.com/theaustralian.com.au/2019/09/13/3573ddd2-eca5-460f-855e-dd3f57baa0c7.html> (South Australia migration)

### 3) NSW invites for 190 visas in 2019

A useful list of EOIs that were issued a NSW invite

[www.iscah.com/results-nsw-190-invitations-2019/](http://www.iscah.com/results-nsw-190-invitations-2019/)

We are not able to answer any questions about why you may not have received an invitations

NSW invite different numbers in different occupations each round and points is not their only criteria now

(Source: Freedom of Information request)

### 4) Professional year points

DHA have confirmed that the professional year points will only be awarded for occupations in the same first 4 digits as a coding of the following occupation groups as follows ...

- information technology graduates
- accounting graduates
- engineering graduates

DHA reply .. "Thank you for your recent enquiry to the department of Home Affairs regarding allocation of points for graduates of the Professional Year (PY).

The 6D PI is currently being reviewed in anticipation of the commencement of the new 6D points on 16 November, however, consistent with what is currently in the 6D procedural instruction in regards to closely related occupations located under 'Assessing employment claims' then 'Closely related occupations', PY points will be awarded to closely related occupations within the same 4-digit unit group."

This suggests that professional year points cannot be used for an Occupation such as External Auditor which has a different 4 digit ANZSCO coding. We are trying to confirm ...

- DHA just confirmed .. so must be in the same first 4 digits ANZSCO coding. So External Auditors and others cannot claim professional year points in their EOIs.

(Source: DHA)

## 5) Personalised Visa Report each month

Thanks for the great feedback following our first few editions 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. It will be an essential publication to prepare for the new 491 visa in November 2019

To get your own report related to your occupation, points and EOI effect date, subscribe here – [www.iscah.com/members](http://www.iscah.com/members)

(here is a sample btw for a different occupation - [www.iscah.com/wp\\_files/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Management-Consultant-Report.pdf](http://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Management-Consultant-Report.pdf))

## 6) Foreign Students abandon WA

In June West Australian Premier Mark McGowan wrote to the commonwealth asking for Perth to be classed as regional for the purpose of being eligible to offer the new regional study incentives. Picture: AAP

Foreign students are deserting Western Australia as a place to study, and education experts say the commonwealth's new incentive scheme for students to move to regional cities is likely to be the nail in the coffin for the industry.

Perth-based colleges and universities are reporting a substantial downturn in students opting to come to the state, with TAFE enrolments down nearly 60 per cent on 2015 and WA's intake of foreign fee-paying students dropping from 11 per cent of total market share to only 5 per cent.

Experts say the problem lies in the state's ineligibility to offer a new range of incentives under proposed changes to immigration and population policy changes, announced in March by Prime Minister Scott Morrison and due to be rolled out in November.

Under new federal measures for visa-holding students who may want to stay on after graduation, students can apply for a new post-study work visa if they complete their degree in all regional areas except Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Perth.

The aim is to address congestion in major cities and redistribute fee-paying foreign students to less populated parts of Australia. Incentives include a \$15,000 scholarship, an extra year of work rights added to their visa, and the promise of fast-tracked visa processing.

Study Perth chief executive Phil Payne said WA's education industry suffered its first blow in 2017 when the Labor government asked the commonwealth to remove the state from the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, upholding an election promise to protect jobs for local workers.

The removal of regional status denied foreign students access to five extra visa points that could be claimed for studying in a regional area.

Perth was trailing other states in its international student intake, Mr Payne said. "This commonwealth measure gives a further disincentive to choose Perth and puts it at a further competitive disadvantage," he said.

Mr Payne said the state government launched an action plan in October last year to remedy the drop in student numbers, with an additional \$4.5m across three years for recruitment drives. "But without new policy settings, changing student expectations will be compromised," he said.

Principal of English language training college Phoenix Academy Robynne Walsh said she has slashed staff numbers by 20 per cent. She warned that enrolments in pre-university and language tuition would decline further unless realistic incentives were offered to students to remain in Perth post-study.

"This state is no longer attractive to international students," she said. "Studying in a region that provides a possibility of a migration pathway provides a great 'buy before you try' opportunity."

Ms Walsh said Perth, which once had a healthy per capita share of foreign enrolments, still employed more than 12,000 people in foreign student-related education and produced \$1.8bn of income.

"But whole families are now packing up and leaving so students can study in places like Adelaide and Hobart," she said. International student enrolments in WA up to June this year amount to only about 39,000 out of more than 700,000 nationally.

Ms Walsh said the decline in WA's market share equated to a loss of \$2bn to the state economy.

In June, Premier Mr McGowan wrote to the commonwealth asking for Perth to be classed as regional for the purpose of being eligible to offer the new regional study incentives.

Education Minister Sue Ellery also urged the commonwealth to adopt "a more nuanced approach" to population and migration policy settings. She said WA, unlike other states, had few regional centres outside metropolitan Perth where international students could study.

"To exclude Perth from the incentive scheme for small and regional cities will be catastrophic, and a massive advantage is being handed to Adelaide, Hobart, Canberra and Darwin," she said.

(Source: The Australian newspaper)

## 7) September estimates on when you may get your 189 invitation

September 2019 Estimates on when you may get a 189 invitation

Another low figure of likely close to 100 invitations

Our best guess is that with around 18000 visa applications (including family members) already lodged and undecided from the 2018/19 financial year, there is no need for DHA to issue many invites for a few months

### Assumptions

DHA have a budget target of 18,625 grants less 2000 for NZ citizens.

DHA have a backlog of 18000 cases.

To reduce this to 10000 (so processing remains at 7 months average) we believe DHA will only want 9000 new applicants.

Factor in 30% wastage is 12800 applicants

Each applicant has 2.0 people means 6,400 invitations

100 per month until November 2019, 700 until June 2020 then back to 1000 a month in July

Split as 70% for Pro Rata occupation invites and 30% for non Pro Rata invites

(Note these estimates do not yet factor in extra Partner points from 16/11/2019. In general all invite marks will rise by 5 points then)



Assumptions		EOI Lodged					Copyright Iscah 2019
DHA have a budget target of 18,625 grants less 2000 for NZ citizens. DHA have a backlog of 18000 cases. To reduce this to 10000 (so processing remains at 7 months average) we believe DHA will only want 9000 new applicants. Factor in 30% wastage is 12800 applicants Each applicant has 2.0 people means 6,400 invitations 100 per month until November 2019, 700 until June 2019 then back to 1000 a month in July		today (11 September 2019)	3 months ago (11/06/19)	6 months ago (11/01/19)	9 months ago (11/12/18)	12 months ago (11/09/18)	
2211 Accountants	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/12/2019 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited 11/08/2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2212 Auditors	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2334 Electronics Engineer	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/10/2019 11/03/2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited 11/01/2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2335 Ind, Mech, Production Engineers	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/12/2019 11/08/2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited 11/02/2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2339 Other Engineering Professionals	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/11/2019 not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited 11/05/2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2611 ICT Business Analysts	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/01/2020 not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2613 Software Applications Programmer	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/01/2020 not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
2631 Computer Network Professionals	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/01/2020 not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite EOI expires before invite
ALL other NON pro rata occupations *	90 points 85 points 80 points 75 points 70 points 65 points	11/10/2019 11/10/2019 11/02/2020 not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite	invited invited 11/12/2019 not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited 11/07/2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite	invited invited invited not before Sep 2020 not before Sep 2020 EOI expires before invite

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 DHA issue each round, the limitations against some of the pro rata occupations, and a number of other factors listed here – <https://www.iscah.com/use-189-eoi-predictions/>

(Source: Iscah)

## 8) Migration Program focusing on Regional Australia

The Morrison Government's Migration Program is tackling population pressures in our major cities, and backing regional areas looking for growth to secure their economic future.

160,323 visas were granted in 2018-19 under the Permanent Migration Program, the lowest number in a decade.

The program also delivered 8987 places under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, up from 6,221 places in 2017-18 – a 44 per cent increase.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said the Government will continue to increase its focus on regional migration.

"Our population plan will ease the pressure on the big capitals while supporting the growth of those smaller cities and regions that want more people," Mr Coleman said.

"This year, we've reduced the cap for the Migration Program from 190,000 to 160,000.

"We're also dedicating 23,000 places for regional skilled migrants and have announced two new regional visas to help fill some of the tens of thousands of job vacancies in regional Australia.

"We're directing migration to those smaller cities and regional areas that are crying out for more people and those regional economies that simply cannot fill jobs with local workers."

The migration program also continues to focus on growing the Australian economy and filling skills gaps, with 109,713 visas granted under the Skill stream of the 2018-19 program - about 70 per cent of the program.

"Skilled migrants have high employment participation rates, low unemployment rates and good annual earnings," Mr Coleman said.

"We'll continue to back those migrants who bring critical skills into the country – those who work hard, pay taxes and contribute to funding essential services for Australians."

47,247 family visas were also delivered in the 2018-19 Migration Program.

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

## 9) Updates on 489 processing in regional areas and 491 planning

### RDA Riverina (NSW) 489 update -

They have confirmed they were only given 175 places for the 489 program and received over 600 applications for these limited places.

They have started offering the option to some unsuccessful candidates to be instead considered for the 491 visa from 16/11/2019

### Message being received from some clients related to 489 Riverina (NSW) -

We received over 600 EOIs in July 2019 and only have 175 nomination places for the 2019-2020 program year.

In this period, we are unfortunately unable to progress your EOI.

If you would like your EOI to be considered for the new visa 491 after it opens in November 2019 and you are eligible you are welcome to notify us by email. If you have already paid the EOI fee, you will not be required to pay this again.

### News from Orana (NSW) about the new 491 process

"September 11 2019: The State of NSW has stopped accepting applications for nomination for subclass 489 visas. We expect the subclass 491 EOI process will open in mid-late October with a view to submitting our first subclass 491 applications for nomination by NSW State in mid-late November 2019.

The exact process, application criteria, occupation list and application form we expect to be similar to the expired subclass 489 procedure, however, this is subject to confirmation.

Please do not call our office seeking information, it will be posted here as soon as it becomes available.

Applicants who have ongoing, full-time employment in our region in their field are our preferred applicants... "

(Source: State regional bodies)

## 10) DHA Average processing times for lodged visa applications

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

(Source: DHA)

## 11) Skill Select results for 2631 Computer Network results

Skill Select 189 results for Computer Network Professionals in August Round - (corrected text)

The published result on the DHA website was  
2631 Computer Network Professionals 80 14/07/2019 8:37pm

This looks clearly wrong. We have confirmed 3 EOIs that were not invited at 80 points that have waited longer

More importantly the lowest ranked 489 and 189 invite published on their website were  
- 189 invited at 85 points EOI date of 01/08/2019  
- 489 invited at 80 points EOI date of 21/01/2019

It is not possible for a 189 to be invited at 80 points for 2631 and not have the total 189 lowest ranked invite still to be on 85 points

And if it was a 489 invite referred to as the lowest 2631 invite then the 489 general date above should read 14/07/2019 not 21/01/2019 ..

DHA have told us this result was correct. However we have gone back to them again pointing out that it logically cannot be

We will update any information we receive back

(Source: Iscah and DHA)

## 12) Review of Skilled Occupation Lists

The Morrison Government has commenced a review of the skilled migration occupation lists, welcoming feedback from interested stakeholders, particularly those in regional areas.

Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, said the department review of the skilled migration occupation list was to ensure it is responsive to genuine skill needs and regional variations across Australia.

“As a Government, our role is to ensure that Australian employers can access workers with the skills needed to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow when they can’t be met by the domestic workforce,” Minister Cash said.

Minister Cash reiterated the Morrison Government’s skilled migration policies were underpinned by the principle that Australian workers are considered first for jobs.

“As part of the review, my department will consult with industry, employers, unions and individuals in developing advice for the Morrison Government on the occupations required to meet the labour market needs of the Australian economy.”

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon David Coleman MP, said the Government’s migration program is focussed on ensuring employers can access workers to fill critical skills shortages, particularly in regional Australia.

“We’ve allocated 23,000 regional migration places, introduced two new regional visas and signed Designated Area Migration Agreements around the country to attract migrants to the regions, help towns grow and to fill some of the 60,000 job vacancies in regional Australia,” Minister Coleman said.

“The Morrison Government is continuing to look closely at ways of filling these skills gaps in regional areas and giving businesses more certainty and confidence that they can get the workers they need, when they need them.”

Occupation lists underpin a range of employer-sponsored, points tested and state-nominated visa programs. This review will inform the next update to the lists, in March 2020.

For further details on the consultation process, including a timeline of the review process, visit the [www.employment.gov.au/SkilledMigrationList](http://www.employment.gov.au/SkilledMigrationList)

(Source: Australian Federal Government)

## 13) Migration shortfall for 2019/2020



DHA have announced a planning level of 160,000 migrants for 2019/2020

This is split, as in past years, as 70% for skilled visas and 30% for family visa categories. However, in our analysis, DHA are going to have a BIG hole in these skilled visa figures on current program directions.

First of all, here are the allocations for each category from the budget figures:  
2019-20 Migration program planning levels

### 2019-20 Migration program planning levels

Stream and category	2019-20
<b>Skill stream</b>	
Employer Sponsored	30,000
Skilled Independent	18,652
Regional	23,000
Skilled Employer Sponsored 494	9,000
Skilled Work Regional 491	14,000
State/Territory Nominated	24,968
Business Innovation & Investment program	6,862
Global Talent	5,000
Distinguished Talent	200
<b>Skill Total</b>	<b>108,682</b>
<b>Family Stream</b>	
Partner	39,799
Parent	7,371
Other Family	562
<b>Family Total</b>	<b>47,732</b>
<b>Special Eligibility</b>	<b>236</b>
Child (estimate; not subject to a ceiling)	3,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,000</b>

Of the 108,682 skilled visas, DHA has 3 potential holes.

## **New Global Talent Visa**

The pilot scheme for this visa has resulted in less than 30 visa grants in its first year. The criteria is quite complicated and more difficult than other similar company sponsored visas. If DHA think that in the remaining 10 months of this program year they are going to change the narrative and attraction of this visa and grant more than 1000 visas in this category (never mind the budgeted 5000 figure) they are dreaming. Our prediction is 4500 short of their target.

## **494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) Visa**

The RSMS 187 visa will close on 16/11/2019 and be replaced by this new 494 temporary visa. It looks like DHA will count this provisional visa as a permanent migrant visa, which is a little sneaky as many people will struggle to keep the same job (albeit in different regional companies) for a full 3 years to actually get their permanent residence. It is logical also that anyone even close to getting regionally sponsored will be moving heaven and earth to apply BEFORE 16/11/2019 so they can qualify for PR straight away through the current 187 pathway. So there will be barely a trickle of applicants in late November, December and January (2020) for this new 494 visa and their target of 9000 visa grants.

Also DHA are continuing with the ludicrously difficult 3 years post graduate work experience requirement as an essential criteria, so regional companies will struggle to find candidates in Australia for that visa. They already are screaming out that they have skills shortages and DHAs response is not working at all.

Currently regional visas are taking 18 months to grant. Even if DHA miraculously come up with some extra processing officers who can process these 494 visas with priority in let's say 3 months they are going to have a woeful number by 30th June 2020 actually granted. Our best guess is 2000 grants for 2019/20 and so 7000 short of their target.

## **491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) Visa**

Finally the 491 visa has a target of 14,000. This will be split into two pathways, state and family sponsored. The state 491 visa pathway has big issues to meet whatever its quota is. Let's assume that 7000 places go to state sponsored and 7000 to family sponsored.

State governments are required to approve nominations before a person can apply for this new 491 visa. These State authorities have struggled to cope with the processing of the about to be closed 489 visa nominations in recent months and so the 491s are going to create enormous processing pressures for them. Let's assume that they manage to do their sponsoring stage in 2 months (I think this is optimistic) and they invite a reasonably healthy number. Then assume DHA (already with significant staff shortages) somehow manage to find case officers to approve any lodged 491 visa applications in just 3 months. That in itself would be amazing given 189s and 489s are currently taking closer to 10 months to process. So that is 2 months for a state sponsorship approval, an immediate lodgement of the visa and 3 months processing, so 5 months.

Given the 491 visa only starts on 16/11/2019 and visas have to be granted by 30/6/2020 to be in this year's program figures, that means only applicants starting this 5 months process in late November, December and January (2020) will be granted in this program year. We predict the state sponsored pathway will be around 2000 grants and so will be a massive 5000 short of their target.

So to recap we believe DHA will be  $4500 + 7000 + 5000 = 16,500$  short of their skilled targets. All based on the late start to the program year for new visa categories and the visa processing times for those visas (even being optimistic).

It is likely some of this anticipated 16500 can be made up through undecided ENS/RSMS applications, although processing is extremely slow for those and so DHA do not seem to care about finalising those with any hurry at the moment. And the department are unlikely to use the skilled visa allocation for family sponsored visas as that will split the sensitive 70/30 split between skilled and family visas that has continued for many years now

There is separately a massive backlog of undecided visa applications in other categories with over 200,000 people currently on bridging visas. And further the Australian economy has almost flat lined (growth down to 1.4 %) where in the past it was assisted by a larger migration program. Finally the national housing market has heavily been hurt by the lack of new migrants wanting to more establish themselves over the least few years.

So maybe there is hope that some of these places will be directed to the long suffering 189 category that has been reduced to just 18,652 grants this program year. They will have to come from somewhere !

(Source: Iscah)

## 14) Vetassess and DAMA skills assessments

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/skills-assessment-for-migration/designated-area-migration-agreements>

DAMA skills assessments are for skilled and semi-skilled overseas workers who intend to migrate to Australia under the DAMA program. The following states/ territories currently have DAMA agreements in place.

<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>DAMA</b>
SA	Adelaide City Technology and Innovation Advancement Agreement
SA	South Australian Regional Workforce Agreement
WA	Goldfields
VIC	Great South Coast
NSW	Orana
QLD	Far North Queensland

(Source: Vetassess)

## 15) Bridging visa holders in Australia

Interesting table on which applications bridging visa holders applied for ..

<https://www.vsure.com.au/what-is-causing-the-boom-in-bridging-visas>

<b>Visa Type</b>	<b>Bridging Visa Holders (Est)</b>
<b>Partner</b>	34,000
<b>ENS</b>	25,000
<b>Graduate Temporary</b>	21,000
<b>General Skilled Migration</b>	18,500
<b>Protection</b>	18,000
<b>RSMS</b>	18,000
<b>Parent</b>	10,500
<b>Student</b>	9,000
<b>Employer Sponsored (457 + TSS)</b>	2,500
<b>Working Holiday</b>	1,500
<b>Appeals/Other</b>	37,000
<b>Total</b>	195,000

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



## 16) September 189 Skill Select results

There is so little data available that it is pointless to publish a results table. The only results we have seen unofficially are

2613 @90 points - date of effect 02/09/2019  
2611 @90 points - date of effect 01/09/2019  
2335 @85 points - date of effect 02/08/2019  
2621 (non pro rata) @ 90 points - date of effect 05/09/2019

We are trying to confirm several other results and when we do we will post them on this thread. If we receive a few more we may publish a September table

The most recent 489 FS invite we have seen is -  
2613 @85 points - date of effect 11/06/2019

Our best guess is that DHA, with around 18000 backlog and a 189 visa program year of 18500 already, have enough applicants to meet their program. The minister has suggested that he does not want processing to blow out past 6 months as an average and so that means reducing the backlog to around 9000. the best way to do that is invite very few applicants for quite a few months.

(Source: Iscah)

OK folks, have a great month  
and see you all on Monday  
21st October




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