

Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Hey folks,

Slowly Australia is starting to recover socially and economically from Covid-19. Visa processing is going towards the health and associated professions and I am sure the Federal Government will be looking at what occupations need to be added and dropped off from skills lists as we continue the recovery.

The Federal budget in October 2020 will give much more guidance

Here is this months news on all the information we have so far on visa changes.

If you want backcopies you can find them at www.iscah.com

Also if you want to subscribe or unsubscribe (It is free) just email us to newsletter@iscah.com (not the auto email you received the newsletter from)

Ok on to June's news...



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1) Northern Territory 190 nomination changes

Potential changes for 1st July 2020

NT Graduates - eligible for 190 only if they

- Complete 2 years of study in the NT leading to a qualification
- Live in the NT for at least 6 months after completing studies (for those who complete studies on or after 1 July 2020)
- Demonstrate genuine efforts to obtain employment in nominated occupation
- Demonstrate ongoing commitment to reside and work in the NT

* If you have completed 2 years of study in the NT leading to a qualification but are unable to meet the above criteria, you may be eligible for 491 if you are able to demonstrate strong employability.

(Source: NT government)

2) Reminder of proposed Occupation changes prior to Covid-19

DHA and the Department of Employment have been going through a process of assessing possible changes to the skilled occupation lists due for March 2020

https://docs.employment.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/smol_traffic_light_bulletin_december_2019_0.pdf

As has been obvious that has been delayed and they just announced similar on their website ...

COVID-19 update: Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the announcement on updates to the skilled migration occupation lists has been delayed. This page will be kept up to date with the most current information the Department has regarding the timing of the announcement.

For information about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australia's migration system, please go to the Department of Home Affairs website at

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

(Source: Department of Employment)

3) Updated DHA processing times for lodged applications

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

4) Covid-19 update and FAQs from Immigration department

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions>

5) ACT update on occupation list and processing times

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/act-occupation-list>

6) Recent Immigration/visa media articles

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/settlement-guide-women-on-temporary-visas-experiencing-family-violence>

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/migration-reset-looms-in-budget-as-government-eyes-super-skilled-talent-20200521-p54vcl.html>

<https://go8.edu.au/in-the-media-universities-propose-secure-corridor-rules-for-international-students>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8363873/Why-migration-drop-bad-news-Australias-economic-recovery.html>

<https://johnmenadue.com/abul-rizvi-global-talent-independent-visa-permanent-residence-in-a-week-or-two>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/coronavirus-inquiry-told-of-shocking-and-wilful-neglect-of-temporary-visa-holders-in-australia>

<https://www.scmp.com/print/news/asia/australasia/article/3086938/australia-stalled-migration-bad-news-faltering-economy-heads>

<https://www.realestate.com.au/news/sydney-property-decrease-in-migrants-due-to-coronavirus-to-have-major-impact-on-market>

<https://independentaustralia.net/australia/australia-display/forecast-of-net-overseas-migration-for-the-2020s,13978>

7) June Skill Select round for 189/491

It seems that some more occupations have come under Health professionals such as Food Technologist and Biomedical Engineer

Early indications for 189 -

Health professionals got down to 85 points (EOI effect date 29/1/2020)

491 (Family sponsored) -

Biomedical Engineer (presumably is defined as a health professional) 95 points (EOI effect date 16/11/2019)

We have not seen any invites except health professionals again this round. And all invites seem to be for EOIs where country of residence is listed as Australia.

8) NSW 491 opens on 15th June 2020 for just 8 days

<https://www.iscah.com/nsw-491-visas-open-from-15th-june-2020>

NSW 491 visas open from 15th June 2020

NSW Treasury will begin accepting for NSW nomination for the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) on Monday 15 June 2020.

NSW Treasury will stop accepting applications at 5pm Tuesday 23 June 2020.

Applications will be assessed by the end of the financial year; Tuesday 30 June 2020.

Who can apply?

Only candidates who meet all the requirements below will be able to submit an application.

If you do not meet these requirements, we strongly urge you not to apply as your application will be declined.

The NSW nomination fee is not refundable.

Requirements

You can only apply for NSW nomination if you meet Department of Home Affairs' requirements for this visa and:

1. have an occupation on the NSW Stream 1 Regional Skilled Occupation List (see below), and;
2. have been living in a designated regional area in NSW for at least the last 12 months, and;
3. have been working in a designated regional area in NSW for at least the last 12 months, and;
4. have been working in your nominated occupation, or a closely related occupation, for at least the last 12 months.

If you do not meet all of these requirements, you are not able to apply for NSW nomination.

How to apply

We will publish information on how to apply for NSW nomination on our website on Monday, 15 June 2020.

Your application

As we have a short time-frame to assess your application, it is important that your application is complete.

Before submitting your application, please carefully review our frequently asked questions and document checklist which will be included in our application form.

These will be published on our website on Monday 15 June 2020.

Contacting us

To help us focus on assessing your application, we will not be able to be contacted by phone from Monday 15 June to Tuesday 30 June 2020.

If you need to contact us to expedite your application, or for other urgent matters, please send an email to:

(Source: NSW State Government)

9) NSW 491 for next financial year 2020/21

We believe that NSW have run this short 491 program from the 15th June 2020 in order to use as much of the allocation of the 491s given to them by DHA for the 2019/20 program year.

As mentioned previously we believe that the RDA (NSW regional authorities) will have a much bigger role in assessing 491 nominations from July 2020 and it may be that they have different and more flexible criteria to the NSW state government.

Although this is not confirmed by NSW yet.

10) DHA update on 189 skill select invitations

Message from DHA about 189 skill select invites at the moment -

The Government is closely monitoring migration and visa settings to ensure they are consistent with public health measures, are flexible and do not displace job opportunities for Australians so that Australia can deal with the immediate and post recovery impacts of COVID-19. There is no further information we can provide you on invitation rounds at this time.

(Source: DHA)

11) Numbers of 476s lodged and granted in this program year

Details of lodged and granted 476 visa applications in 2019/2020

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200200850-document-released.PDF>

12) Tasmania's 190/491 Covid-19 flexibility

Flexibility COVID-19 policy for Tasmanian state sponsorship expanded -

Flexible nomination requirements for applicants affected by COVID-19 restrictions

The following information may change in response to decisions made by the Australian Government in relation to the Skilled Migration Program COVID-19 response. The Tasmanian Government may also introduce further changes to the state nomination program in response to COVID-19 or to align with the skills needs of the state. It is therefore important that you continue to check this website for any changes before applying for nomination.

- Students in Tasmania completing online study

Will accept online study with a Tasmanian CRICOS provider completed during the period courses were not able to be delivered on campus. Applicants must have been living in Tasmania during this period and must have completed all of their study in Tasmania.

- Graduates how have completed study in Tasmania but are unable to return after travelling overseas

Eligible for consideration if able to provide evidence course was completed in Tasmania, have temporarily left Tasmania and are unable to return due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Students must show that they were genuinely affected by travel restrictions and intend to return to Tasmania. These applicants must meet all other published requirements for subclass 190 or 491 nomination, including the minimum Tasmanian residence period.

- Currently overseas - partially completed course

Remote / online study for applicants who commenced their courses in Tasmania, departed temporarily and have been unable to return to Tasmania due to COVID 19 travel restrictions will be accepted where they have genuinely been unable to return to Tasmania. Applicants must have commenced course in Tasmania, lived in Tasmania for a minimum 12 months and completed a minimum total of 12 months study on campus.

- New enrolments – course commenced outside Tasmania

Applicants who commenced study with a Tasmanian institution, but were unable to arrive in Tasmania due to COVID-19 restrictions and commenced their studies remotely while waiting for restrictions to be lifted will be eligible for consideration if they:

- a. Completed a two academic year course and arrived in Tasmania soon after restrictions were lifted; and
- b. Lived and studied in Tasmania for a period of at least 12 months

Courses of one academic year must be completed solely in Tasmania – no period of remote study will be accepted. This includes students who enrolled in one year courses but did not arrive in Tasmania before entry restrictions.

(Source: Tasmanian State Government)

13) Job Ready Program (TRA) changes

From 11 June 2020, TRA is streamlining the way applications and documents are submitted to Trades Recognition Service (TRA) for all steps of the JRP.

Step 1: Provisional Skills Assessment

Step 2: Job Ready Employment

Step 3: Job Ready Workplace Assessment

Step 4: Job Ready Final Assessment

Applications for each step of the JRP are completed online through the TRA online portal, which can be accessed via the TRA website. Documentation supporting an application is uploaded online at the time of submitting an application and must be in a PDF format.

Applicants will no longer need to print, scan and email application forms to TRA.

An application can only be submitted online once all the mandatory fields are completed, the required documentation uploaded and the application fee payment is accepted.

JRP applications submitted online prior to 11 June 2020 can still be emailed to jrpdocuments@dese.gov.au and will be processed by TRA.

JRP Supporting Documentation

From 11 June 2020, all supporting documentation must be submitted through the TRA online portal. Applicants are no longer required to email any JRP supporting documentation to TRA.

Applicants must upload all supporting documentation, such as skills and employment reports and pay evidence, via their online portal account in the TRA online portal.

Supporting documentation emailed prior to 11 June 2020 will be processed and does not need to be uploaded in the online portal.

Updates to the JRP Applicant Guidelines

The JRP Applicant Guidelines will be updated to reflect the new application and supporting documentation submission processes. The eligibility requirements for each step of the JRP will remain the same.

If you intend to apply for any step of the JRP after 11 June 2020, you must meet the program requirements and submit your application as detailed in the new JRP Applicant Guidelines June 2020.

All questions relating to the JRP must be emailed to jrpenquiries@dese.gov.au.

(Source: TRA)

14) NSW 190 changes

NSW amend the living in NSW rule for selected occupations to be 6 months immediately before being sponsored for a 190 visa

<https://www.business.nsw.gov.au/live-and-work-in-nsw/visas-and-immigration/Skilled-Nominated-visa-subclass-190>

15) Victoria close for 190/491s

Message from Vic State government

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/.../close-of-victorias-ski...>

Closure of Victoria's skilled nominated visa (subclass 190 and 491) for 2019-20

Victoria's skilled visa nomination program is now closed as we have filled the places provided to us by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs for the 2019-20 program year.

This includes both the Skilled Nominated (Permanent) visa (subclass 190) and the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491).

Applications received prior to 28 May 2020 will continue to be assessed and you will be advised of the outcome in due course. New applications will be accepted in 2020-21.

Victoria is facing economic and health challenges posed by coronavirus (COVID-19). To help us respond to this challenge, priority will be given to occupations in sectors critical to the coronavirus response in allocating remaining nomination places.

We encourage you to reapply in the new program year. You will be given an automatic waiver which means you will not have to wait six months to reapply.

You will need to check for any updates to the eligibility requirements before reapplying. A new application will need to be submitted via the Live in Melbourne portal.

Please be aware, we continue to accept nomination applications for the following visas:

- Business Innovation – Extension only (subclass 188A Extension)
- Significant Investor – Extension only (subclass 188C Extension)
- Permanent Business Innovation (subclass 888A)
- Permanent Investor (subclass 888B)
- Permanent Significant Investor (subclass 888C).

Thank you for your continued interest in migrating to Victoria.

(Source: Victorian state government)

16) Tips for Vetassess skills assessments

<https://www.vetassess.com.au/home/updates/post/9-tips-for-a-skills-assessment-for-australian-migration-purposes>

17) Western Australian 190/491 invitation results

<https://www.iscah.com/wa-state-invite-results-may-20th-2020>

18) ACS skills assessment changes

ACS changes from 1st July 2020

<https://www.mia.org.au/documents/item/1693>

19) Backlog of lodges 189 visa applications in DHA

189 current backlog of cases with DHA

We just received the latest number of 189s that have been lodged with DHA and still undecided as of 30th April 2020

189 Primary applicants

Global Talent – 88

NZ pathway – 2263

Points Test – 3078

189 Secondary applicants

Global Talent – 67

NZ pathway – 3123

Points Test – 2218

Total 10,837

And the number Granted from 1st July 2019 to 30th April 2020

189 Primary applicants

Global Talent -152

NZ pathway – 1560

Points Test – 4014

189 Secondary applicants

Global Talent – 125

NZ pathway – 2047

Points Test – 3858

Total 6030

(Source: DHA)

Ok folks.
That's all for the last month
Keep well and see you all
on Monday 20th July 2020




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