

Iscah Migration Newsletter

Edition Number 265 | 21st July 2020

Hey everyone,

Welcome to another edition of our monthly visa newsletter accumulating all the useful visa information we have gathered over the last 4 weeks.

The Australian government is still in lockdown mode but this month signs of a slow rebirth are emerging. They have issued several policy documents on supporting international students and their visa options later on. Have referred to a new shortened occupation list that will be expanded when we have a vaccine, and have confirmed there will be a 2020/21 state migration program starting shortly.

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 July's news...



Contents

- 1) Recent Media articles on visa issues
- 2) Official DHA update on 2020/21 Migration Program
- 3) DHA supporting international students
- 4) Migration update from Migration Institute of Australia
- 5) Skill Select advice on choosing multiple states
- 6) Regional Migration review put on hold
- 7) State 190/491 sponsorship updates
- 8) DHA update on processing times for lodged visa applications
- 9) Migrants thriving in Australia
- 10) ACS now will nominate for Global talent visas
- 11) Work rights for Student visa holders and COVID-19
- 12) Skill Select round 14th July 2020
- 13) NAATI update
- 14) Skill shortages July 2019
- 15) Visa application statistics
- 16) July Iscah visa reports

1) Recent Media articles on visa issues

<https://www.news.com.au/world/asia/thousands-of-hong-kong-residents-offered-safe-have-visas-in-australia/news-story/>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/covid-19-impact-australia-temporarily-suspends-skilled-migration-program>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/australia-set-ease-visa-hardship-foreign-students>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/07/coronavirus-means-australia-wont-meet-migration-forecasts-for-a-decade>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8495795/Australian-government-moves-offer-post-COVID-19-work-visas-international-students.html>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/can-free-courses-fix-damage-done-to-australia-s-reputation-among-international-students>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/07/australia-to-allow-international-university-students-to-return-before-all-state-borders-open>

<https://www.news.com.au/travel/travel-updates/warnings/federal-government-issues-do-not-travel-warning-for-hong-kong/news-story>

<https://theconversation.com/when-companies-go-bust-temporary-visa-holders-miss-out-and-thats-wrong-142281>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8532619/Australias-radical-immigration-shake-Skilled-visa-list-significantly-reduced.html>

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/australias-migration-and-humanitarian-programs-at-record-lows,14121>

2) Official DHA update on 2020/21 Migration Program

https://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/migrationprogram2021-2.pdf

3) DHA supporting international students

The Morrison Government is making a number of changes to student visa arrangements to ensure Australia remains a priority destination for international students as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

International students are extremely important to Australia and our economy, contributing \$40 billion annually and supporting 250,000 jobs. Many also go on to become great Australian citizens.

While the closure of our international borders has been critical to our success in slowing the spread of the coronavirus, and Australia has been a leader in this regard, it has presented challenges to the education sector and students, both here and offshore.

These five visa changes will ensure international students are not worse off due to the coronavirus pandemic and that Australia remains competitive with other countries.

The changes include:

- The Government will recommence granting student visas in all locations lodged outside Australia. This means when borders re-open, students will already have visas and be able to make arrangements to travel.
- International students will be able to lodge a further student visa application free of charge, if they are unable to complete their studies within their original visa validity due to COVID-19.
- Student visa holders studying online outside Australia due to COVID-19 will be able to use that study to count towards the Australian study requirement for a post-study work visa.
- Graduates who held a student visa will be eligible to apply for a post-study work visa outside Australia if they are unable to return due to COVID-19.
- Additional time will be given for applicants to provide English language results where COVID-19 has disrupted access to these services.

Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs Alan Tudge said the changes provide assurance to international students already in Australia and those who haven't been able to travel due to COVID-19 border closures.

"These measures back the international education sector – our fourth largest export sector – and will assist its recovery," Mr Tudge said.

"In making these changes, we have been guided by the principles that the health of Australians is key, but that international students should not be further disadvantaged by COVID-19.

"We are a welcoming nation with a world-class education system and some of the lowest rates of COVID-19 in the world. Students want to study here and we want to welcome them back in a safe and measured way when it is safe to do so.

"Doing so will not only support the education sector, it will also have flow-on effects for many local communities and businesses, including accommodation services, tourism, hospitality and retail."

Minister for Education Dan Tehan said the changes would give international students confidence in their visa arrangements so they can make plans to study in Australia when it is safe to do so.

"Our remarkable efforts in controlling the spread of the virus mean we can begin to welcome back international students in a COVID safe way once state borders re-open and face-to-face learning resumes," Mr Tehan said.

"As well as supporting jobs, international education builds our connection to the rest of the world and supports a number of critical industries like health, aged and disability care."

The Government has previously relaxed work restrictions for international students working in the health, aged and disability care sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been flexible in cases where the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented international students meeting their visa conditions, such as not being able attend classes in person.

(Source: Immigration Minister)

4) Migration update from Migration Institute of Australia

2020-21 Migration planning levels and allocations

As members will be aware the Federal Budget has been deferred until 4 October 2020 due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. This has implications for all government departments dependent on the financial allocations made as part of the Budget decisions. An economic and fiscal update will be provided by the Treasurer on 23 July 2020.

It is expected that the Department will consider changes to the Migration Program Planning Levels for 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 situation and higher levels of unemployment within the Australian workforce.

Migration numbers and state/territory nomination places have also been impacted, as well as the announcement of any changes to the occupation lists.

In the interim, the Department has indicated that the 2019-20 Migration Program settings will remain in place until further notice and will also shortly announce how state/territory nominations will be managed in the lead up to the October Budget.

(Source: MIA)

5) Skill Select advice on choosing multiple states

Please note: Intending migrants can now select 'Any', one, or multiple States/Territories they wish to be nominated by within the one EOI. The Department's preference is for you to use the multiple States/Territories functionality going forward, which will mean you do not need to create multiple EOIs.

(Source: DHA)

6) Regional Migration review put on hold

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportjnt/024490/toc_pdf/ReportoftheInquiryintoMigrationinRegionalAustralia.pdf

7) State 190/491 sponsorship updates

Basically ALL states have closed and now await an allocation of places for 190/491 sponsorship. Hopefully in August 2020

South Australia

Our Skilled and Business Migration programs are scheduled to re-open from early August. This will be dependent on the Commonwealth Government's allocation of state nomination places for program year 2020-21.

Please subscribe to the NEWS section of our website to keep up to date with any new announcements.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in South Australia's Skilled & Business Migration programs.

Victoria

Update to Victoria's subclass 491, 190, 188 and 132 visa nomination programs

The Victorian Government's state nomination program will remain temporarily closed while we await the Commonwealth Government's allocation of state nomination places for 2020-21.

In the meantime, you will not be able to apply for the following state nomination visas:

- Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491) visa
- Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa
- Business Innovation stream (subclass 188A) (Provisional) visa
- Investor stream (subclass 188B) (Provisional) visa
- Significant Investor stream (subclass 188C) (Provisional) visa
- Entrepreneur stream (subclass 188E) (Provisional) visa
- Significant Business History (subclass 132A) (Permanent) visa
- Venture Capital Entrepreneur (subclass 132B) (Permanent) visa

We will notify you when the 2020-21 Victorian state nomination program reopens after further advice from the Commonwealth Government. You can still lodge your Expression of Interest (EOI) through the Commonwealth's Department of Home Affairs SkillSelect system. An EOI will be required before you can apply for a Victorian visa nomination.

ACT

ACT guidelines AFTER 1st July 2020

<http://www.canberrayourfuture.com.au/portal/migrating/article/skilled-visa-act-nomination>

The Canberra Matrix cannot be accessed after 11pm on 30/06/2020 due to a system upgrade. The Matrix will be back online when the 2020-21 ACT nomination guidelines are published.

2020 - 21 ACT Nomination guidelines and ACT Occupation List

The 2020 - 21 ACT Nomination guidelines and ACT Occupation List will be published before the next invitation round is held on or before 1 August 2020

Queensland

BSMQ has been advised by the Department of Home Affairs (HA) that it will not be in a position to open the 2020/21 migration program on 1 July 2020.

As a consequence, BSMQ's business and skilled migration program will remain closed on 1 July 2020 until further notice. Please note: BSMQ will not be accepting any Expressions of Interests (EOIs) submitted on Skillselect from 1 July 2020. We will post an advice on this website, should the situation change.

BSMQ appreciates your patience in these challenging COVID-19 times. We thank you for your commitment to Queensland and look forward to opening the business and skilled migration program as soon as is possible

NSW 491/190 update

NSW is currently closed to applications for nomination under the Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) and the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491)

NSW will open to new nominations once the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs provides us with an allocation of positions for 2020-21. Invitation rounds for NSW nomination under the Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) will also commence at this time.

At this stage we are unable to advise when this will occur. Please continue to monitor our website for updates.

2020-21 Financial Year Update

Invitation rounds will commence after the Department of Home Affairs provides us with an allocation of positions for the 2020-21 financial year. At this stage we cannot advise when this will occur. Please continue to monitor our website for updates.

Please note: There are no set dates for invitation rounds, and we are unable to answer enquiries regarding this.

Western Australia

WA 190/491 invitation results for 23rd June 2020 –

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-western-australia/invitation-rounds/current-invitation-round>

WA Migration Services is awaiting allocation of State nomination places from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) for the 2020-21 program year. Invitation rounds have been paused during this time.

We will continue to assess applications received. Nominations in SkillSelect from 1 July 2020 will be dependent on DHA confirming allocation of places for the new program year. WA Migration Services appreciates your patience and looks forward to progressing the State migration program as soon as possible. Updates on future invitation rounds will be provided on the WA

8) DHA update on processing times for lodged visa applications

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

9) Migrants thriving in Australia

Latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows our continued success at welcoming and integrating migrants from around the world.

The data, which analyses working-age migrants, shows 34 per cent of Australia's population over 15 years old - 6.9 million people - were born overseas, similar to the data three years ago.

Of the 1.9 million working age migrants who arrived in Australia over the last decade, 68 per cent were employed, up from 65 per cent in the last Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey. This compares to 65 per cent for those born in Australia.

Recent migrants are also getting more skilled, with 69 per cent arriving with tertiary qualifications, up from 65 per cent in the previous survey. Of those, 90 per cent had their overseas qualification recognised.

Around a quarter of those who arrived without a non-school qualification have since obtained one in Australia.

ABS data has previously shown one in three small businesses in Australia are managed or owned by people born overseas, and employ hundreds of thousands of people right across Australia.

Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs Alan Tudge said the data shows migrants continue to be embraced and have great opportunities to succeed in Australia.

"Our migration program deliberately targets high skilled people to come to Australia and the evidence shows they do exceptionally well when they get here," Mr Tudge said.

"There is almost no better indicator of successful integration than the employment rate."

"In most wealthy countries the unemployment rate for migrants is considerably higher than those locally born, whereas OECD data has shown in Australia there is almost no difference."

"We should be proud of what we have achieved as a multicultural nation."

(Source: Immigration Minister)

10) ACS now will nominate for Global talent visas

The Australian Computer Society will now nominate for Global Talent Visa applications ..

<https://www.facebook.com/iscah.migration/photos/pcb.3169748769777783/3169747709777889>

<https://www.facebook.com/iscah.migration/photos/pcb.3169748769777783/3169748003111193>

11) Work rights for Student visa holders and COVID-19

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/student-visa>

12) Skill Select round 14th July 2020

Looks like another restricted round, health, engineer and agricultural is all we have seen so far.
Best visa 189 dates so far ...

Civil Engineer 90 points 9/06/2020
Electrical Engineer 90 15/05/2020
Med Prac 90 16/06/2020
Tele 90 21/05/2020
Agricultural Consultant 90 29/06/2020
Reg Nurse 90 9/06/2020
Electronic Engineer 90 16/11/2019 (29/1/20 in past round)
Chemical Engineer 90 20/02/2020
Petroleum Engineer 90 24/04/2020

For 491 , lowest ranked invite -
Engineering technologist 100 points 25/03/2020

(Source: Iscah)

13) NAATI update

Telugu Language Announcement:

In response to requests, NAATI would like to announce that Telugu has been added in the Credentialed Community Language (CCL) Testing.

Candidates can submit CCL applications from 22nd July 2020 for testing due in late August 2020.

Test spots will be opened on 30th July 2020.

(Source: NAATI)

14) Skill shortages July 2019

This has not been updated from what I can see in July 2020 given COVID19. But an interesting document on what occupations are in shortage and not in shortage in each state of Australia ..

https://docs.employment.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/ratingssummary_june2019_0.pdf

15) Visa application statistics

189s lodged and not decided yet

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200600719-document-released.PDF>

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200600793-document-released.PDF>

189s lodged this program year

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200600686-document-released.PDF>

804s lodged and not yet decided

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200600330-document-released.PDF>

887s lodged and not yet decided

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200600336-document-released.PDF>

489s (state) lodged and not yet decided

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200601150-document-released.PDF>

Numbers of lodged/granted visas in "other" categories

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200500864-document-released.PDF>

(Source: DHA)

16) July Iscah visa reports

After some thought I have decided not to go ahead with a July report

DHA are not inviting in the normal way for 189s. Instead they are inviting health professionals and engineers

Until we get some numbers on those (we have requested them through FOI) we cannot predict much

Also all the states are closed for 491 and 190 sponsorships and so we are unable to show any options for you there.

Good news is that we will be able to get some more data in around 2 weeks on 189 and 491 backlogs and use these estimated waiting times for various different invitation numbers.

Also some states seem to think that from August they will have some numbers to be used for state 190/491 sponsorships. And also there are news reports that DHA will publish a new STSOL list in late July or early August

As a result an August report will be much more useful than a July report. Also all subscribers will be given a 2 month extension to their current subscriptions free of charge to cover this missing July report.

Kind Regards
ISCAH

For those who want to subscribe our personal monthly visa reports are here
www.iscah.com/members

Ok folks,
That's all for the last month.
Keep well and see you all
on Monday 17th August 2020




Steven O'Neill (Iscah Manager - MARN 9687267)

 iscah.migration

 iscahmigration

 iscah.com

 Phone: 08 9353 3344

 Fax: 61-8-9353 3350

 E-mail: newsletter@iscah.com

 Iscah Migration
Suite 14 (Kewdale Business Park)
133 Kewdale Road, Kewdale
Perth Western Australia, 6105
PO Box 75 Welshpool BC 6986



Registered Migration Agent 9687267