

# Iscah Migration Newsletter

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Welcome to the zillionth edition of our monthly newsletter.

We try and capture all that we hear about visa news, policy, media articles etc and hope you find it useful

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Ok on to August's news...



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## 1) Recent Media articles on visa issues

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

<https://www.news.com.au/travel/travel-updates/health-safety/hint-when-australias-international-air-travel-could-open-again/news-story>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-treasurer-speaks-about-migration-and-temporary-visa-holders-in-interview-with-sbs-news>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/migrants-receive-citizenship-in-record-numbers-amid-coronavirus-pandemic>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australia-s-regions-to-suffer-economic-impact-of-coronavirus-migration-drop-treasury-says>

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/quite-serious-international-student-visa-applications-plummet-20200728-p55gbc.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/aug/02/migration-australia-cliff-economy-international-students-covid-19-coronavirus>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/audio/deep-crisis-as-number-on-bridging-visas-in-australia-reaches-record-high>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-11/unions-call-for-end-to-working-holidaymaker-visa/12542100>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-07-30/farm-labour-shortage-feared-due-to-coronavirus-controls/12504802>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/couples-separated-for-years-are-calling-for-change-in-australia-s-partner-visa-system>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-17/return-of-international-students-amid-coronavirus-defended/12564432>

## 2) Occupational Ceilings announced for 2020/21

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/occupation-ceilings>

### 3) Accountant Occupational Ceiling

DHA have confirmed that the 1000 places in the Accountant occupational ceiling is just for 189 and 491 family sponsored visas. (It is not shared with other skilled categories)

This program year (unlike previous years) they have already taken off the company and state/nomination places to get down to this 1000 figure.

Note that this is a maximum and does not mean that 1000 invites will be given.

### 4) State and Territory 190/491s to open up

The MIA has received reports that the States and Territories have received a very small allocation of places for BIIP and SC 491/190 nominations, until the Federal Budget is handed down on 6 October 2020.

Very strict conditions have been imposed on the occupations the State and Territory Governments can approve for the SC 491/190. These may only be used for occupations that are critical to the COVID economic recovery. The critical occupations and industry sectors are listed on the Department's website.

- providing critical or specialist medical services, including air ambulance, medical evacuations and delivering critical medical supplies
- with critical skills required to maintain the supply of essential goods and services (such as in medical technology, critical infrastructure, telecommunications, engineering and mining, supply chain logistics, agricultural technology, food production, and the maritime industry)
- delivering services in sectors critical to Australia's economic recovery (such as financial technology, large scale manufacturing, film and television production and emerging technology), where no Australian worker is available

(Source: Migration Institute of Australia)

## 5) South Australia 190/491 to open

The Government of South Australia has been advised of a limited number of interim allocation places for the State's General Skilled and Business Migration program for 2020/21, which will be prioritised to support South Australia's economic and public health recovery.

The full nomination allocations for 2020/21 will be determined later in the year as part of the 2020/21 Budget process.

Given the limited number of available nominations, South Australia's program requirements and application processes for the General Skilled and Business programs are currently being finalised, with a view to applications being open in late August 2020.

Based on direction from the Department of Home Affairs, applications will be prioritised according to:

1. High quality applications within the Business Innovation and Investment Program, with those who have already lodged an 'Intention to Apply' given priority consideration.
  2. Applicants critical to supporting South Australia's response to the COVID19 pandemic, including individuals providing critical or specialist medical services, critical skills required to maintain the supply of essential goods and services; or delivering services in sectors critical to Australia's economic recovery.
  3. Early consideration to onshore applicants that satisfy the above criteria.
- Further guidance will be available on this website next week.

(Source: South Australian government)

## 6) Victorian 190/491 to open up

The Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs has provided a limited number of visa nomination places to the Victorian Government up until the Federal Budget is delivered on 6 October 2020.

We are preparing to re-open with new policies and nomination criteria to support Victoria's economic recovery and the public health response.

You may wish to prepare your Expression of Interest (EOI) so that you're ready once more information becomes available. EOIs are lodged through the Department of Home Affairs SkillSelect system.

Please ensure your EOI is up to date before you lodge an application with the Victorian Government.

Please continue to check our website for updates.

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/news-events/news/2020/2020-21-victorian-visa-nomination-program-update>

(Source: Victorian state government)

## 7) Victorian State news

The Victorian Government will not re-nominate applicants who are subject to a section 48 bar where their nomination has expired and they are unable to leave Australia.

The section 48 bar applies to applicants who have had a visa refused or cancelled since their last entry into Australia. If you are subject to a section 48 bar you need to leave Australia before you can reapply for a visa. Once offshore, you may consider all visa options, including Victorian nominated visas.

Should you wish to return to Australia while travel restrictions remain in place – you may request an exemption from the Department of Home Affairs external link. <https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>

Business sponsorship -

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/news-events/news/2020/impact-of-changes-to-the-foreign-investment-framework-on-the-business-innovation-and-investment-program>

## 8) Iscah comments on the 189/491 July skill select round

Now that DHA have published their July 2020 189/491 invitation results we can see some more clarity <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds>

500 invitations were given for the 189 round and 100 for the 491 (family sponsored) round. It looks like the 491 round was run first and hence we had the unusual result of a massive 48 invites given for the 2335 group. This is a result of the backlog of many 491s in that category that have not received an invite for many months and suggests no occupational quota was enforced on that July 491 round. So when the 189 round was then run, in fact it is likely no invites were received for the 2335 group as they more than had enough invites in the 491 round.

Also around 400 of the invites were given for the NON PRO RATA occupations and around 100 for the PRO RATA occupations. This likely a result of them only inviting occupations that are considered critical to the COVID19 recovery.

From what we can see those occupations that have been flagged as being able to receive invites at the moment are the following

### Occupations considered critical for Covid19

- 2331 Chemical and Materials Engineers
- 2332 Civil Engineering Professionals
- 2333 Electrical Engineers
- 2334 Electronics Engineers\*
- 2335 Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers\*
- 2336 Mining Engineers
- 2339 Other Engineering Professionals\*
- 2341 Agricultural and Forestry Scientists

2342 Chemists, and Food and Wine Scientists  
2345 Life Scientists  
2512 Medical Imaging Professionals  
2524 Occupational Therapists  
2525 Physiotherapists  
2531 General Practitioners and Resident Medical officers  
2533 Internal Medicine Specialists  
2539 Other Medical Practitioners  
2541 Midwives  
2544 Registered Nurses  
2633 Telecommunications Engineering Professionals  
2723 Psychologists  
3122 Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians  
3123 Electrical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians  
3132 Telecommunications Technical Specialists  
Finally the occupational ceilings were announced for 2020/21 and they are here

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/occupation-ceilings>

Note that does NOT mean this is the amount that will be invited for each occupation, it is simply a ceiling that cannot be exceeded.

The number of Accountants falling to 1000 is very disappointing. All other occupations look to have been slightly adjusted to match a figure equal to 6% of the number of total people employed in that occupation in Australia

(Source: Iscah)

## 9) Changes to New Zealand 189 visa policy

### **New Zealand 189 visa applicants to have reduced financial criteria for PR**

From the Federal Government Fiscal update July 2020

The Government will reduce the income eligibility requirement for the New Zealand stream of the Skilled Independent (subclass 189) visa (the Pathway), and promote take-up of the Pathway by eligible New Zealand citizens.

Eligibility for the Pathway will be extended to Special Category (subclass 444) visa holders who have a taxable income at or above the Temporary Skilled Migrant Income Threshold for at least three of the last five income years, including the most recent year. The Government will also provide clearer public information on the Pathway, undertake an advertising campaign and contact potential applicants to promote take-up.

## 10) Federal governments Migration assumptions for Budget

Government Fiscal update July 2020 - Key migration assumptions

Key assumptions (continued)•Net overseas migration is significantly affected by international travel restrictions and constraints on the ability of applicants to meet visa application requirements, and is assumed to fall from 232,000 in 2018-19 to be 154,000 in 2019-20 and 31,000 in 2020-21.

–The Government implemented international travel bans in March2020. This prevented all arrivals on visitor and temporary migration visas and prevented Australian citizens and permanent residents from departing Australia.

–Between July and December 2020, only citizens, permanent residents, NewZealanders and a small number of international students are assumed to be able to travel to Australia, based on announced policy to date.

From 1 January to 30 June 2021, it is assumed that the travel ban is lifted, but that a two-week quarantine period is required of arrivals to Australia. This leads to the resumption of arrivals by temporary and permanent migrants, but at lower levels overall than normal

(Source: Federal Government)

## 11) Processing times for lodged visa applications

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



## 12) Skill assessment policy for Management Consultants

### Growing demand for management consultants

August 2020 - There is strong demand for management consultants in Australia as businesses seek experts to help navigate change and assist with decision-making.

VETASSESS and the Institute of Management Consultants (IMC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to develop assessment standards for people who wish to migrate as management consultants to Australia.

VETASSESS conducts skills assessments for management consultants who intend to apply for migration to Australia and the IMC is the professional organisation for management consultants.

Under the agreement, the Institute endorses VETASSESS' skills assessment criteria for the occupation of management consultant and VETASSESS and the IMC will share insights and information on industry trends affecting the profession.

VETASSESS' skills assessments for migration purposes involve assessing an applicant's qualifications and employment against the requirements of their nominated occupation in Australia.

VETASSESS Executive Director Rob Thomason says management consultants who migrate can contribute knowledge of international markets to Australian businesses and different analytical approaches.

"Australia's migrant population has played an important part in the nation's growth and skilled migrants bring new ideas to their workplaces," he said. "Our collaborative relationship with the IMC will ensure that our assessment criteria remain relevant, so employers can have confidence in the skills of the people they hire."

Institute of Management Consultants Federal President Steve Turner says "increasingly, consultants will be needed to advise businesses on business models and business practices using new digital delivery methods and workforce management arrangements, as well as on how to restructure their businesses, during and post COVID-19.

"Those wishing to hire consultants want to know that they are credible, qualified, and have a track record of success. IMC, as the peak professional association for consultants in Australia, has rigorous assessment processes for membership and Certification which are line with internationally recognised competencies for consulting practice," he said. "We are delighted to work with VETASSESS to assist those wishing to pursue the profession in Australia."

For more information contact the VETASSESS communications team on +61 3 9655 4801 or email [info@vetassess.com.au](mailto:info@vetassess.com.au)

(Source: Vetassess)

## 13) Statistics on Visa backlogs

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi/files/2020/fa-200600348-document-released.pdf>

## 14) Parent visa allocation dates

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/family-visa-processing-priorities/parent-visas-queue-release-dates>

## 15) Unofficial Skill Select results 11th August 2020

Another small round of what looks like just medical and other critical occupations seem to have been invited this morning

The lowest score we have seen was  
90 points, General Practitioner  
EOI effect date of 27th July 2020  
Several nurses we have seen invited

No details of engineering invites yet

(Source: Iscah)

## 16) Current numbers of EOIs waiting for a 189 invite

Here are the latest official backlogs of 189 EOIs divided into Pro rata, Nurses and Non Pro rata groupings as of 31st July 2020

(c) Iscah 2020

2613 Software App Prog	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 20
95	60
90	419
85	1167
80	1460
75	1906
70	1208
65	1356
<b>Total</b>	<b>7576</b>

2334 Electronic Engineer	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 20
95	less than 20
90	52
85	176
80	148
75	215
70	92
65	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>778</b>

2339 Other Eng Prof	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 20
95	less than 20
90	93
85	361
80	374
75	466
70	327
65	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>1969</b>

2631 Comp Net Prof	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 100
95	less than 100
90	163
85	311
80	438
75	539
70	344
65	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>2181</b>

2544 Registered Nurses	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 100
95	less than 100
90	56
85	403
80	788
75	1001
70	968
65	758
<b>Total</b>	<b>3974</b>

2212 Auditor	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 20
95	103
90	1162
85	499
80	470
75	204
70	114
65	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>2633</b>

NON PRO RATA All others	EOIs submitted-total
100	20
95	80
90	324
85	2066
80	2900
75	3384
70	2630
65	2565
<b>Total</b>	<b>14037</b>

2211 Accountant	EOIs submitted-total
105	less than 20
100	94
95	1580
90	2512
85	1052
80	1686
75	1155
70	827
65	426
<b>Total</b>	<b>9332</b>

2335 Ind/Mech/Prod Eng	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 20
95	less than 20
90	213
85	510
80	536
75	515
70	378
65	399
<b>Total</b>	<b>2551</b>

2611 ICI Business Analysts	EOIs submitted-total
100	less than 20
95	151
90	385
85	546
80	538
75	637
70	391
65	476
<b>Total</b>	<b>3124</b>

(Source: DHA and Iscah)

## 17) ACS Global Talent nomination

ACS information on nomination for Global Talent visa

The Global Talent Independent (GTI) program is designed to attract the best and brightest skilled migrants to Australia in a number of sectors. Candidates who meet eligibility requirements are invited by the Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) to apply for a Distinguished Talent visa. One of the requirements of this visa is that an Australian organisation or individual with a reputation in the same field as the applicant, attests to their record of achievement in the field.

DoHA accepts GTI nominations from the ACS and considers the ACS as an organisation with a national reputation in the following target sector groups under the GTI program:

- Cyber Security
- Quantum Information/Advanced Digital/Data Science/ICT
- FinTech (candidates with a predominantly tech focus)
- MedTech (candidates with a predominantly tech focus)
- AgTech (candidates with a predominantly tech focus)

ACS information sheet -

[www.acs.org.au/content/dam/acs/acs-skills/ACS%20Information%20Sheet%20-%20GTI%20Overview.pdf](http://www.acs.org.au/content/dam/acs/acs-skills/ACS%20Information%20Sheet%20-%20GTI%20Overview.pdf)

(Source; Australian Computer Society)

## 18) Official Skill Select results July 2020

Invitations issued on 14 July 2020

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 14 July 2020.

Visa subclass	Number
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	500
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored	100

### 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.

Visa subclass	Min Points Score	Date of effect
Skilled - Independent (subclass 189)	90	07/2020
Skilled - Regional Provisional (subclass 489)	95	05/2020

### Point scores and the dates of effect cut off for the pro rata occupations in the 10 January 2020 invitation round.

Due to high levels of demand, and in keeping with previous years, the below occupation groups will be subject to pro rata arrangements to ensure availability of invitations across the program year.

SkillSelect first allocates available places to Skilled – Independent visas (subclass 189) and then the remaining to Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – Family Sponsored. If all places are taken up by subclass 189 visas then there will be no invitations issued for subclass 491 visas in these occupations.

Subclass	ID	Description	Minimum points score	Latest date of effect month
189/491	2211	Accountants	N/A	N/A
189/491	2212	Auditors, Company Secretaries and Corporate Treasurers	N/A	N/A
189	2334	Electronics Engineer	90	12/2019
491	2334	Electronics Engineer	95	05/2020
189	2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	N/A	N/A
491	2335	Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	95	11/2019
189	2339	Other Engineering Professionals	N/A	N/A
491	2339	Other Engineering Professionals	95	11/2019
189/491	2611	ICT Business and System Analysts	N/A	N/A
189/491	2613	Software and Applications Programmers	N/A	N/A
189/491	2631	Computer Network Professionals	N/A	N/A

(Source: DHA)

Ok folks  
That's all for this month  
Keep well and see you all  
on Monday 21st September 2020



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