

# MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

*The latest immigration news, views and announcements*

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## AUSTRALIA DAY

The national day of Australia is Australia Day, celebrated on the 26th of January each year. This day marks the 1788 landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in New South Wales. It also commemorates the raising of the Union Flag by Arthur Phillip days of exploration of Port Jackson. The 26th of January 1788 marked the proclamation of British sovereignty over the Eastern border of Australia. On New Years Day in 1901, British colonies in Australia formed a federation, this marked the birth of modern Australia. Only in 1935, that all Australian states and territories adopt the term "Australia Day" to mark the date. Later in 1994, the date was consistently marked as a public holiday by all states and territories across Australia.

In modern-day Australia, celebrations reflect the landscape and diverse society of the nation. The day is celebrated with community and family events reflecting on Australian history, community awards and citizenship ceremonies that welcome new members of the Australian community.

# QUEENSLAND REOPENS INTERNATIONALLY

Queensland will REOPEN its borders to vaccinated international travellers from 1am on January.

Those entering the state from overseas will no longer need to quarantine, but must take a rapid antigen test within 24 hours of arrival. From 1am AEST Saturday 15 January 2022, all domestic border restrictions will end. You will be able to travel to Queensland from anywhere in Australia.

This means:

- You will no longer need to apply for a border pass
- A negative COVID-19 test will not be required to enter Queensland
- There will be no requirement to quarantine if you are not vaccinated.



## AUSTRALIA'S 2022-23 MIGRATION PROGRAM

The Department is now inviting public submissions as part of the 2022-23 Migration Program planning process. The Department of Home Affairs undertakes comprehensive consultation to inform the size and composition of the Migration Program each year, including advice from States and Territories, Government agencies, industry, academia and the public.

They welcome submissions regarding Australia's permanent migration needs, including views on the size and composition of the 2022-23 Migration Program, noting the challenges presented by COVID-19 and trends identified in the Australian Government's Population Statement and the 2021 Intergenerational Report. Submissions will inform Australia's Migration Program settings to support Australia's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 in the short term and support a future Australia for 2030 and beyond.

To assist with submissions, please see [Planning Australia's 2022-23 Migration Program Discussion Paper \(803KB PDF\)](#).

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EASED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WORKING HOURS LIMITATION

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the federal government would remove the 40-hour-a-fortnight cap on student visa-holders allowing them to work. They will no longer have any restrictions on the number of hours they can work per week. There have been worker shortages in the food distribution and manufacturing industries recently because many workers have had to isolate due to a surge of coronavirus cases. Easing work limitations will impact up to 400,000 International students able to work extra hours under a temporary relaxation of visa rules, which have been causing crippling labour shortages.



## ACT OPENS FOR OFFSHORE SKILLED MIGRATION APPLICANTS

Overseas applicants can now apply to ACT through both the 190 and 491 visa categories.

After the EOI submission in Skill Select by selecting ACT as their preferred State, ALL applicants must submit a Canberra Matrix application available on the site. Based on the Matrix score, places available and demand for the selected occupation, selections will be made.

### **Eligibility Requirements for Offshore applicants**

- Occupation MUST be on the ACT Critical Skills List
- Have a skills assessment showing at least **3 years** of work experience in the nominated occupation
- Have Proficient or Superior English
- Have NOT lived in Australia for the last 12 months
- ARE living overseas
- DO NOT hold a current Australian Visa (or bridging visa)
- Must show settlement funds

Refer to the current Critical Skills list, which will update every 4 months  
<https://www.act.gov.au/migration/skilled-migrants/act-critical-skills-list>





**AUSTRALIAN  
COMPUTER  
SOCIETY**

## ACS SKILLS ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES UPDATE

As per the Australian Computer Society (ACS) new guidelines, Vendor Certifications are no longer assessed by the ACS. Only applicants applying for RPL are encouraged to upload evidence of any vendor certificates that have been completed to show currency of knowledge in their chosen ANZSCO occupation code.

## CHANGES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL LODGEMENT

From early 2022, the AAT's preferred method of filing will be through the online services portal.

They are making this change to streamline the application process for users. From 31st January 2022, people applying to have decisions reviewed in the General and Other Divisions should lodge and submit their documents online. Emails will be monitored intermittently from this point, which may cause some delays in the processing of applications and documents submitted via email.

Applicants will still be able to lodge applications and submit documents in person or via post and email in exceptional circumstances. AAT will continue to manage general correspondence via email, but applications and documents should be lodged through the online services portal.



## CHANGES FOR CLAIMING DEFACTO SPOUSE POINTS FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION



In September 2021, the Department of Home Affairs had advised that you could be eligible for 10 single points if your relationship was not 12 months at the time you were invited to lodge a visa application or at the time of visa decision.

But The Department has changed that decision to, if you are in a genuine de facto relationship (even for 1 month) at the time you are points assessed (which for practical purposes is usually the time of visa decision) then you will NOT be eligible to 10 single points. It is no longer 12 months defacto which excludes you from claiming 10 single points.

# SASKATCHEWAN HOLDS FIRST PNP DRAW OF 2022

On January 12, Saskatchewan issued an invitation to 104 immigrant candidates to apply for a provincial nomination.

The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) held its first draw of the year, inviting applicants to apply through two of its immigration streams. 37 of those invited may qualify for the SINP's Express Entry subcategory, while 67 may qualify for the Occupations In-Demand subcategory.

On Saskatchewan's Expression of Interest (EOI) ranking system, the lowest-scoring candidate in each sub-category received 68 points. Candidates with experience in one of six occupations were encouraged to apply: medical laboratory technologists, paramedical jobs, psychologists, medical sonographers, occupational therapists, and medical radiation technologists.

## ALBERTA CREATES NEW IMMIGRATION PROGRAM FOR TECH WORKERS.

A new fast-track immigration scheme for computer workers is being launched in Alberta.

Tyler Shandro, Alberta's immigration minister, introduced the Accelerated Tech Pathway on January 13th. In December, the province began accepting applications for the new program.

To be eligible, tech workers must have an Express Entry profile with the federal government and be eligible for the Alberta Express Entry Stream.

"Tech professionals from across Canada and beyond can become permanent residents in as little as six months if they have a job offer in an in-demand tech industry employment under this new pathway," Shandro said, despite the fact that Express Entry processing took an average of nine months in 2020.

Tech professionals will also receive a letter of support from the Government of Alberta if they seek a work visa, in addition to priority application processing."

According to the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, Alberta has over 3,000 technological enterprises. According to the 2021 Alberta Technology Deal Flow Study, Alberta's tech sector has expanded 233 percent since 2012. However, tech companies continue to have difficulty finding people, particularly sales and technical talent.



# CANADA'S PNP IMMIGRATION RESULTS OF DECEMBER 2021



During the month of December, Canada's Provincial Nominee Programs (PNP) sent out over 3,000 invitations to apply for provincial nomination.

With the exception of Nunavut and Quebec, which have their own immigration programs, nearly every Canadian province and territory has its own PNP. The ability for provincial governments to select immigration candidates who satisfy their local labor market needs and regulate the regional settling of the immigrant population within their authority is made possible by having their own immigration programs. Each province sets its own standards for determining which foreign employees are eligible for permanent residence in Canada under its own PNP.

The PNP is a complement to federal immigration policies that allows Canadian provinces to play a vital role in immigrant selection.

## CANADA TO ANNOUNCE IMMIGRATION LEVELS PLAN 2022-2024 BY FEBRUARY

When the Canadian government unveils its Immigration Levels Plan 2022-2024 in February, it will deliver a substantial update.

The statement will include Canada's immigration goals for this year and the next two years, as well as the number of new immigrants the country plans to welcome through its different economic, family, and humanitarian programs. It will be the first such declaration since Canada surprised the world by announcing in October 2020 that it would aim to accept over 400,000 new immigrants per year in the future, an increase of approximately 40,000 from prior targets.

The federal government is required by Canada's principal immigration statute, the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), to make this notification by November 1st of each year, while Parliament is in session.

If Parliament is not in session, the notification must be made within 30 days after its resumption.



Canada is encouraging 392 Express Entry applicants to apply for permanent residency in the new year.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) invited only Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) candidates to the January 5 draw. The cutoff score for the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) was 808. When PNP candidates receive their nomination, 600 points are automatically added to their score, which is why the score appears to be high when compared to prior invitation rounds. PNP drawings have only been held by IRCC since September. According to an internal briefing note, IRCC has been focused on PNP candidates due to a backlog of applications being processed by immigration officers. Before welcoming candidates from other programs, the immigration agency hopes to cut the Express Entry backlog in half.

The Canadian government has hinted that modifications to Express Entry will be made this year. The Liberal administration proposed in the federal budget for 2021 to allow the immigration minister more latitude in inviting Express Entry candidates who fit Canada's labor market demands.

## EXPRESS ENTRY: CANADA HOLDS FIRST DRAW OF 2022



Later that year, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a mandate letter to Immigration Minister Sean Fraser, requesting that Express Entry be used to increase permanent residency paths for international students and temporary foreign workers. No other information has been made public at this time.

Also, when the new Training, Education, Experience, and Responsibilities (TEER) system replaces the present National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill levels, Express Entry-eligible occupations may alter. For the time being, Express Entry only takes into account job experience in NOC 0, A, and B occupations. When TEER goes into effect in late 2022, this classification will be altered.

In 2021, Canada held solely program-specific Express Entry lotteries for PNP and Canadian Experience Class (CEC) applicants. No candidates from the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) were asked to apply for the first time in the history of Express Entry. FSWP candidates were the primary source of Express Entry immigrants prior to the pandemic.

## MANITOBA HOLDS FIRST PNP DRAW OF 2022

Manitoba has invited 443 immigrant candidates to apply for a provincial nomination to begin the year.

The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) allowed people to apply for three different Provincial Nominee Programs in Manitoba (PNPs). The number of invites sent out for each program, as well as the minimal score cutoff set by the province's Expression of Interest (EOI) system, are listed below:

357 invitations with a minimum score of 459; 53 invitations with a minimum score of 711; and 33 invitations with no score criteria for skilled workers in Manitoba.

97 of these invites were sent to people who applied through the Express Entry procedure.



# AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN AGED FIVE TO ELEVEN WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID VACCINE FROM JANUARY 2022.



The rollout of the Covid vaccine for kids between the ages of five and eleven has begun in Australia as authorities battle to contain rising transmission rates among children. The Pfizer (Comirnaty) children's vaccine is the approved COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 – 11 years in Australia. The dose is around 1/3 of the dose for people aged 12 years and older. Children will receive two doses of the vaccine, given 8 weeks apart.

# EVENTS AND WEBINARS



## Live Event

### 'Sri Lanka Export Brands' Expo 2020

Save the Date - 17th to 20th February 2022

Join us at HALL IB SOUTH, Dubai Exhibition Centre (DEC), EXPO 2020 Dubai, UAE.

Meet the leading officials of 75 Sri Lankan organizations exhibiting their products and services from Sri Lanka, organized to facilitate potential business ventures.

## Webinar

### Australia State Nomination openings for Offshore Eligibility

Date : Sunday 6th of February 2022

Time : UAE 3.00PM

Q/A : Send in your questions for the speaker on or before the 3rd of February 2022

**REGISTRATION**

- ⇒ General Skilled Migration Australia - Current Outlook
- ⇒ Business Visa to Australia (English Session)
- ⇒ Business Visa to Australia (Sinhala Session)
- ⇒ Business Migration pathways to Australia
- ⇒ Introducing the Sanji Caldera Education foundation
- ⇒ Get your PR in Australia with employer sponsored visa? How would an employer-sponsored visa help you achieve your Australian permanent residency?
- ⇒ Are you skilled and lacking in work experience? How can 407 training visa help you?
- ⇒ Discover much more about 482 subclass
- ⇒ How do you apply for permanent residency in Australia?
- ⇒ New Budget announcement 2021

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AND WEBINARS  
FROM BELOW  
LINKS,



The information contained within this newsletter is to provide advice of a general nature only and is not to be taken as individual advice for your personal circumstances. Information provided is subject to change at any time, and before proceeding with an application you should seek professional personalized advice about your circumstances.

We cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Because Australian immigration law and regulations change regularly, it is best to contact us before making any decisions. Alternatively, up to date information can be checked on the website of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

If you have any queries please contact us at:

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