

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

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MIGRATION PROGRAM PLANNING LEVELS

The 2022-23 Migration Program has been designed to boost Australia’s economic recovery and drive social cohesion outcomes in the post-pandemic environment. The 2022-23 Migration Program will have a planning level of 160,000 places with the following composition:



- **Skill (109,900 places)**
- **Family (50,000 places)**
- **Special Eligibility (100 places)**

Following consultation with States and Territories, the following nomination levels have been allocated for 2022-23:

State and Territory nominated visa allocations

| State | Skilled Nominated (Subclass 190) Visa | Skilled Work Regional (Subclass 491) visa | Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| ACT | 800 | 1,920 | 10 |
| NSW | 7,160 | 4,870 | 260 |
| NT | 600 | 840 | 15 |
| QLD | 3,000 | 1,200 | 235 |
| SA | 2,700 | 3,180 | 70 |
| TAS | 2,000 | 1,350 | 10 |
| VIC | 9,000 | 2,400 | 170 |
| WA | 5,350 | 2,790 | 40 |
| Total | 30,610 | 18,550 | 810 |

Please refer following link for the further information.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/migration-program-planning-levels>

VALIDITY OF CCL/NAATI SECOND LANGUAGE RESULTS

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) has announced that all Credentialed Community Language (CCL) credentials issued from 9 August 2022 will have a five-year validity period. This is an increase from the previous three-year validity period.



ONLINE LODGEMENT FOR BRIDGING VISA APPLICATIONS



From 1 August 2022 all applicants applying for a Bridging A, B or C visa in Australia must lodge their application online either through ImmiAccount or the webform on the Department’s website. Paper applications will no longer be accepted as a valid method of lodgement from this date.

You may use the following link to apply for Bridging visa through webform

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departamental-forms/online-forms/bridging-a-b-c-visa-application-online>

AUSTRALIAN STUDY RULE (ASR) - STUDYING ONLINE/OFFSHORE

The Department is taking a flexible approach for those student visa applicants/holders who were unable to enter Australia due to COVID-19 restrictions and who continued to study online while offshore

Where an international student has applied for a Student visa and commenced their study online while overseas (due to not having a visa to come to Australia) and continued their study online overseas after they were granted a Student visa (because they could not come to Australia due to COVID), **the full period of their study will be counted towards the ASR.** The registered course or courses will still need to be completed in a total of at least 16 calendar months; and as a result of least 2 academic years study; and all instruction must be in English.



THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

National Minimum WAGE Increase



The Australian Government’s Fair Work Commission has announced an increase in the national minimum wage which amounts to an increase of \$40 per week for wage earners. Since 2021, the minimum wage in Australia has been \$20.33 per hour. However, the minimum wage has now increased to \$21.38 per hour, following the [Fair Work Commission \(FWC\) Annual Wage Review 2021-22.](#)

STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

Victoria



Victoria's Skilled Migration Programme is now open to applicants living in Victoria and overseas, the program provides skilled migrants with a pathway to permanent residency in Victoria. The skills that successful applicants bring to Victoria benefits employers and the broader Victorian economy.

The program provides two visa pathways.

The Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) is a permanent visa for skilled migrants to live and work anywhere in Victoria. The Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) is for skilled migrants to live and work in regional Victoria and provides a pathway to permanent residency through the [Permanent Residence \(Skilled Regional\) visa \(subclass 191\)](#).

As with previous years, applicants will first need to submit a [Registration of Interest \(ROI\)](#) and then be selected on competitive merit to apply for visa nomination.

Before submitting a ROI, applicants should ensure that they meet all eligibility requirements and ROIs will be assessed until May 2023.

Western Australia



The WA Government has made changes to its migration program to support skilled workers looking to migrate to Western Australia including increasing occupations eligible for skilled migration in WA by around 60 per cent.

New occupations have been added to the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List Schedule 1 (WASMOL Schedule 1) and the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List Schedule 2 (WASMOL Schedule 2).

The list of newly available occupations can be found on the [WA State Nomination – combined occupation list](#).

The WA Government has also waived the \$200 application fee and has made changes to the requirements for new applicants as of 1 July 2022, including:

- Removal of the requirement to demonstrate sufficient funds for WA State nomination.
- Reduction in the English requirements for applicants at the Manager and Professional occupation level to the "competent" level of English.

Queensland



The Migration Queensland Program is now OPEN for the 2022–23 program year to ONSHORE and OFFSHORE applicants for following.

- Subclass 190 Skilled Nominated visa and Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491)
- 491 – Small Business Owners pathway
- Business migration program

NSW



The NSW Skilled Migration Program will open shortly for the 2022-23 financial year and the state have implemented some key changes to the program this financial year.

Skilled Nominated Visa (Subclass 190)

NSW nomination for the Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) remains by invitation only.

Key changes to NSW nomination this financial year include:

SkillSelect EOI : SkillSelect EOI must be for the Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190) and NSW only. EOIs selecting additional visa subclasses and/or other Australian states or territories will be excluded from consideration.

Note: When your SkillSelect EOI was created or amended in no way affects your likelihood of being invited to apply for NSW nomination.

Residency Requirement :To be eligible for NSW you must be either currently residing in NSW or offshore, and have done so for a minimum period of six months.

Offshore Candidates : Offshore candidates will be considered in all occupations within unit groups identified on the NSW Skilled Nominated Skills List that are eligible for the Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190). This means there are no excluded unit groups this financial year.

Minimum Experience and Scores :Each unit group will have a minimum number of years of skilled work experience and minimum point score to be eligible for NSW nomination. These minimum numbers will be identified on the NSW Skilled Nominated Skills List.

Minimum numbers are informed by the number of places available in each unit group for the financial year and the number of EOIs submitted in SkillSelect. If you score below these numbers, unfortunately you are not eligible for NSW nomination. .

Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 188) update

NSW have now received an interim allocation of places from Home Affairs, which means they can now begin accepting applications for NSW nomination.

Until this time, Applicants must score a minimum of 85 points in their SkillSelect EOI to apply for NSW nomination under the Business Innovation, Investor, or Entrepreneur streams.



Skilled Work Regional Visa (Subclass 491)

There will be two pathways to NSW nomination for the Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491) this financial year. Eligibility criteria applies equally to both pathways.

Pathway 1 : Apply directly to an RDA office in the region that you wish to live and work in for a minimum period of three years after being granted your visa by Home Affairs. If you meet the minimum eligibility requirements for NSW nomination, you may apply to an RDA office at any time throughout the financial year until that region has exhausted its allocation of places.

Pathway 2 : Be invited to apply by Investment NSW. Invitation rounds will occur ongoing throughout the financial year. There will be no set date. If you are invited by Investment NSW, you may live and work in any designated regional area of NSW for a minimum period of three years after being granted your visa by Home Affairs.

Key changes to eligibility criteria this financial year include:

- **SkillSelect EOI :** SkillSelect EOI must be for the Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491) and NSW only. EOIs selecting additional visa subclasses and/or other Australian states or territories will be excluded from consideration.

Note: When your SkillSelect EOI was created or amended in no way affects your likelihood of being invited to apply for NSW nomination.

- **Residency Requirement :** To be eligible for NSW you must be either currently residing in NSW or offshore, and have done so for a minimum period of three months.
- **Offshore Candidates :** Offshore candidates are eligible in all occupations within unit groups identified on the NSW Skilled Work Regional Skills List that are eligible for the Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491). This means there are no excluded unit groups this financial year.
- **Minimum Experience and Scores :** Each unit group will have a minimum number of years of skilled work experience and minimum point score to be eligible for NSW nomination. These minimum numbers will be identified on the NSW Skilled Work Regional Skills List. Minimum numbers are informed by the number of places available in each unit group for the financial year and the number of EOIs submitted in SkillSelect. If you score below these numbers, unfortunately you are not eligible for NSW nomination, unless the below exemption applies.
- **Regional NSW Study Exemption :** You are exempt from the minimum work experience requirement under Pathway 1 (only) if you have completed study in regional NSW within the most recent 24 months before applying to an RDA office; AND your study is related to your nominated (or closely related) occupation; AND your study in regional NSW makes you eligible to claim points for Study in regional Australia.

South Australia



South Australia has received an interim allocation of nomination places from the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs for the 2022–23 program year and will be opening the State's Skilled & Business Migration programs soon.

South Australia's interim nomination allocation:

- General Skilled Migration Program: 5,880 places
- Business Innovation and Investment Program: 70 places

Offshore applicants

South Australia will increase its nominations of offshore skilled migrants in order to accelerate their entry to the South Australian labour market. To do this South Australia will select offshore applicants to apply for state nomination from those who have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) using the Department of Home Affairs' [SkillSelect](#) database. Offshore applicants will not need to lodge a Registration of Interest (RoI) this program year. South Australia will be nominating offshore applicants from over 470 occupations so please ensure all the information in your SkillSelect EOI is up to date and you have selected South Australia as your first preferred State or Territory to move to in Australia.

Onshore applicants

Eligible onshore applicants will be able to apply directly for nomination in the following streams including:

- South Australian Graduates
- Working in South Australia
- Outer Regional South Australia
- Long Term Residents

VETASSESS UPDATES

Skills Assessments for 485 visas:

The Department of Home Affairs has announced that a skills assessment is no longer required for Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa applications lodged between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

Technical Interviews for Trade Occupations:

VETASSESS resumed in-person technical interviews for trade occupations from July 25 following an instruction from Trades Recognition Australia. They currently have venues in Australia as well as in China, Fiji, India, Iran, Philippines, South Africa, Nepal, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs):

VETASSESS is now taking applications for nine DAMAs and they have added and updated information on each DAMA to their website. They have new DAMA regions to assess this year and more occupations have been added to existing DAMAs.



PARTNER VISA CONCESSIONS - SC 309/100

SC 309 visa applicants who were granted their visas in Australia under the COVID-19 concessions and holders continue to be eligible to be granted the SC 100 visa in the following circumstances:

- the applicant's sponsor has died, or
- the relationship between the applicant and the sponsor has ceased and either or both of the following apply:
 - the applicant or a member of the family unit has suffered domestic and family violence (DFV) committed by the sponsoring partner, and/or
 - the applicant and sponsor share custody, formal maintenance obligations or access rights to at least one child

This amendment also allows SC 309 applicants who were able to travel to Australia under these COVID-19 concessions and may have been onshore for significant periods of time, to be eligible for grant of the combined SC 309/100 visas, under these circumstances.



CANADA INVITES 2,000 IMMIGRATION CANDIDATES

In the most recent Express Entry draw, held on August 3, 2022, Canada invited 2,000 candidates to apply for permanent residency. Express Entry is a popular immigration route for skilled newcomers in Canada.

Candidates with Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) scores of at least 533 were invited. Because no program was specified for this draw, candidates from the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) and the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) were eligible.

This draw's minimum CRS requirement was nine points lower than the one that took place on July 20. In addition, 250 more applicants were invited in this draw than in the one before it, when 1,750 applicants were given an invitation to apply (ITA).

Since the beginning of all-program drawings on July 6, 5,250 Express Entry applicants have been sent ITAs. Since these drawings had been put on hold for more than 18 months, only individuals qualified for permanent residency under the CEC or the Provincial Nominee Program were invited (PNP).

Through Express Entry, Canada expects to accept 55,900 permanent residents in 2022; by the end of 2024, that number will have risen to 111,500.



IRCC HAS APPROVED NEW LANGUAGE TEST FOR CANADIAN IMMIGRATION

The designation-in-principle of a new language exam for immigrants applying under the economic class has just been accepted by IRCC.

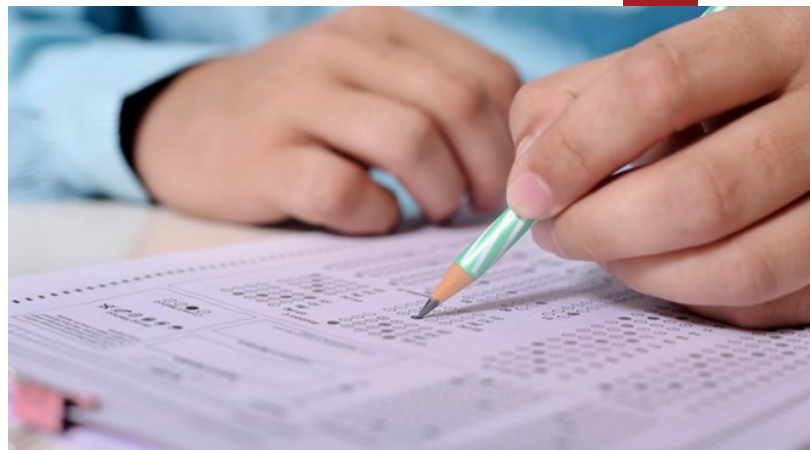
By early to mid-2023, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) expects to have the test in place.

A briefing letter from May 10 that CIC News was able to get by making a request for access to information had the name of the new language exam redacted.

Currently, there are just four designated organizations: TEF and TCF for French, IELTS and CELPIP for English.

The IRCC states that there are still enough certified testing organizations to meet the demand of citizens and immigrants, despite some initial challenges during the pandemic. The IRCC is now looking at revisions due to an increase in the number of companies applying for certification as language test providers. Departmental roles and responsibilities for language tests are currently unclear, with policy and operational implications that overlap. The Immigration Branch's language designation team at IRCC must balance file management with advancing the new policy priorities.

Some policy priorities were redacted in their entirety. However, we know that IRCC's top priority right now is to finish and sign the service agreement with the unnamed company so that an official designation can be issued and the implementation process can begin. Mid-term goals include conducting policy analysis on emerging issues. The long-term priorities then center on a broader review of the language designation framework, which includes the core technical designation criteria as well as emerging evidence outcomes related to language proficiency benchmark levels.



ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA EACH ISSUE OVER 100 INVITATIONS TO APPLY FOR PROVINCIAL NOMINATION

This week, Alberta and British Columbia released the results of their Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) draws.

PNP draw results from July 29 -August 4

Alberta

On July 29, the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) issued 120 invitations to apply for provincial nomination through the Alberta Express Entry Stream. Candidates required a minimum CRS score of 473 and an increase from the previous draw on June 16, when the minimum CRS score was 300.



British Columbia

In the draw that took place on August 3, more than 164 applicants were asked to apply this week for provincial nomination in British Columbia. Every week, British Columbia holds its provincial nomination draw.

In a targeted draw for tech jobs, 133 candidates from the skilled worker and international graduate categories were invited.

Candidates needed a minimum Skills and Immigration Registration System (SIRS) score of 90.

AUSTRALIA'S TOP 10 MOST DEMAND JOBS

The most in-demand jobs in Australia have the highest number of positions and the greatest growth potential.

1. Construction Managers
2. Civil Engineers
3. Early childhood teachers
4. Registered Nurses
5. ICT Business/systems analysts
6. Software/app programmers
7. Electricians
8. Chefs
9. Child Carers
10. Age and disability carers



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LINKS,

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- ⇒ [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](#)



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).

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