

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

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WE WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON. MAY PEACE, LOVE, AND SUCCESS ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

AUSTRALIA - INDIA TRADE AGREEMENT TO COMMENCE

The Australia - India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AIECTA) will commence from **29 December 2022** following both countries completing their domestic arrangements to bring the agreement into operation.

The AIECTA will provide:

- 1000 x Subclass 462 (first) Work and Holiday Program visas for 18-31 year old Indians per year
- Indian students graduating with **First Class Honours bachelor degrees** in STEM fields (including ICT) will be eligible for an extra year on post study visas (three years total).



TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF NEW ZEALAND STREAM - SUBCLASS 189

The New Zealand stream has been temporarily closed to new applications and the regulations have been amended to enable the streamlined processing of the on-hand caseload. The temporary closure means an application cannot be made from 10 December 2022 until 1 July 2023. This is a temporary pause on new applications while the Government considers future migration and citizenship pathways for New Zealand citizens in Australia, reflecting the close ties our two nations have.

The following streamlining measures have been designed to acknowledge that this group of New Zealand citizens are long-term residents of Australia who have been working here and contributing to Australia's economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the primary applicants for the New Zealand stream are no longer required to satisfy the following requirements.

- Be resident in Australia for a continuous period of at least 5 years immediately prior to the date of application, and that residence began prior to 19 February 2016; and
- Meet the taxable income threshold in relation to three income years within five years immediately before the date of application (including the income year that ended most recently before the date of application), or be exempt, for example due to care of a child who is to remain in Australia; and
- Satisfy Public Interest Criterion (PIC) 4007 relating to health

Family members of the primary applicant included in the visa application will also no longer need to satisfy Public Interest Criterion (PIC) 4007 relating to health.



HOLIDAY CLOSURE FOR SKILLS ASSESSING AUTHORITIES



Australia Computing Society

The ACS Skills office will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2022 to Monday January 16 2023.

Due to an extended large volume of applications any new applications submitted after Sunday Dec 4th 2022, will not be assessed* until January 31st 2023 *assessed does not mean finalised, standard assessment timeframes still apply. Please consider timeframes when lodging your application



Engineers Australia

Engineers Australia will be closed from 26 December 2022 to 6 January 2023 inclusive. Assessment applications lodged between 5 December 2022 and 31 January 2023 may experience a service delay, including Fast Track applications.

Trades Recognition Australia

Trades Recognition Australia will be closed for the Christmas and New Year Period.

Job Ready Program: TRA has announced they are experiencing a high number of applications. As a result, the average processing times are longer than expected.

The Trades Recognition Australia Enquiry Line will close at 4pm on Thursday 22 December 2022 and will reopen at 10am on Tuesday 3 January 2023. All enquiries during this time can be emailed to TRAEnquiries@dewr.gov.au

Please note that these enquiries will not be actioned before Tuesday 3 January 2023



Vetassess

Head office will close for the end-of-year break, with the last working day being December 21, and the office reopening on January 4, 2023.

Apiarists and Beekeepers: skills assessment criteria change. For more information, please check the [Vetassess website](#)

You will still be able to lodge online Skills Assessment applications during the shutdown period but as their customer contact centre will be closed, payments will be processed when their offices reopen.

They will suspend lodgements for our Priority Processing Service on 2 December and resume on January 5.

Due to the Trades Recognition Australia summer shutdown, their last assessment outcomes for trade occupations for 2022 will be issued on December 21 and will resume from January 9, 2023.

STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

NSW



NSW Immigration **eased the nomination criteria** for Subclass 190 and Subclass 491 Pathway 1 (Stream A) and Pathway 2 by removing previously published requirements for minimum points scores and work experience

Only candidates applying for **Subclass 491 under the Pathway 1 (Stream B)** will be required to meet the minimum point scores and years of skilled work experience outlined for the relevant ANZSCO unit group on the Stream B skills list.

For more information, please check the <https://www.nsw.gov.au/visas-and-migration/skilled-visas/nsw-skills-lists>

Tasmania



From 12 December, anyone seeking Tasmanian nomination for a subclass 190 Skilled Nominated or a subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional visa must now first register in the new **Migration Tasmania Application Gateway**.

For more information, please check the [Tasmania Government website](#)

AUSTRALIA CONDUCTED BIGGEST SKILLSELECT INVITATION ROUND EVER

The Department has issued the largest number of Skillselect invitation round ever on 08th December 2022 inviting massive 35,120 candidates to apply for Skilled Independent Visa Subclass 189 and Subclass 491 visas. This includes Accountant, Chef, Electrician, Computer Network and Systems Engineer, Internal/External Auditor, Fitter, Motor Mechanic (General), Plumber, Software Engineer....etc.....

The table below shows the number of invitations issued in the SkillSelect invitation round on 8 December 2022.

Visa Subclass	Number
Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)	35000
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa	120



CANADA TO TARGET OCCUPATIONS IN EXPRESS ENTRY DRAWS STARTING IN 2023

Beginning in 2023, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will use new authorities to hold Express Entry draws in which candidates will be invited based on specific attributes rather than their overall CRS score.



Bill C-19, which was approved by both chambers of government on June 23 and obtained Royal Assent, made it feasible for the anticipated modifications to Express Entry. The Bill gives the immigration minister the power to extend invitations to applicants who possess any desirable skills or qualifications.

Who will be invited?

The recipients of invitations to apply (ITAs) in targeted draws have not yet been confirmed. In order to determine which candidates to target, the minister declared that he would speak with the provinces, business councils, and other stakeholders.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HOLDS LATEST PROVINCIAL NOMINATION DRAWS AS PNPS SLOW

The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BCPNP) held both a general and targeted draw on November 28th.

The province sent out at least 75 invitations to apply (ITAs) to selected professions and 253 ITAs to general candidates. All provinces hold their own, with the exception of Quebec and Nunavut.

Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs), a method of economic immigration that allows provincial governments to select foreign professionals to settle in their area and fill skills shortages.

The PNP has significantly augmented Canada's immigration policies and is anticipated to displace Express Entry-managed programs as the primary route for economic immigration for foreign workers into Canada by 2024.



EVENTS AND WEBINARS

YOU CAN NOW WATCH OUR PREVIOUS VIDEOS AND WEBINARS FROM BELOW LINKS,

- ⇒ [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](#)



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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