

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

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VICTORIA OFFERS FAST TRACK NOMINATION FOR HEALTH AND TEACHING OCCUPATIONS

Fast track nomination is now available for skilled visa candidates with an eligible health, teaching or social services occupation who also meet the minimum visa requirements.

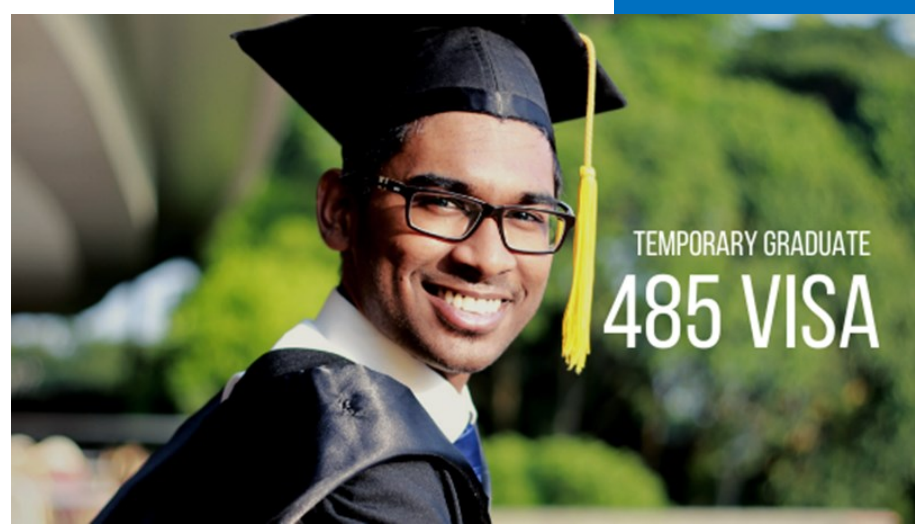
This means that Registrations of Interest (ROI) with a fast-track nomination occupation will be selected to apply for visa nomination within two weeks of submission. Providing the nomination application meets all minimum visa requirements, Victorian visa nomination will then be approved within five business days.

Candidates with other occupations will continue to be selected and nominated using the existing process.

refer to the full list of the Fast track nomination occupations from below link.

<https://liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/news-events/news/2023/fast-track-nomination-for-health-and-teaching-occupations>

EXTENDED POST STUDY RIGHTS FOR SUBCLASS 485



The post-study work rights for international students who have graduated from an Australian higher education provider, will be extended to assist in addressing skills shortages. A list of [eligible occupations and eligible qualifications](#) have been released, targeting health, teaching, engineering and agricultural fields.

The extended work rights come into effect from 1 July 2023. Current settings will be increased by two years for each graduate level, from:

- two years to four years for select Bachelor degrees
- three years to five years for select Masters degrees
- four years to six years for all Doctoral degrees

Existing regional and remote Australia settings will be maintained and *where relevant* will be eligible for the additional two years. These targeted skills will be considered on an annual basis and updated as needed in response to the labour market.

Eligible graduates with a valid Temporary Graduate Visa on 1 July 2023 or who apply for a Temporary Graduate Visa after 1 July 2023, will be considered for the two-year extension.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS - TWO-YEAR SC 408 VISAS

Temporary Graduate Visa (TGV) holders whose visas expire/d between 1 September 2022 and 1 July 2023 may apply for an extension of their work rights using a Temporary Activity SC 408 COVID-19 Pandemic event visa with two years validity. Temporary Graduate Visa holders who were in Australia throughout the pandemic period and are therefore not eligible for the TGV Replacement stream, may also be eligible for the SC 408 visa with two years validity.



STUDENT WORK RIGHTS INCREASED FROM 20 HOURS TO 24 HOURS PER WEEK



Unrestricted work rights for student visa holders will end on 30th June 2023 and from 1st of July 2023 work restrictions for students will be re-introduced and capped at 48 hours per fortnight.

TOP FIVE OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND NATIONALLY

The latest [Labour Market Update](#) report from Jobs and Skills Australia has provided the list of the top 20 occupations in demand nationally this quarter. This information is derived from a range of Jobs and Skills Australia and Australian Bureau of Statistics data sources to analyse the state of the Australian labour market in the December quarter of 2022. The top five occupations in demand nationally in that quarter, based on internet vacancies were:



- Registered Nurses
- Software and Applications Programmers
- Aged and Disabled Carers
- Child Carers
- Construction Managers

TRA UPDATES

TRA will be removing countries of passport for automotive occupations from the OSAP program (**Offshore Skills Assessment Program**) where those countries do not correspond with countries of passport for those occupations listed under the TSS program. This change was agreed to following engagement with automotive industry representatives regarding skills assessments and countries that have similar qualification standards to Australia, together with TRAs desire for consistency. This change will allow qualified applicants from 1 April 2023 to choose between the MSA (offered in-house by TRA) or an OSAP assessment for the occupations and countries of passport listed below.

The occupations and countries of passport in scope are:

Occupations:

- Automotive Electrician [321111]
- Motor Mechanic (General) [321211]
- Panel beater [324111]*
- Vehicle Painter [324311]
- Diesel Mechanic [321212]



TRADES RECOGNITION AUSTRALIA

Countries of passport:

- China*
- Ireland
- Sri Lanka
- United Kingdom

STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

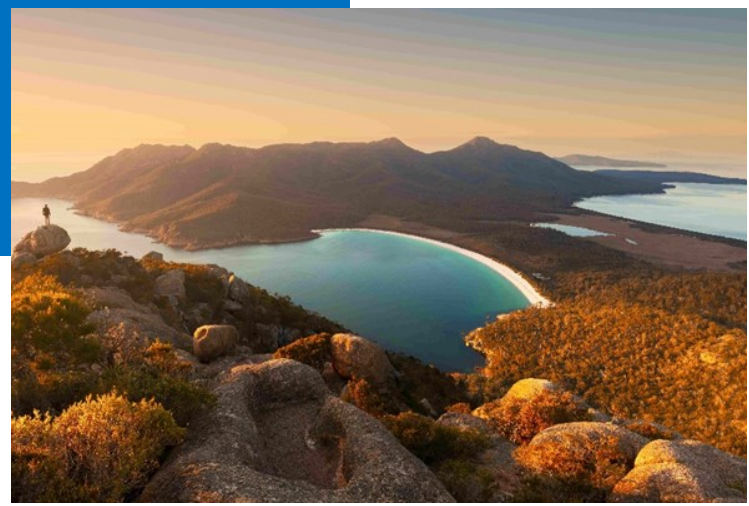
Victoria



Onshore candidates living and/or working in metropolitan Melbourne can now submit a registration of Interest (ROI) for the Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491) nomination. The new expanded eligibility criteria opens Victoria's subclass 491 visa program to skilled migrants living anywhere in Victoria, including previously ineligible metropolitan Melbourne residents **who wish to relocate to work and live in a designated regional area of Victoria**.

Subclass 491 visa holders must live, work and study in a regional area of Victoria for at least three years before they can apply for their subclass 191 visa, which provides permanent residency. This means you may need to move to a designated regional area of Victoria or secure a job that provides you with regional employment.

Tasmania



Tasmania has provided an update on its Subclasses 190 and 491 allocations as at 14 March 2023.

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa

- Nominations – 1269 of 2000 places used
 - Nomination applications not yet decided – 119
 - Invitations issued but not yet accepted – 200
- Oldest application yet to be processed – lodged 27 January 2023

Skilled Work Regional (subclass 491) visa

- Nominations – 1109 of 2250 places used
 - Nomination applications not yet decided – 232
 - Invitations issued but not yet accepted – 244
- Oldest application yet to be processed – lodged 3 March 2023

Northern Territory



The Northern Territory Government (Migration NT) has recently made some changes to its offshore nomination criteria.

The key changes are:

- Reduced work experience requirement (one year down from 3 years for most occupations)
- More occupations added to the Priority Occupations Stream (now 198 occupations)
- Expansion of the Family Support Stream to enable regional provisional (subclass 489, 491 and 494) visa holders and those who hold bridging visas after having applied for regional permanent residency (subclass 887 and 191) visas to support family members applying for nomination.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALBERTA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND INVITE CANDIDATES FOR PROVINCIAL NOMINATION.



Candidates have been invited under the Provincial Nominee Programs of British Columbia, Alberta, and Prince Edward Island (PNPs).

Obtaining a provincial nomination can be advantageous for candidates planning to apply for permanent resident status. This is because immigration is a shared responsibility of the federal and provincial governments.

Provinces nominate candidates based on characteristics such as work experience, education, language ability, or other human capital factors that the government believes will easily integrate into the provincial labour force.

The PNP is used by both the federal and provincial governments to spread the benefits of economic development across the country.

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MINISTERS PROVIDE UPDATE ON TOP OBJECTIVES.

Today in Halifax was the second midterm meeting of the Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration (FMRI). In Saint John, New Brunswick, on July 28, the most recent of the meetings, which are held twice a year, took place.

The FMRI is made up of immigration-related ministries from the federal, provincial, and territorial levels. The meetings serve as a forum for the two tiers of government to talk about Canada's top immigration issues.

The ministers discussed enhancing provincial/territorial (PT) participation in the selection process as part of their goal to make the immigration system as effective as possible in order to suit regional and economic demands.

They also wanted to boost the allocations for the PT Nominee Program and add greater input to the modernization of Fast Entry (PNPs). The provinces also sought to deliver multiyear allocations on time by March 31st, 2023.

The ministers discussed how Canada supports immigration positively in today's meeting and how they have been able to advance the goals set forward last summer.



EXPRESS ENTRY: CANADA HOLDS LARGEST ALL-PROGRAM DRAW EVER

IRCC invites 7,000 candidates with a minimum CRS score of 490. This is the first all-program draw since January 18.

Invitations were sent to 7,000 candidates by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), with a minimum Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score of 490.

This draw's ITA total surpasses the previous high of 5,500 applicants invited in the most recent all-program draw on January 18. Candidates from all three Express Entry programs—the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP), and the Canadian Experience Class—are taken into account in an all-program draw.

This draw deviates from the trend of program-specific draws that had been happening over the previous two months. There have been four program-specific rounds of invites since the last all-program draw, three for PNP-only candidates and one for FSWP candidates. Only 697 candidates obtained ITAs for the most recent PNP-only draw on March 1.

Between July and November 2022, all Express Entry draws were all-program draws that each welcomed over 1,000 applicants. As the minimal CRS score dropped, the number of applicants increased until 2023.

HOW TO MAINTAIN STATUS IN CANADA AS A CEC CANDIDATE WITH AN EXPIRING PGWP

CEC candidates in the Express Entry pool have not been invited to apply for permanent residence since the last all-program draw on January 18, nearly two months ago.

Since then, draws for candidates in the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) and the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) have been program-specific, leaving many Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) holders in the CEC concerned as their permits approach their expiration date.

Express Entry draw patterns have been inconsistent when compared to all draws held between July and November 2022. During that time period, Express Entry draws were all-program, which meant that any candidate in the Express Entry application management system who had at least the minimum Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score was eligible to receive an invitation to apply (ITA). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) faced a similar situation when Express Entry draws for both the FSWP (in January 2021) and the CEC were paused (in September of 2021).

In response to the pause, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser announced last April a one-time extension for those whose PGWP was set to expire between September 2021 and December 2022. A comparable measure has not been announced for those whose PGWPs expire in 2023.

PGWPs are issued to graduating students who want to stay in Canada after completing an eligible program of study at a Designated Learning Institution in Canada. The permits are valid for a maximum of three years. (depending on the length of the study program) and is not extendable or renewable.



UPCOMING EVENTS



We are pleased to announce that Sanji Caldera Associates, a leading migration consultancy, will be participating in the Melbourne Bak Maha Ulela, a cultural event hosted by the Sri Lanka German Technical Training Institute OBA of Australia Inc. The event will be held on April 2nd, starting at 9 AM, at the Dandenong Showgrounds. As a migration consultancy firm, Sanji Caldera Associates is committed to providing expert advice and support to individuals and businesses on their migration journey. Our team of experienced consultants can assist with a range of migration services, including visa applications, migration assessments, and other related services. We are excited to participate in this cultural event and look forward to engaging with members of the Sri Lankan community in Australia. During the event, Sanji Caldera our senior Migration Consultant will be available with our experienced staff members to discuss our migration services, answer questions, and provide personalized advice to help you achieve your migration goals. We invite you to join us at the Melbourne Bak Maha Ulela on April 2nd and meet our team. Come and enjoy the cultural displays, traditional food, and entertainment while also learning more about how Sanji Caldera Associates can assist you with your migration needs. We look forward to seeing you there!

WEBINARS

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

- ⇒ **What you need to know about General Skilled Migration in Australia: Expert Tips and Guidance**
- ⇒ **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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