

# MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

*The latest immigration news, views and announcements*

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## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Thank you for all your support in the past year. We look enviously to working with you in the long run as well. Happy New Year, 2024.

AUSTRALIA

CANADA

OTHER

# STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES



The number of intending migrants who received nominations from State and Territory Governments from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 is shown in the following table:

	Skilled 190 – Invites issued	Skilled 190 -Annual Allocation	Skilled 491 – Invites Issued	Skilled 491- Annual Allocation
ACT	454	600	407	600
NSW	966	2650	295	1500
NT	234	250	243	400
QLD	505	900	264	650
SA	830	1100	501	1200
TAS	370	600	261	600
VIC	1722	2700	304	600
WA	913	1500	420	850



## FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND DAMA UPDATE

The Cairns Chamber of Commerce's Deed of Variation (DoV) to the Far North Queensland Designated Area Migration Agreement (FNQ DAMA) has been approved.

A summary of the variations approved and effective immediately are:

- Added occupations: sand blaster, industrial spray painter, motor vehicle parts interpreter (automotive parts salesperson), podiatrist, plasterer (wall and ceiling), wall and floor tiler, outside school hours care worker
- English Language concession for the occupation of Chef
- Child care worker qualification reduced from AQF Cert IV to AQF Cert III
- Period of time required on a TSS 482 visa before ENS nomination, reduced from 3 years to 2 years
- Any work experience on a non-DAMA visa with work rights can be counted when nominated directly for ENS under FNQ DAMA (either full-time or part-time pro-rata experience)
- Removal of 'conditional' permanent visa pathway for TSS 482 to ENS 186 for Skill Level 5 occupations to now align with other skill levels
- FNQ DAMA to more explicitly include the Etheridge Shire Council and the Croydon Shire Council LGAs, as well as to include some postcodes previously omitted from existing LGAs (4857, 4884, 4887 and 4888)
- Changes to the allocation FNQ DAMA 'caps' allowing the Cairns Chamber of Commerce to endorse employers for years in an employer labour agreement beyond the expiry of a current FNQ DAMA head agreement

# NSW GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR OVERSEAS DRIVER LICENCE HOLDERS

On 1 July 2023, the NSW Government introduced two key policy changes for overseas license holders. The first change was the requirement for all temporary visa holders to convert to a NSW driver licence if they intend to reside in NSW for **six months or longer**. The second change allows for overseas drivers to be **stripped of their driving privileges permanently** if they accrue 13 demerit points or are convicted of certain speeding, drug and alcohol or serious driving offences. If overseas license holders for not convert within 6 months and continue to drive in NSW, they will be deemed unlicensed by the NSW Police Driving and as an unlicensed driver will incur a significant fine and may impact insurance coverage on their vehicle or motorbike, especially in an accident.



# CLOSURE OF THE SUBCLASS 408 – COVID-19 PANDEMIC EVENT VISA



Introduced in April 2020, the Pandemic Event visa aimed to address critical labour shortages during COVID-19. Now that Australia’s borders are open and temporary visa holder numbers in Australia have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, the Pandemic Event visa is no longer required.

### Key Dates and Changes:

- **From 2 September 2023:** The Pandemic Event visa is available exclusively to current holders of this visa.
- **Closure on 1 February 2024:** The visa will close to all applications, marking the end of its availability.

# OPPORTUNITIES IN WA CONSTRUCTION SECTORS

The Western Australian Government has launched an innovative **Construction Visa Subsidy Program (CVSP)**, offering a game-changing solution for industry growth and labour challenges.

This program will be offering **up to \$10,000** for each skilled migrant their sponsor for companies and also opens doors to **skilled international talent**, revitalising the sector with fresh expertise.

To be eligible for the CVSP, the company must be headquartered in Western Australia, engaged in building and construction work, and sponsor an employee in an eligible occupation, such as construction project manager, civil engineer, electrician, or carpenter.



This designed to help construction companies in Western Australia access skilled overseas workers in the building and construction sector, which can be crucial for addressing **labour shortages, expanding workforce, and growing businesses.**

Key benefits for companies:

- **Access to Skilled Workers:** The program supports construction companies in sponsoring skilled overseas workers across a range of eligible occupations (see full list below).
- **Financial Support:** CVSP provides subsidies and incentives to eligible employers, making it more cost-effective to hire and retain skilled workers from overseas. These subsidies can significantly reduce labour costs.
- **Flexible Visa Options:** CVSP supports various visa subclasses, including 482, 494, and 186. This allows the company to choose the best fit for specific workforce needs.
- **Enhanced Growth Potential:** Accessing skilled overseas workers through CVSP can open up new opportunities for companies to grow, take on larger projects, and improve competitiveness in the construction industry.

# CLOSURE OF THE SKILLED-RECOGNISED GRADUATE (SUBCLASS 476)



The [Skilled-Recognised Graduate \(subclass 476\) visa](#) has been capped from 22 December 2023. Applications lodged from 22 December 2023 will be finalised as invalid, and no further applications will be granted this program year. If you have an application pending with the Department, you will receive instructions on how to claim a repayment of your Visa Application Charge (VAC) through [Immi Account](#).

# SUMMARY OF EXPRESS ENTRY DRAWS SINCE JUNE 2023

Date	Draw Type	Number of ITAs	Minimum CRS
19-Dec	Trade occupations	1,000	425
18-Dec	All-program	1,325	542
8-Dec	STEM occupations	5,900	481
7-Dec	French language proficiency	1,000	470
6-Dec	All-program	4,750	561
26-Oct	Healthcare occupations	3,600	431
25-Oct	French language proficiency	300	486
24-Oct	PNP-only	1,548	776
10-Oct	All-program	3,725	500
28-Sep	Agriculture and agri-food occupations	600	354
27-Sep	French language proficiency	500	472
26-Sep	All-program	3,000	504
20-Sep	Transport occupations	1,000	435
19-Sep	All-program	3,200	531
15-Aug	All-program	4,300	496
3-Aug	Trade occupations	1,500	388
2-Aug	French language proficiency	800	435
1-Aug	All-program	2,000	517
12-Jul	French language proficiency	3,800	375
11-Jul	All-program	800	505
7-Jul	French language proficiency	2,300	439
6-Jul	Healthcare occupations	1500	463
5-Jul	STEM occupations	500	486
4-Jul	All-program	700	511
28-Jun	Healthcare occupations	500	476
27-Jun	All-program	4,300	486
8-Jun	All-program	4,800	486

# CANADA INVITES CANDIDATES IN THE FIRST EXPRESS ENTRY DRAW OF 2024



In the first Express Entry draw of 2024, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) issued invitations to 1,510 candidates. The draw, which was a general draw, required candidates to have a minimum Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score of 546. This draw considered candidates from all Express Entry managed programs, including the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), the Canadian Experience Class (CEC), and the Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP), with no specific targeting of occupations or

other human capital attributes. The four preceding draws in December varied, including an all-program draw and category-based draws for trades, transport, and agriculture occupations. The December draws ranged in the number of candidates invited and minimum CRS scores required. In total, there were seven Express Entry draws in December, marking the highest number of draws in a single month for all of 2023, following a six-week pause from October 26 to the December 6 draw, for which IRCC did not provide a confirmed reason.

## CANADA LAUNCHES SECOND PHASE OF RECOGNIZED EMPLOYER PILOT PROGRAM

Canada has launched the second phase of the Recognized Employer Pilot Program (REP), expanding eligibility for the program. REP aims to streamline the processing for Canadian employers compliant with the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). Qualified employers under REP benefit from longer validity periods for Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIAs) and simplified LMIA applications after the initial assessment. Eligibility requires a history of at least three positive LMIAs in the past five years, and hiring for positions in occupations designated as 'in-shortage' according to the Canadian Occupations Projection System (COPS). The REP offers LMIAs valid for up to 36 months, simplified application processes, fewer points of contact with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and a Job Bank designation. Phase 2 includes over 80 in-demand occupations from various sectors, expanding beyond the initial focus on the primary agriculture sector in Phase 1. Occupations eligible for expedited processing through the Global Talent Stream are not included in the REP. Employers undergo a thorough initial assessment to ensure credibility. Applications for REP can be submitted concurrently with LMIA applications, and even those not qualifying for REP will receive a decision on their LMIA.



# NAVIGATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

## RECENT EVENTS BY SANJI CALDERA ASSOCIATES

In our ongoing commitment to illuminate migration pathways, Sanji Caldera Associates orchestrated two impactful events, leaving a lasting impression in the migration consultancy arena.

### MIGRATION & EDUCATION ROADSHOW AT KANDY CITY CENTRE (DEC 9, 2023)

Sanji Caldera Associates successfully hosted the Migration & Education Roadshow at Kandy City Centre, the second event following the one at Galadari Hotel on Oct 8, 2023.

**Highlights:**

- **Pathways Unveiled:** The roadshow focused on migration pathways to Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, offering attendees a roadmap to international opportunities.
- **Consultant Interaction:** Attendees engaged with our consultants, gaining insights into the migration process, and having their queries addressed.



### JAFFNA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (JAN 20, 2024)

Sanji Caldera Associates actively participated in the Jaffna International Trade Fair, sharing expertise on migration and PR pathways to Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

**Highlights:**

- **Strategic Presence:** Consultants engaged with visitors, providing information on diverse migration and PR pathways.
- **Community Outreach:** The event facilitated connections with the local community, offering personalized insights into suitable migration pathways.



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS



**EDERA**  
GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL FEST

**EDUCATION FAIR**  
FEB 2 3 4

**BOOK FAIR**  
FEB 2 3 4 5 6

**CAREER FAIR**  
FEB 3 4

**FEB 2 - 6** @ Maris Stella  
College Premises

HOTLINE 077 900 1500 | 077 292 2229

AN INITIATIVE BY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION MARIS STELLA COLLEGE NEGOMBO

**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**
- ⇒ **Employer Nomination scheme recent updates**



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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