

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

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**OUR TEAM AT SANJI CALDERA
ASSOCIATES WISHING YOU
JOY, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND
INTO THE NEW YEAR.**

AMENDMENTS TO THE SKILLED EMPLOYER SPONSORED REGIONAL (PROVISIONAL) (SC 494) VISA



- The age requirement in the Labour Agreement stream which previously required an applicant to be under 45 at the time of application will be replaced with new provisions that enable an applicant to meet the age requirement where they have not reached the age specified by the Minister in a Labour Agreement that is in effect with the employer who is a party to a Labour Agreement.
- The applicant must satisfy the English language requirements as specified by the Minister in the Labour Agreement
- The applicant must satisfy any skills, qualifications and employment background requirements as specified by the Minister in the Labour Agreement
- The applicant must have worked in the nominated occupation or a related field for the period specified by the Minister in the Labour Agreement

GRADUATE VISAS SC 485 UPDATES

Following changes applies from 14 December 2024.

- The definition of “degree” has been redefined for the applicants of Subclass 485, focusing more on the Post Higher Education Work Stream. Now, graduate certificates will no longer qualify as a ‘degree.’
- Graduate diploma holders are eligible to apply if they pursue immediately after a relevant bachelor’s, master’s, or PhD program.
- The previous requirement of studying in Australia has now been removed from the visa criteria to simplify the application process and make it accessible for eligible graduates.
- If you are applying for a subsequent or second visa, you are required to live, work, and study in designated regional areas of Australia.



NEW SKILLS IN DEMAND (SID) VISA REPLACES THE TEMPORARY SKILL SHORTAGE (TSS) VISA



On December 7, 2024, the Skills in Demand (SID) visa replaced the Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) visa. All TSS nominations and visa applications lodged prior to the implementation of the SID visa will be processed using the requirements in force at the time the application was lodged.

If an employer has lodged a TSS nomination and applicant has not lodged their associated TSS visa application before 7 December 2024, if the nomination is approved it will be deemed a SID nomination, and applicant can lodge an associated application for a SID visa.

The SID visa has three streams:

- **Specialist Skills Stream** – this is for applicants in any ANZSCO occupation in Major Groups 1, 2, 4, 5 or 6 where the guaranteed earnings meet or are above the Specialist Skills Income Threshold of \$135,000 or more (excluding superannuation). Occupations at ANZSCO skill level 3, 7, and 8, which cover trade workers, machinery operators and drivers and labourers, are excluded from this stream, regardless of salary.
- **Core Skills Stream** – this stream is designed to meet the need for skilled employees with core skills identified as being in demand now and into the future. The new Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL) has replaced the previous STOL and MLTSSL. This stream is for applicants with an occupation on the new CSOL who will be receiving guaranteed annual earnings between the TSMIT threshold of \$73,500 and up to \$135,000.
- **Labour Agreement Stream (Essential Skills)** – this stream will carry over existing settings from the Subclass 482 visa however the DOHA is still to release more details. This stream is proposed as being for occupations where the market salary rate may be less than TSMIT.

The Visa Application Charge (VAC) for the SID:

- Base application charge – \$3,115;
 - Additional application charge for an application who is at least 18 – \$3,115;
 - Additional application charge for an applicant who is less than 18 – \$780.
- These figures are aligned with the amounts that currently apply to applicants for the Medium-term stream of the Subclass 482 (Temporary Skill Shortage) visa.

AUSTRALIA INTRODUCES NEW VISA PROCESSING RULES



The Australian government has introduced a new visa rule to manage international student numbers by slowing down visa processing once universities reach a predetermined target.

Processing Priorities:

Priority 1 – High:

- Given to education providers in higher education and vocational education sectors operating below 80% of their indicative allocation for new overseas student commencements (as outlined in PRISMS).
- Includes higher degree by research students, scholarship recipients, students enrolled in TAFE institutions, and students from the Pacific and Timor-Leste.

Priority 2 – Standard:

- Applies to providers exceeding the 80% threshold and other student visa applicants.

NATIONAL INNOVATION VISA SC 858

The Department will consider your EOI based on the indicators of exceptional and outstanding achievements claimed and the NIV program priorities. The Department will extend invitations in the following priority order, with priority one being the highest:



Priority one- Exceptional candidates from any sector who are global experts and recipients of international 'top of field' level awards. This includes but are not limited to Nobel Prizes; Breakthrough Prizes; Rousseeuw Prize; Eni Award; Institution of Electrical Engineers Medal of Honor; Fields Medal; Chern Medal; Abel Prize; L'Oreal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science; Turing Award; ACM Prize in Computing; Pulitzer Prize; International Booker Prize; International Tchaikovsky Competition Gold Medal; Olympic Gold Medal and Laureus World Sportsman or Sportswoman of the year.

Priority two- Candidates from any sector nominated on the approved Form 1000 by an expert Australian Commonwealth, State or Territory Government agency.

Priority three- Candidates with exceptional and outstanding achievements in a Tier One sector:

- Critical Technologies
- Health Industries
- Renewables and low emission technologies

Priority four - Candidates with exceptional and outstanding achievements in a Tier Two sector:

- Agri-food and AgTech
- Defence Capabilities and Space
- Education
- Financial Services and FinTech
- Infrastructure and Transport

UPDATES TO THE SUBCLASS 186 VISA STREAM

- The work experience requirement for a subclass 186 under the TRT stream previously required at least 2 years of full-time experience, whilst holding a 457 or 482 visa, working in the same occupation and with the same employer. The work experience requirements now allow the employment experience to be with any employer, whilst holding a 457 or 482 visa. This essentially means the clock does not re-start if a 457/482 visa holder changes employer.
- The requirement that the nominated occupation for a Sc 186 TRT nomination is the same occupation in relation to which their most recently held Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled)) visa, Subclass 482 (Temporary Skill Shortage) visa or Subclass 482 (Skills in Demand) visa was granted still remains. The occupation must be listed in ANZSCO but there is no longer any requirement that the 4-digit ANZSCO code must be identical to the code that existed when the most recently held visa was granted. The removal of any reference to the 4-digit ANZSCO code generates flexibility so that updates to occupation codes and groupings through ANZSCO updates do not disadvantage the applicant
- The new CSOL is the relevant occupation list for nominating an occupation under the Subclass 186 – DE Stream. The new CSOL has 456 occupations, many of which have not been available to direct entry subclass 186 for many years



EARLY CHILDHOOD (PRE PRIMARY) TEACHER : ACECQA ASSESSMENT

From 7 December 2024, a significant change is set to impact those aiming to migrate to Australia as Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers. The skills assessment authority for this occupation is transitioning from the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) to the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). This shift simplifies the process for many candidates by reducing stringent English language requirements and opening doors for faster qualification.



ACECQA is the approved assessing authority for the following occupations;

- Child care centre manager
- Child care worker (Group leaders only)

Under ACECQA, applicants now have more accessible pathways to demonstrate English proficiency:

- 1) One Year of Study in English-Speaking Countries: Applicants can qualify by completing one year of full-time tertiary or higher education in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada, the United Kingdom, or the United States. This replaces the previous AITSL requirement of four years of study, making it much easier for those with one-year Graduate Diploma qualifications or similar programs to meet the language standards.
- 2) IELTS and ISLPR Scores: For those who haven't studied in an English-speaking country, ACECQA still allows demonstration of English proficiency through:
 - IELTS Academic Test: Minimum scores of 7.0 in reading and writing and 8.0 in speaking and listening.
 - ISLPR Teacher-Focused Assessment: Level 4 in all four skill areas.
- 3) Professional References: ACECQA will, in some cases, accept professional references as proof of English proficiency, provided they are from specific English-speaking countries. This option is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and requires contacting ACECQA directly for guidance.

NEW SKILLS ASSESSMENT CENTRE IN FIJI:

The new technical interview assessment centre in SUVA, FIJI is now opened to help applicants based in the Pacific Islands. ATTC is making every possible effort to offer best customer service to our agent partners and applicants. Please refer to the link below for all the assessment locations:

<https://attc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ATTC-Assessment-Location-List-v4.0.pdf>



STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

Victoria

The following construction trade occupations are being prioritised under the Skilled Work Regional (Sc 491) visa and Skilled Nominated visa (Sc 190) visa:

- 331211 Carpenter and joiner
- 331212 Carpenter
- 331213 Joiner
- 333111 Glazier
- 333211 Fibrous plasterer
- 333212 Solid plasterer
- 334111 Plumber (general)
- 334112 Air conditioning and mechanical services plumber
- 334115 Roof plumber
- 341111 Electrician (general)
- 341112 Electrician (special class)
- 342211 Electrical lines worker
- 342411 Cabler (data and telecommunications)
- 394111 Cabinetmaker



ACT

- **ACT migration allocation update for the 2024-2025 program year**- confirmation that the total allocation is 1800 with 1000 places being allocated to the Skilled Nominated (Sc 190) visa and 800 places to the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (Sc 491) visa.
- **Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP)** - Confirmation that the ACT BIIP is closed to new applications for the Sc 188 visa nominations since the Department of Home Affairs has closed the BIIP permanently from July 2024. However, ACT nominations for Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa (Sc 888) are still being processed.
- **ACT Nomination Guidelines and ACT Critical Skills List** - No changes since the latest update in April 2023. However, the ACT Government anticipates a review early next year and will advise any significant changes in due course.
- **Invitation rounds** - There were smaller invitation round sizes in the first half of the financial year, which may have resulted in higher minimum scores for invitations in some occupation groups. The smaller sizes of the previous rounds were determined by operational requirements. Larger invitation rounds are expected throughout the rest of the financial year. The last invitation round of 2024 was conducted on 26 November 2024, and the next round will be undertaken before 14 February 2025. Occupations related to critical services including teaching, healthcare and social assistance will remain high priorities.



STATE OF THE EXPRESS ENTRY POOL

Recent patterns in Express Entry draws indicate a focus on Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) candidates, French language proficiency, and category-based selections.

Key Highlights:

1. November and October Draws:

- November: 5,507 ITAs issued across six draws.
- October: 5,961 ITAs issued across six draws.
- Draws emphasized PNP, Canadian Experience Class (CEC), and category-based selections.

2. November Highlights:

- The first healthcare category-based draw since July occurred, issuing 3,000 ITAs—the largest draw of the month.
- Category-based draws (healthcare and French language proficiency) dominated, accounting for 69% of total invitations.
- CEC and PNP draws were smaller, each issuing about 800 ITAs, which kept CRS score requirements relatively high.

3. December Trends:

- Early December draws continued the trend of targeting PNP and French language proficiency candidates, consistent with the previous two months.



Draw number	Date	Draw type	Invitations issued	CRS score
327	November 20, 2024	Healthcare occupations (Version 1)	3,000	463
326	November 19, 2024	Canadian Experience Class	400	539
325	November 18, 2024	Provincial Nominee Program	174	816
324	November 15, 2024	French language proficiency (Version 1)	800	478
323	November 13, 2024	Canadian Experience Class	400	547
322	November 12, 2024	Provincial Nominee Program	733	812

IRCC ANNOUNCES TRANSITIONAL MEASURES FOR SOME STUDENTS CHANGING DLIS NEXT

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has introduced new guidelines for international students transferring schools for the winter or spring 2025 semesters.



Key Updates:

- **Study Without Permit Approval:** International students transferring to a new Designated Learning Institution (DLI) can begin studying at their new school before receiving a new study permit, provided they meet specific conditions.

Conditions:

- 1) Acceptance to the new DLI for the 2025 semester intake.
- 2) Submission of a study permit extension application to IRCC.
- 3) Possession of a valid study permit (even if it lists the previous DLI).
- 4) Compliance with all existing conditions of their study permit.

Context:

- **DLIs:** Only DLIs are authorized to enroll international students in Canada.
- **Policy Change:** Previously, students had to wait for approval of a new study permit before changing schools, requiring an extension application rather than a simple online update.

This new flexibility aims to streamline the process for international students transferring schools in Canada.

SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL IMMIGRATION UPDATES (DECEMBER 6-13)

British Columbia (BCPNP):

- December 10 Draws:

- General Draw:

- ◆ Targeted Skilled Worker (including Express Entry British Columbia, EEBC) and Entry Level & Semi-Skilled streams.
- ◆ **6 ITAs issued** with minimum scores:
 - ⇒ Skilled Worker & Skilled Worker EEBC: 148
 - ⇒ Entry Level & Semi-Skilled: 121

- Priority Sector Draw:

- ◆ Focused on Skilled Worker candidates in key sectors.
- ◆ **<5 ITAs per sector** with minimum scores:
 - ⇒ Childcare: 101
 - ⇒ Construction: 112
 - ⇒ Healthcare: 121
 - ⇒ Veterinary care: 80



Manitoba (MPNP):













- Policy Update:

- The "Temporary Public Policy for Work Permits" facilitating open work permits for PNP candidates will end on **December 18, 2024 (11:59 PM CST)**.
- This policy, introduced in August 2024, allowed PNP candidates in the Expression of Interest (EOI) pool to apply for open work permits using support letters from Manitoba.
- **Final Applications:** Eligible candidates must submit their online application for a support letter before the deadline.



These updates highlight the evolving pathways and timelines for provincial immigration programs in Canada.

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

 <p>Expertise</p> <p>The Australian Federal Government Regulatory Body (OASIA) has recognised Sanji A. Caldera (CPA, FCPA, MIA) as a licensed and competent practitioner. He is a certified Australian immigration consultant (Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority). Furthermore, Sanji has been a member of the MIA (Migration Institute of Australia) for a long time. As a result of his extensive achievements and experience on legal issues and best practices.</p> <p>1:25:54</p>	 <p>Unlocking Opportunities: Navigating Skilled Migration to Australia Webinar</p> <p>135 views • 3 months ago</p>	 <p>Employer Nomination Scheme - Recent Changes & Outlook</p> <p>102 views • 6 months ago</p>	 <p>Navigate Your Journey to Australia</p> <p>258 views • 8 months ago</p>
 <p>We will also guide you on the pathway to the subclass 485</p> <p>1:41:49</p>	 <p>Insights from Melbourne Bak Maha Ulela: Exclusive Interview with Sanji Caldera...</p> <p>88 views • 1 year ago</p>	 <p>General Skilled Migration in Australia: Your Complete Guide</p> <p>74 views • 1 year ago</p>	 <p>All you need to know about General Skilled Migration by our Principal Consultant Sanji...</p> <p>140 views • 1 year ago</p>
 <p>Business Migration Discussion with The Principle Migration Consultant Sanji A...</p> <p>32 views • 1 year ago</p>	 <p>Australian Migration</p> <p>105 views • 4 years ago</p>	 <p>Business Migration to Australia</p> <p>184 views • 4 years ago</p>	 <p>COVID-19 and Government Policies</p> <p>122 views • 4 years ago</p>

****Some of the above videos are not available to watch due to the current Department updates**

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CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY



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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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