

Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

Compendium

Australia's Migration Trends 2016–17

Australia's Migration Trends Compendium was prepared by:

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Migration and Child Program visas

Migration Program

Australia's permanent Migration Program incorporates economic and family migration and is the main pathway to permanent residence. The only other way for migrants to obtain permanent residence is to be accepted into Australia on humanitarian grounds. The Migration Program has two major streams—Skill stream and Family stream—and a small number of Special Eligibility visas.

Skill stream visas

The Skill stream is designed for workers who have the skills, qualifications and entrepreneurship that will contribute to the Australian economy. There are four components:

1. Points Tested Skilled Migration
2. Employer Sponsored
3. Business Innovation and Investment
4. Distinguished Talent.

For further information see work-stream and business investment stream permanent visas.

Points tested visas

Applicants must be invited to apply by the Australian Government and are subject to a points test. There are three visa categories:

1. Skilled Independent
2. State/Territory Nominated
3. Skilled Regional.

Permanent Employer Sponsored visas

Applicants must be sponsored by an Australian employer to fill a genuine job vacancy in the employer's business. These workers can be from outside Australia or living in Australia on a temporary visa. There are two visa categories:

1. Employer Nomination Scheme
2. Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

Business Innovation and Investment visas

The Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) is for migrants with a demonstrated history of success or talent in innovation, investment and business, who are nominated by a state or territory government or the Australian Trade and Investment Commission. There are three visa subclasses:

1. Business Talent (Permanent) visa
2. Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa
3. Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa.

Family stream

The Family stream of the Migration Program allows the permanent migration of close family members of: Australian citizens; permanent residents; and eligible New Zealand citizens. There are three visa categories:

1. Partner visas
2. Parent visas
3. Other Family visas.

For further information see Family stream permanent residence visas.

Child visas

Child visas allow the permanent migration of children of Australian citizens; permanent residents; and eligible New Zealand citizens. There are two visa categories:

1. Child visas
2. Adoption visa.

Special Eligibility visas

Special Eligibility visas allow former residents and certain people who served in the Australian Defence Force to live in Australia as permanent residents. It also includes visas granted under Ministerial intervention.

For further information see Former Resident visa.

Temporary visas

People can come to Australia for a temporary stay for a range of purposes, for example, visiting Australia for tourism or attending a conference, or for more specific purposes, such as medical treatment, study, skilled work, working holidays or other specialist activities. There are six main categories which can cover stays of more than three months in Australia:

1. Visitors
2. Working Holiday Makers
3. International students
4. Skilled temporary residents
5. Other temporary residents
6. New Zealand citizens.

Visitor visas

Visitor visas are mostly used by people visiting Australia for holidays, tourism and recreation, or to see family and friends. People may also use Visitor visas for certain short-term business activities that do not entail working in Australia. There are three subclasses:

1. Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)—allows visits to Australia for tourism or business activities.
2. Visitor visa (subclass 600)—allows visits to Australia for tourism or business activities. There are five visa streams:
    i. Tourist stream
    ii. Business Visitor stream
    iii. Sponsored Family stream
    iv. Approved Destination Status stream (ADS)—for people from the People's Republic of China travelling in an organised tour group.
    v. Frequent Traveller stream—a trial visa, for passport holders from the People's Republic of China.
3. eVisitor visa (subclass 651)—allows visits to Australia for tourism or business activities

For further information see visiting family or friends.

Working Holiday Maker visas

The Working Holiday Maker Program is a program between agreement countries that allows young adults to have an extended holiday and engage in short-term work and study. There are two subclasses:

1. Working Holiday visa (subclass 417)
2. Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462).

For further information see working holiday.

Student visas

The Student visa program enables international students to come to Australia to study full-time in a registered course. Student visa (subclass 500), allows the visa holder to undertake study within the following categories:

- English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector
- Schools sector
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector
- Higher Education sector
- Postgraduate Research sector
- Non-award sector
- Foreign Affairs or Defence sector.

For those who wish to visit Australia to provide care and support to student visa holders, there is available a Student Guardian visa (subclass 590).

For further information see studying in Australia.

Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485)

The Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) provides recent Student visa graduates an opportunity to remain and work temporarily in Australia. There are two streams:

1. Graduate Work stream
2. Post-Study Work stream.

For further information see post-study work.

Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457)

Allows a business to sponsor a skilled overseas worker if they cannot find an appropriately skilled Australian citizen or permanent resident to fill a skilled position.

For further information see repeal of the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa – new Temporary Skill Shortage visa.

Other temporary visas

Other temporary visas considered in this publication allow people to undertake short-term, non-ongoing highly specialised work, enrich social and cultural development, strengthen international relations or provide training opportunities of benefit to Australia.

There are five visa types:

1. Short Stay Specialist—two streams:
    i. In Australia's interest
    ii. Short-term highly specialised work.
2. International Relations—five streams:
    i. Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular)
    ii. Foreign government agency
    iii. Government agreement
    iv. Privileges and immunities
    v. Seasonal Worker Program.
3. Training
4. Temporary Activity—10 streams:
    i. Australian Government endorsed events
    ii. Domestic Worker (Executive)
    iii. Entertainment
    iv. Exchange
    v. Invited for other social or cultural activity
    vi. Religious worker
    vii. Research
    viii. Special programs
    ix. Sport
    x. Superyacht Crew.
5. Diplomatic.

For further information see Visa list.

New Zealand citizens

Under the 1973 Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement, New Zealand citizens can enter and leave Australia freely and live in Australia indefinitely on grant of a temporary Special Category visa (subclass 444).

As with other potential migrants, New Zealand citizens are eligible to apply for a permanent visa.

For further information see New Zealand citizens.

Humanitarian Program visas

Australia's Humanitarian Program has an offshore resettlement component and an onshore protection component.

For further information see Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

Offshore resettlement component

The offshore component of the Humanitarian Program has two categories:

1. Refugee—four visa subclasses:
   i. Refugee (subclass 200)
   ii. In-country Special Humanitarian Program (subclass 201)
   iii. Emergency Rescue (subclass 203)
   iv. Woman at Risk (subclass 204).
2. Special Humanitarian Program (subclass 202).

Onshore protection component

The onshore protection component is for people seeking asylum in Australia who have their claims assessed in Australia. A permanent visa is available for people who arrived in Australia legally. A Temporary Protection visa is available for Illegal Maritime Arrivals and Unauthorised Air Arrivals found to engage Australia's non-refoulement obligations. These grants are not counted towards the Humanitarian Program but are in addition to current places available.

Visa non-compliance

The Department's approach to compliance applies to the full continuum of departmental activity—pre-border, at the border, and post border. Visas can be cancelled for a range of non-compliance reasons, for example, where a visa holder breaches a condition of their visa, provides incorrect information at or post border to the Department, or engages in certain criminal activity. When a person's visa is cancelled (if they are in Australia) the person becomes an Unlawful Non-Citizen (UNC) and arrangements are made to resolve their immigration status and/or their removal from Australia.

Net Overseas Migration

Net Overseas Migration (NOM) is a measure of the net gain, or loss, of population through migration into and outside of Australia. The compilation of NOM is a joint exercise between the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Department. The ABS is responsible for calculating preliminary and final NOM estimates and the Department is responsible for NOM forecasts. This forecast takes into account the expected effects of announced policy decisions.

NOM is one component of population growth, the other being natural increase—births less deaths. NOM is based on an international traveller's duration of stay and is the difference between:

- **NOM arrivals**—the number of incoming travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more during a 16-month period ('12-in-16 month rule'), who are not currently counted in the population
- **NOM departures**—the number of outgoing travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more during a 16-month period, who are currently counted in the population.

The '12 in 16 month rule' applies when counting NOM arrivals or departures. Therefore people who are not permanent residents of Australia can be counted as NOM arrivals or departures regardless of visa type, even if they leave Australia briefly, provided their time in Australia adds up to at least 12 months in a 16 month window. It therefore includes permanent and temporary migrants, as well as New Zealand and returning Australian citizens.

Final NOM, is based on a person' actual travel movements, and requires many months of potential overseas arrivals and departures. As a result, final NOM data is not available until 18 months after the reference quarter.

For further information see Australian Demographic Statistics or Migration Australia.

Citizenship in Australia

The *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (the Citizenship Act) defines who is, who can become, and who ceases to be an Australian citizen. Most people who acquire Australian citizenship do so automatically, for example by being:

- born in Australia to an Australian citizen or permanent-resident parent
- born in Australia and being ordinarily resident in Australia throughout the first 10 years of their life
- a permanent resident who is adopted in Australia by an Australian citizen.

Non-citizens who wish to acquire Australian citizenship must lodge an application, meet certain legal requirements, and be approved to acquire Australian citizenship. The legal requirements that must be met are different for each Australian citizenship application pathway, and each pathway caters for particular categories of non-citizens. There are four pathways:

1. Citizenship by conferral
2. Citizenship by descent
3. Citizenship by adoption
4. Citizenship by resumption.

For further information see Applying for citizenship.

Diversity and Settlement

The Australian Government administers a range of settlement services for migrants, with the Department responsible for reporting on Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS National).

The Department of Education and Training, is responsible for the Adult Migrant English Program, while the Department of Social Services administers the majority of other settlement services and was responsible for multicultural affairs policies and programs during the 2016–17 financial year, including:

- Australian Cultural Orientation Program
- Humanitarian Settlement Services
- Settlement Grants Program
- Complex Case Support
- Diversity and Social Cohesion Program
- Multicultural Arts and Festivals Grants.

Labour market

This Department employs information from a variety of sources to examine the labour market outcomes of both new and established migrants. This includes the Department's Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants (CSAM), which reports on outcomes for recently arrived migrants.

CSAM is an ongoing set of surveys primarily designed to provide information on labour market outcomes of recent migrants from the Skill stream of Australia's permanent Migration Program, across different visa categories. The CSAM also provides employment outcome data for the Partner visa category of the Migration Program's Family stream. Other categories of the Family stream are not included. This is because they represent only a small fraction (around 15 per cent) of the total Family stream and because they include the Parent visa category, many of whom due to their age are no longer participants in the labour market.

Labour market outcomes of migrants are captured at their six-month and 18-month settlement periods. Migrants are surveyed six months after arrival (in the case of offshore migrants) or six months after visa grant (in the case of onshore migrants). A follow-up survey is then conducted 12 months later to examine how outcomes for a given cohort have changed.

For further information see Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants.