



**South Australia Economic and
Finance Committee
Inquiry into the economic contribution of
migration to South Australia
Department of Home Affairs responses to
Questions on Notice.**

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**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

South Australia Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia.

02 September 2019

QoN Number: EFC/001

Subject: 2017-18 Migration Data

Submitted by: The Committee

Question:

The Committee notes that the department has recently released its migration data for 2017-18.

Permanent migrants

Can the department provide:

- a) a breakdown of the Migration Program Planning Ceiling for 2019-20 under the new 160 000 ceiling (noting attachment A of the submission provides a breakdown of the 2018-19 Migration Program Planning Ceiling under the 190 000 ceiling);
- b) a brief description of each of the skill stream categories, and the main visa types associated with each (Employer Sponsored; Skilled Independent; State & Territory & Regional Nominated; Business Innovation & Investment Program; Distinguished Talent);
- c) the nomination ceiling for each of the skill stream categories by state/territory for 2019-20, including for ENS and RSMS visas (noting the submission provides SA's nomination ceiling for STRN and BIIP for 2017-18, and notes the nomination allocation process for 2018-19 was underway);
- d) how South Australia's nomination ceilings compare with other jurisdictions (noting the submission provides that SA had the second and third highest ceiling for STRN and BIIP in 2017-18);
- e) skilled migration program outcomes by intended resident state/territory for 2017-18 (noting table 1 of attachment B of the submission provides data up to 2016-17);
- f) skilled migration program outcomes by visa category for SA for 2017-18 (noting table 2 of attachment B of the submission provides data up to 2016-17).

The 2017-18 Migration Program Report highlights that 12 017 permanent migrants (7.4 per cent) intended to live in South Australia (refer table 1 of the report). Can the department provide details on:

- g) how the proportion of migrants intending to live in South Australia compares with other jurisdictions over the past five years (such as numbers of proportions of intended residence for the Migration Program by state/territory and by skill stream, family stream, special eligibility stream and child visas).

Temporary migrants

Australia's Migration Trends 2017-18 Highlights provides details on the number of temporary visas granted for 2018-19. The Committee notes that international students are the largest component of the temporary visa program.

Can the department provide:

- h) the number and proportion of temporary resident (skilled) visas and student visas (broken down into type of education, ie Higher education, VET) by intended

state/territory of residence for 2018-19;

i) the number and proportion of working holiday visas granted by state/territory for 2018-19 (if available, noting working holiday workers can work across regional Australia);

j) the numbers and proportions of these visas granted by intended state/territory for the past five years.

Answer:

a) Breakdown of the Migration Program Planning Ceiling for 2019-20.

Category	2019–20 Planning Ceiling
Skill Stream	
Employer Sponsored	30,000
Skilled Independent	18,652
State/Territory Nominated	24,968
Regional Category	23,000
<i>Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional</i>	(9,000)
<i>Skilled Work Regional</i>	(14,000)
Business Innovation and Investment Program	6,862
Global Talent Program	5,000
Distinguished Talent	200
Skill Total	108,682
Family Stream	
Partner	39,799
Parent	7,371
Other Family	562
Family Total	47,732
Special Eligibility	236
Total Migration Program (excluding child)	156,650
Child (not subject to ceiling)	3,350
Total Migration Program	160,000

b) The skill stream categories can be broken down as follows:

Employer Sponsored

Skilled – Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) visa allows skilled workers, who are nominated by their employer, to live and work in Australia permanently.

Skilled Independent

Skilled Independent (subclass 189) visa is a permanent visa for high calibre people who do not have a sponsor.

State/Territory Nominated

Skilled - Nominated (subclass 190) visa - State or territory nominated is a permanent points-tested visa for highly skilled people who are invited to apply for the visa through SkillSelect if nominated by a state or territory government agency. The nominating state or territory might require a visa holder to meet specific requirements, including living in the nominating state or territory for a specified minimum time.

Regional Category

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187) visa is a demand-driven program that allows employers in regional areas to sponsor foreign skilled workers for permanent residence in Australia. Additional occupations that are not available to employers in major metropolitan centres are available to regional sponsors.

Skilled - Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) visa – Sponsored this visa encourages settlement in regional Australia and some metropolitan areas experiencing labour market shortages. Skilled migrants on a 489 visa are required to live, study or work in a designated area for two years.

Business Innovation and Investment Program

Australia's Business Innovation and Investment program (BIIP) targets migrants who have a demonstrated history of success or talent in innovation, investment and business and are able to make a significant contribution to the national innovation system and the Australian economy.

Within the BIIP, there are provisional and permanent visa options for:

- Business people with a range of business skills who want to establish, develop and manage a new or existing business in Australia.
- Entrepreneurs who have a funding agreement from a third party to undertake an entrepreneur activity that is proposed to lead to either the commercialisation of a product or service or the development of a promising, high-value business in Australia.
- Investors who want to make a specified investment in the Australian economy and maintain business and investment activities in Australia.

Global Talent

Global talent initiatives will strengthen Australia's capacity to attract and facilitate migrants with high human capital, including entrepreneurs and persons with niche or cutting edge skills.

The *Global Talent – Independent Program* – works closely with Australian business, innovation, and research sectors, Government will identify high calibre candidates for up to 5000 permanent migration places annually through active targeting and promotion in Australia and overseas.

Distinguished Talent

Distinguished Talent (DT) targets high value people to Australia who are internationally recognised for their exceptional and outstanding achievements. DT is designed to attract exceptional talents in the fields of academia, sports, professions, and the arts. It also provides a pathway for people who have assisted the Australian government in security matters.

c) Under the Skill Stream of the 2019-20 Migration Program, state and territory governments may nominate skilled and business migrants in three visa categories: State/Territory Nominated; Regional; and Business Innovation and Investment Program. The nomination process does not apply to the Employer Nomination Scheme or the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

Each program year, states and territories make individual requests for nomination allocations under the three visa categories based on the skills needs of their jurisdiction. The final decision on nomination allocations is made by the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs. The Minister separately notifies each state and territory of their own nomination allocations under each of the three categories. During the program year, state or territory governments are able to make additional requests to the Minister to adjust their nomination allocations should program demand, business or labour market conditions require it.

Nomination allocations do not equate to planning ceilings or visa grants. Nominations take into account primary applicants only, whereas the overall planning ceilings for each category and the program delivery outcomes (visa grants) count both primary and secondary applicants. Nominations in a given year do not necessarily result in lodged applications in the same year.

d) For the 2019-20 Migration Program, South Australia has the second highest allocation for general skilled nominations (State/Territory Nominated and Regional categories combined). The nominations allocation is in line with what was requested by South Australia.

In the Business Innovation and Investment Program category, South Australia has the third highest nomination allocation, which is consistent with their allocation for the 2018-19 program year.

e) The following table provides the Migration Program outcome (Skill Stream) by - intended state/territory of residence for both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 program years.

State/Territory	2017-18	2018-19
New South Wales	35,576	36,839
Victoria	27,685	27,102
Queensland	11,100	12,232
South Australia	9,422	7,742
Western Australia	8,140	6,481
Tasmania	2,498	2,845
Australian Capital Territory	2,501	2,517
Northern Territory	1,868	2,142
Not Specified	12,309	11,813
Total	111,099	109,713

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2019.

Note: Includes primary and secondary applicants.

f) The following table provides the Migration Program outcome (Skill Stream) by visa category for those whose intended state of residence was South Australia, for both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 program years.

Visa Category	2017-18	2018-19
Business Innovation & Investment	759	1,004
Distinguished Talent	9	0
Employer Sponsored	1,130	1,740
Skilled Independent	1,111	657
Skilled Regional	208	92
State/Territory Nominated	6,205	4,249
Grand Total	9,422	7,742

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2019.

Note: Includes primary and secondary applicants.

g) The following table provides the Migration Program outcome by visa stream and intended state/territory of residence for program years 2012-13 to 2018-19.

Outcome		Program Year						
Intended Residence	Stream	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Australian Capital Territory	Child				39	54	43	43
	Family	1,049	959	1,014	904	898	733	226
	Skill	3,093	3,386	3,450	2,317	2,755	2,501	2,517
	Special Eligibility	<5						
	Australian Capital Territory Total	4,143	4,345	4,464	3,260	3,707	3,277	2,786
Australian Capital Territory % of Migration Program		2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%
New South Wales	Child				884	911	822	626
	Family	20,663	20,450	20,200	18,669	19,849	15,853	4,963
	Skill	26,921	34,589	36,509	42,189	40,704	35,576	36,839
	Special Eligibility	17	5			6		
	New South Wales Total	47,601	55,044	56,709	61,742	61,470	52,251	42,428
New South Wales % of Migration Program		25.1%	29.0%	30.0%	32.5%	33.5%	32.2%	26.5%
Northern Territory	Child				41	41	59	37
	Family	537	564	524	539	583	556	101
	Skill	1,786	1,796	2,007	1,858	1,769	1,868	2,142
Northern Territory Total		2,323	2,360	2,531	2,438	2,393	2,483	2,280
Northern Territory % of Migration Program		1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%
Queensland	Child				372	408	411	326
	Family	8,138	7,258	7,496	7,134	6,936	6,359	1,899
	Skill	13,447	13,421	14,713	14,354	14,175	11,100	12,232
	Special Eligibility	<5						
	Queensland Total	22,022	28,136	32,922	32,820	32,599	27,870	24,457

Queensland Total		21,589	20,679	22,209	21,860	21,519	17,870	14,457
Queensland % of Migration Program		11.4%	10.9%	11.7%	11.5%	11.7%	11.0%	9.0%
South Australia	Child				145	141	135	98
	Family	2,957	2,734	2,785	2,812	2,683	2,460	720
	Skill	8,934	7,980	10,701	9,504	8,238	9,422	7,742
South Australia Total		11,891	10,714	13,486	12,461	11,062	12,017	8,560
South Australia % of Migration Program		6.3%	5.6%	7.1%	6.6%	6.0%	7.4%	5.3%
Tasmania	Child				22	17	12	26
	Family	489	364	406	386	405	265	92
	Skill	704	768	679	772	1,582	2,498	2,845
Tasmania Total		1,193	1,132	1,085	1,180	2,004	2,775	2,963
Tasmania % of Migration Program		0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	1.7%	1.8%
Victoria	Child				621	611	617	409
	Family	15,337	14,325	15,677	14,689	14,741	12,703	3,734
	Skill	23,136	25,513	29,630	32,206	32,197	27,685	27,102
	Special Eligibility	6	<5					
Victoria Total		38,479	39,840	45,307	47,516	47,549	41,005	31,245
Victoria % of Migration Program		20.3%	21.0%	24.0%	25.0%	25.9%	25.2%	19.5%
Western Australia	Child				368	373	292	284
	Family	7,306	5,946	6,017	6,206	5,770	5,048	1,147
	Skill	23,074	23,097	20,216	15,914	12,765	8,140	6,481
	Special Eligibility	<5						
Western Australia Total		30,383	29,043	26,233	22,488	18,908	13,480	7,912
Western Australia % of Migration Program		16.0%	15.3%	13.9%	11.9%	10.3%	8.3%	4.9%
Not Specified	Child	0	0	0	1,020	844	959	1,399
	Family	3,709	8,512	6,966	6,061	4,355	3,755	34,365
	Skill	27,878	18,000	9,869	9,436	9,382	12,309	11,813
	Special Eligibility	811	331	238	308	415	236	115
Not Specified Total		32,398	26,843	17,073	16,825	14,996	17,259	47,692
Not Specified % of Migration Program		17.1%	14.1%	9.0%	8.9%	8.2%	10.6%	29.7%
Total		190,000	190,000	189,097	189,770	183,608	162,417	160,323

h) The following table details student visa grants by state/territory and education sector for program years 2012-13 to 2019-20 (up to 31/08/2019).

Student visas granted 2012 through 2020 including state/territory of education provider and sector		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 to 31/08/2019
Education P Visa Type									
ACT	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	1	9			3	2		
	Higher Education Sector	3,432	5,573	5,073	4,444	4,906	6,154	4,870	754
	Independent ELICOS Sector	205	186	171	138	141	126	132	30
	Non-Award Sector	400	491	450	519	506	563	457	25
	Postgraduate Research Sector	444	459	409	366	328	388	362	56
	Schools Sector	178	209	244	273	270	169	102	9
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	551	634	769	886	991	1,343	1,930	523
ACT Total		5,211	7,561	7,116	6,626	7,145	8,745	7,853	1,397
NSW	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	21	57	39	11	25	10		
	Higher Education Sector	45,958	52,200	55,517	55,885	62,227	68,604	75,823	14,296
	Independent ELICOS Sector	10,814	11,015	14,008	15,028	18,307	17,876	18,152	3,694
	Non-Award Sector	5,554	6,446	6,520	7,270	7,905	8,135	8,047	921
	Postgraduate Research Sector	2,663	2,662	2,869	2,742	2,980	3,202	2,996	702
	Schools Sector	2,043	2,301	2,764	2,436	2,710	2,346	2,146	336
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	22,440	22,910	27,284	29,765	30,903	35,172	37,624	7,421
NSW Total		89,493	97,591	109,001	113,137	125,057	135,345	144,788	27,370
NT	Higher Education Sector	561	1,279	1,427	1,496	1,193	987	1,025	175
	Independent ELICOS Sector	122	43	1	1			2	
	Non-Award Sector	20	22	25	27	33	33	28	
	Postgraduate Research Sector	25	24	22	42	35	22	38	7
	Schools Sector	33	41	33	34	50	36	42	12
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	90	108	108	100	135	119	237	55
NT Total		851	1,517	1,616	1,700	1,446	1,197	1,372	249
QLD	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	2	7	9		7	8		
	Higher Education Sector	18,123	24,494	20,349	21,711	24,863	28,710	30,682	5,219
	Independent ELICOS Sector	8,554	9,182	8,809	9,505	12,196	11,337	12,830	2,521
	Non-Award Sector	4,280	4,909	4,682	4,729	4,504	4,490	4,263	356
	Postgraduate Research Sector	1,969	2,061	1,955	1,538	1,580	1,425	1,677	238
	Schools Sector	2,201	2,318	2,777	2,977	3,401	3,233	2,951	359
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	9,168	9,877	11,048	12,468	14,668	20,058	24,452	4,985
QLD Total		44,297	52,848	49,629	52,928	61,219	69,261	76,855	13,678
SA	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector					3	4	1	
	Higher Education Sector	7,202	8,135	8,191	8,969	10,811	12,392	13,912	2,666
	Independent ELICOS Sector	703	730	716	624	605	625	743	233
	Non-Award Sector	925	1,292	1,012	1,172	820	762	723	64
	Postgraduate Research Sector	682	614	530	458	526	512	520	100
	Schools Sector	870	906	1,094	1,149	1,293	1,123	1,221	118
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	3,148	3,120	3,000	3,227	3,397	3,794	4,180	975
SA Total		13,530	14,797	14,543	15,599	17,455	19,212	21,300	4,156

The following table details Temporary Resident (Skilled) primary visa grants by nominated state/territory for 2018-19 and 2019-20 (up to 31/08/2019).

Nominated Location State/Territory	2018-19	2019-20 up to 31/08/2019
Australian Capital Territory	469	104
New South Wales	331	3,124
Northern Territory	368	83
Not Specified	5	1
Queensland	4,360	838
South Australia	872	188
Tasmania	235	26
Victoria	11,562	1,769
Western Australia	4,019	837
Grand Total	41,221	6,970

i) The primary purpose of the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program is to build people-to-people links between Australia and partner countries and encourage youth mobility. WHM visa applicants/holders are not required to report where they live or work or intend to live or work, except if they wish to apply for a second or third WHM visa, in which case they must provide evidence that they have completed the prescribed minimum period of 'specified work'.

WHMs who choose to apply for a second WHM visa must provide evidence that they have completed at least three months of work in a region, industry and role 'specified' for their visa subclass. This is done by entering details into the online application form for each separate employer.

Departmental systems' reporting on specified work cannot provide a comprehensive or representative picture of specified work undertaken by WHMs.

j) For the Student visa and WHM programs, refer to the response provided in (h) and (i).

The following table details Temporary Resident (Skilled) primary visa grants by nominated location over the last five program years.

Nominated Location State/Territory	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Australian Capital Territory	823	672	709	571	469
New South Wales	20,389	19,706	21,423	15,488	19,331
Northern Territory	830	716	846	552	368
Not Specified	20	5	83	47	5
Queensland	6,384	5,378	5,203	3,792	4,360
South Australia	1,529	1,157	1,035	1,066	872
Tasmania	248	252	216	226	235
Victoria	12,664	11,546	11,724	9,351	11,562
Western Australia	8,238	5,963	5,241	3,353	4,019
Grand Total	51,125	45,395	46,480	34,446	41,221

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

South Australia Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia.

02 September 2019

QoN Number: EFC/002

Subject: Application Pipeline

Submitted by: The Committee

Question:

The 2017-18 Migration Program Report highlights that there are 101 419 applications in the pipeline for the skill stream at 30 June 2018.

Can the department provide (if available):

a) a breakdown of how many of the applications in the pipeline are intended for South Australia across the four skill stream categories (Employer Sponsored category [both ENS and RSMS], GSM, BIIP and Distinguished Talent).

Answer:

a) The following table outlines the visa applications on-hand as at 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019, where intended state of residence is South Australia, in the requested skill stream categories.

Intended Residence	Visa Category	30/06/2018	30/06/2019
South Australia	Business Innovation & Investment	2,487	3,339
	Employer Sponsored	3,291	1,583
	Distinguished Talent	0	0
	General Skilled Migration	2,786	5,028
South Australia Total		8,564	9,950

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

South Australia Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia.

02 September 2019

QoN Number: EFC/003

Subject: DAMAs

Submitted by: The Committee

Question:

The Committee notes that on 6 April 2019 the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs and SA Minister for Innovation and Skills announced that the Commonwealth had finalised two five-year Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs) for South Australia (Adelaide Technology and Innovation Advancement Agreement and Regional South Australia).

The Committee received a briefing on the DAMAs from South Australian Government officers on 1 May 2019, prior to the DAMAs commencing on 1 July 2019.

Can the department please provide further details on:

- a) the expected timeframes for establishing individual DAMA labour agreements, once an employer has been endorsed by Immigration SA; and
- b) whether the department has entered into any labour agreements with South Australian employers to date?

Answer:

- a) To date the amount of time taken for the Department to establish individual DAMA Labour Agreements endorsed by the SA Government has been around a month. Processing times can, however, vary with the completeness and quality of the application.
- b) As at 22 October 2019, the Department has executed three DAMA labour agreements with South Australian employers.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

South Australia Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia.

02 September 2019

QoN Number: EFC/004

Subject: Humanitarian Program

Submitted by: The Committee

Question:

The Committee has heard evidence that the proportion of humanitarian migrants settling in South Australia has decreased in recent years.

Can the department provide:

a) a brief explanation of how the 18 750 places in the Humanitarian Program for 2018-19 are allocated across Australia?

b) any available data on where humanitarian migrants settle by state/territory, noting that humanitarian migrants are free to settle anywhere in Australia. If data is available, can the department provide the numbers and proportions for the past five years by state/territory.

Answer:

a) The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) currently settles offshore humanitarian entrants arriving under Australia's Humanitarian Program in 25 designated settlement locations across Australia, 19 of which are located in regional areas. These locations all have a range of services established that are effective in addressing critical settlement needs and promoting integration into the Australian community, including settlement, health (including specialist torture and trauma services), education, accommodation, transport, employment services, as well as community support.

The Department does not choose the settlement location for Humanitarian entrants arriving on Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) visas, as they generally settle in the same location as the person who proposed their arrival. Proposers under the Special humanitarian program are required, under the conditions of the visa, to organise and pay for the visa holders' travel, and provide settlement support in the initial settlement period.

For humanitarian entrants arriving on refugee visas, it is departmental policy to settle them close to their families and connections in Australia, as this provides new arrivals with valuable social support in their early settlement period.

Settlement Planning Levels

The current process to determine how humanitarian places are allocated across the designated settlement locations is through the calculation of Annual Indicative Referral Levels (AIRLs) for each program year.

AIRLs are forecasted numbers of offshore humanitarian entrants that will be referred to one of the 25 settlement locations under the Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) in a program year. AIRLs are provided to HSP Service Providers, State and Territory Governments and other relevant Commonwealth agencies soon after the commencement of each program year to assist with their planning and resourcing.

AIRLs are determined by considering:

- composition of the offshore humanitarian program
- previous year's referral levels, including the number of linked and SHP referrals
- capacity of each settlement location to receive humanitarian entrants, as reported by the HSP Service Providers, taking account of issues such as housing and the capabilities of the service system
- data on client and community retention, to ensure we're sending clients to locations with strong refugee communities, and
- information on client/cohort outcomes in each settlement location, where available, to provide humanitarian entrants with the best chance of achieving positive settlement outcomes.

AIRLs are indicative only and subject to change resulting from offshore conditions outside the Department's control. They do not provide a target for arrivals in a particular program year due to the many factors that influence travel arrangements for humanitarian entrants.

The Department does not choose the settlement location for humanitarian entrants arriving under the Community Support Program (CSP), as they generally settle in the same location as their Australian Supporter(s) or close to their employer. Approved Proposing Organisations are responsible for ensuring the provision and management of settlement services to CSP entrants in their first 12 months in Australia.

The Department also does not choose the settlement location of onshore protection visa holders because they already lawfully reside in Australia.

b) Table: Humanitarian Referrals by State / Territory 2014-15 to 2018-19

Humanitarian Referrals by State / Territory 2014-15 to 2018-19*					
State / Territory	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
ACT	115	255	374	243	290
NSW	3,746	4,902	8,984	5,338	5,887
NT	49	68	200	113	160
QLD	1,391	2,239	2,707	2,639	3,175
SA	891	1,434	1,189	995	1,070
TAS	340	547	874	715	560
VIC	3,112	4,006	5,900	4,147	4,318
WA	618	919	931	779	786
Total	10,262	14,370*	21,159**	14,969	16,246

*Please note that these figures are the number of clients referred to a settlement location in a program year. This does not reflect arrivals in a program year, as clients generally arrive in Australia four to ten weeks after referral. Clients referred in the later months of a program year (i.e. May/June) may arrive in the subsequent program year.

**Please note that this total includes clients referred under the additional intake of 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi clients, many of whom had family links in NSW and Victoria.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

*South Australia Economic and Finance Committee
Inquiry into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia
02 September 2019
QoN Number: EFC/005*

Subject: Population plan

Submitted by: The Committee

Question:

The Committee notes that on 20 March 2019, the Prime Minister released the Commonwealth Government's population plan, Planning for Australia's Future Population. As part of this plan, the Government announced the introduction of 23 000 places for two new regional visas for skilled workers, and additional post-study work visa options for students in regional areas.

The Committee notes that on 1 July 2019, the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs confirmed that there will be 23 000 places set aside under the new 160 000 migration ceiling, coming into effect on 1 November 2019. The Minister also confirmed that the population plan will 'eventually allow students studying outside of the big capitals to receive an extra year of post-study work rights'.

Can the department provide any further details (if available) on:

- a) the conditions for the new regional visas (including whether they will be state-sponsored or employer-sponsored, provisional or permanent) and how these compare to existing visa categories;
- b) how the 23 000 places will be allocated across regional Australia, including how states and territories will be consulted in determining allocations;
- c) how many of the 23 000 places will be allocated to South Australia;
- d) when the post-study visa places for regional students will come into effect;
- e) what the conditions for the post-study work visas will be; and
- f) how many post-study work visa places will be available and how will they be allocated across regional Australia.

Answer:

a) Two new Skilled Regional Provisional visas, which commence on 16 November 2019, are:

- Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (subclass 494) visa, enabling an Australian business to sponsor skilled workers to work in their business; and
- Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491), for skilled people who are nominated by a State or Territory government or sponsored by an eligible family member to live and work in regional Australia.

These two new regional visas will replace the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187) visa and the Skilled Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) visa.

Holders of Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS, subclass 187) visas may have their visa cancelled if they have not made a genuine effort to commence in the position or remain in nominated position for at least 2 years.

Holders of the Skilled Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) visa must have lived in a regional area for at least 2 years and worked full time for at least one year to be eligible for the permanent pathway visa (Skilled Regional (subclass 887)).

Holders of the new regional provisional visas which will be granted with a validity period of up to five years, will have a pathway to permanent residence. A new Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) (subclass 191) visa will commence in 2022.

Regional provisional visa holders are required to live and work in regional Australia for the duration of their visa. To be eligible for permanent residence, regional provisional visa holders will need to demonstrate they have lived and worked in regional Australia as holders of a regional provisional visa and had a taxable income at a minimum level for three years.

Compliance conditions will be applied to ensure visa holders report any change of circumstances to the Department of Home Affairs within 14 days. Additionally, visa holders may be required to attend an interview or provide supporting evidence to demonstrate that they are living and working in regional Australia.

These requirements mean migrants are more likely to stay in a regional area longer-term, as they can build ties to a particular location, through workforce participation or community involvement.

Applicants for the new Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa will have access to more points for regional nomination/sponsorship. The new visas will be eligible for priority processing.

b) The 23,000 places allocated under the Regional category include:

- The *Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional* allocation of 9,000 places for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187) visa and the new Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (subclass 494) visa.
- The *Skilled Work Regional* allocation of 14,000 places for the Skilled Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) visa and the new Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491) visa.

Nomination allocations are set by the Commonwealth Government following consultation with state and territory governments. State and territory governments provide submissions on the number of applicants they would like to nominate within the state or territory nominated components of the Skill stream including the subclass 489/491 visas. Final decisions on the nomination allocations are made by the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs.

Nominations are for primary applicants (the person applying for the visa and does not include secondary applicants, that is, dependents).

c) The South Australian Government has been allocated 3,750 nominations under the Skilled Work Regional component of the Regional category.

d) 2021.

e) Regional Temporary Graduate Visa (TGV) holders will be required to maintain adequate health insurance and ongoing residence in a regional area for the duration of their visa.

f) There is no cap on the number of second TGV which may be granted.