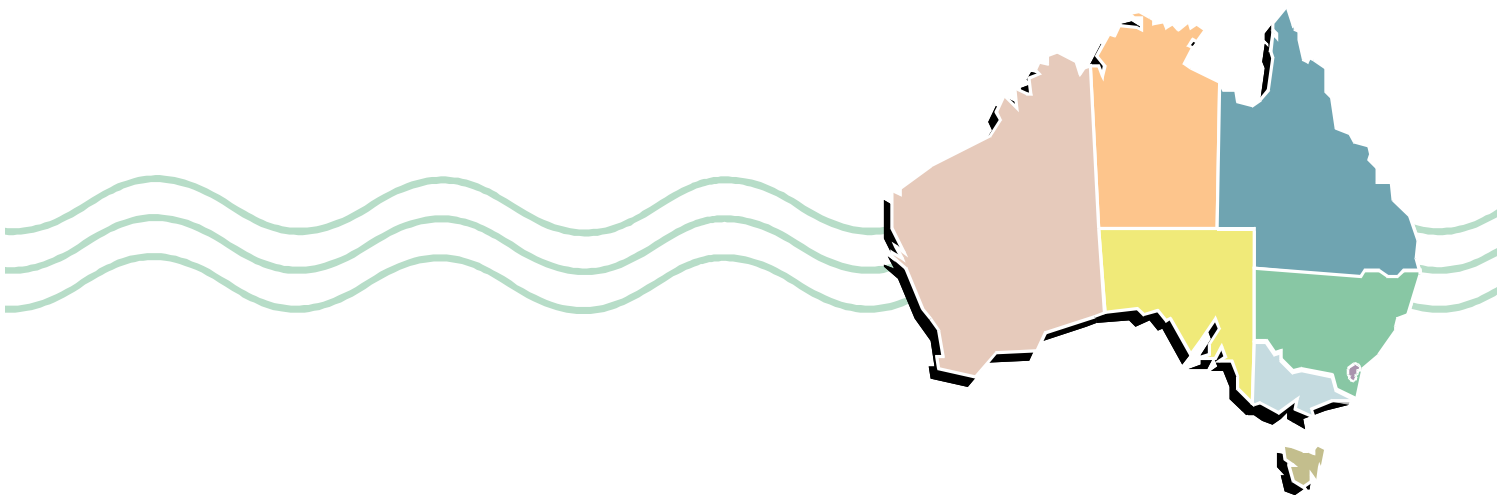


Chapter 2

The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

- The number of Migration Program visas granted in 1999–2000 increased by 3.4 per cent compared with 1998–99.
- The United Kingdom, South Africa and India were the top Skill Stream countries of origin in 1999–2000.
- Skilled-Independent visa grants have increased by 14.5 per cent in 1999–2000 compared with 1998–99.
- Family Stream visas have fallen sharply as a percentage of the Migration Program, from 68.7 per cent in 1995–96 to 45.6 per cent in 1999–2000.
- In 1999–2000, 88.2 per cent of all Family Stream visas went to spouses, fiances and children of Australian citizens and permanent residents.
- Grants of Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreement and Business Skills visas accounted for 26.9 per cent of all onshore grants.
- Under the full range of State specific migration mechanisms 3,309 people were granted visas in 1999–2000, an increase of 20.5 per cent over 1998–99.
- 3,800 refugees received Humanitarian Program visas in 1999–2000, making up 38.2 per cent of all Humanitarian Program grants.
- More people from Iraq applied for Protection visas in 1999–2000 than from any other country.
- People from Laos and Greece have the highest take up rate of citizenship.



The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

Annual Immigration Programs

Australia administers separate Migration and Humanitarian Programs. The Programs regulate the inflow of persons seeking permanent residence in Australia (excluding New Zealand citizens who travel to Australia under the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement). Together they provide an intake that:

- has broad-based skills with the capacity to contribute to Australia's economy;
- recognises the value and importance of family migration to Australia's social and economic goals; and
- maintains Australia's humanitarian commitment.

The programs are operated separately in order to provide a balance

between Australia's international humanitarian obligations and the domestic, social, economic and environmental objectives which guide the setting of the annual Migration Program.

The Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program has two main streams: Family and Skill. The smaller Special Eligibility stream includes groups such as former Australian citizens and former residents who have maintained ties with Australia.

The Migration and Humanitarian Programs are set by the Government on a financial year basis following consultations with State, Territory and local governments, business, industry, trade union, ethnic, environment and other community representatives.

Migration Program Management Structure

People who enter Australia to live via the Migration and Humanitarian Programs contribute to net overseas migration (other contributors to net overseas migration are New Zealanders, long-term visitors and returning residents, people leaving either permanently or long-term and category jumpers). Unlike the other contributors to net overseas migration, however, the Migration and Humanitarian Programs operate within set planning levels. Within the Migration Program itself, some components, that is Business Skills, Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS), Distinguished Talent, Spouses and Dependent Children are demand driven and not subject to capping. Increases in demand for these visas, beyond planned levels, are compensated by reductions in other program components, that is Independent and Skilled-Australian Linked, Parents, Fiances and Interdependents.

The composition of the Family and Skill streams changed on 1 July 1997 when the points tested Concessional Family category moved from the Family stream to the Skill stream, and was re-named 'Skilled-Australian Linked'. This reflected the shift to a greater emphasis on skill-related attributes in the selection criteria for

this category. Those skill-related attributes were further strengthened in changes made from 1 July 1999.

In 1999–2000 a special 'contingency reserve' of 5,000 places had been made available in the Skill Stream, reflecting the excellent performance of skilled migrants, and noting calls from industry and some State/Territory governments for an expansion in the skilled migrant intake. Although not used in 1999–2000 the reserve will again be available in 2000–01. The use of the reserve is subject to business, employers, regional authorities and State and Territory Governments generating additional demand for migrants with skills in short supply through the migration mechanisms specifically designed for their use. The mechanisms include the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS), Labour Agreements (LA), the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) and State/Territory Nominated Independents (STNI).

The Government also announced for 2000–01 a 4,000 place contingency reserve for aged parents. However, legislation to implement this was defeated in the Senate in October 2000.

Fig.2-1: Program Management Structure (2000-01)

Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program

Skill	Family	Special Eligibility
<p><i>Skilled Independent & Skilled-Australian Sponsored(a)</i></p> <p>Points tested</p> <p>Planning level adjusted subject to demand in Business Skills and ENS</p>	<p><i>Parents & Preferential Family</i></p> <p>Can be capped subject to demand in all other Family categories</p>	Can be capped
<p><i>Business Skills, ENS & Distinguished Talent</i></p> <p>Demand driven</p>	<p><i>Fiances & Interdependents</i></p> <p>Can be capped subject to demand for spouse and dependent child places</p>	
<p><i>Contingency Reserve</i></p> <p>To be utilised if States and Territories, business, employers and regional authorities generate additional demand</p>	<p><i>Spouses & Dependent Children</i></p> <p>Demand driven</p> <p>Exempt from capping</p>	
	<p><i>Contingency Reserve</i></p> <p>Legislation defeated in Senate Oct 2000</p>	

(a) formerly Independent and Skilled-Australian Linked (until July 1999)

Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program Outcome

The Migration Program outcome is comprised of the total number of migration visas granted overseas and permanent resident status visas granted to persons in Australia.

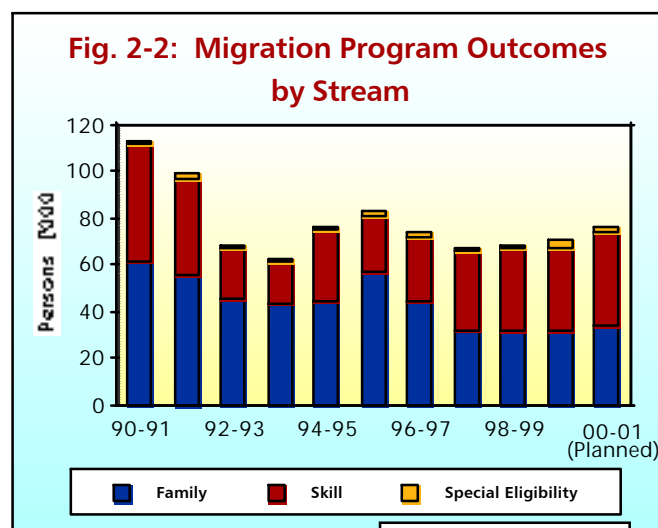
The size of the Migration Program in the last eight years has been significantly below the levels of the late 1980s when the program

peaked at 124,700 in 1988–89. The outcome of the 1999–2000 program was 70,200, which was 3.4 per cent higher than the 1998–99 outcome of 67,900. The planned program for 2000–01 at 76,000 is 8.3 per cent higher than the 1999–2000 outcome, which includes a 5,000 place increase in the Skill Stream.

There were 35,330 visas granted in the Skill Stream in 1999–2000, which is the highest level since 1990–91 when it reached 49,800. These Skill Stream visa grants represented 50.3 per cent of the Migration Program. Family Stream visas represented 45.6 per cent of the Program. (The remaining 4.1 per cent was made up of Special Eligibility visas.) This balance between Skill and Family Stream visas continues a pattern established in 1997–98 when the balance shifted from 60.3 per cent Family and 37.3 per cent Skill (in 1996–97) to 51.7 per cent Family and 46.7 per cent Skill. Major factors contributing to this re-balancing were the establishment of the Skilled-Australian Linked category in the Skill Stream, the abolition of the Concessional Family category, the implementation of the spouse and fiance bona fides strategy and the capping of the number of parent visas.

In 1999–2000, 17,340 persons were granted permanent residence after entry to Australia (onshore), accounting for 24.7 per cent of the Migration Program. The Family Stream accounted for 56.7 per cent of those granted residence after entry to Australia and the Skill Stream 27.6 per cent.

Fig. 2-2: Migration Program Outcomes by Stream



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Fig. 2-3: Migration Program Visas Granted: 1991-02 to 2000-01 (planned)

Migration Category/ Component	Planned		92 93	93 94	94 95	95 96	96 97	97 98	98 99	99 00	00 01
	91 92	92 93									
Family											
Spouses/Fiances	26,300	27,800	25,100	26,100	33,550	25,130	25,790	24,740	26,330	28,250	
Parents	7,200	5,300	4,500	5,100	8,890	7,580	1,080	3,120	1,900	2,100(f)	
Dependent Children	2,200	2,700	2,500	2,500	2,830	2,200	2,190	2,070	2,160	2,770	
Other	2,000	1,700	1,700	3,100	3,450	2,330	2,250	2,100	1,600	1,280	
Concessional Family(a)	18,100	7,700	9,400	7,700	8,000	7,340	—	—	—	—	
Total Family	55,900	45,300	43,200	44,500	56,700	44,580	31,310	32,040	32,000	34,400	
% of total program	56.5%	66.7%	68.8%	58.2%	68.7%	60.3%	46.7%	47.2%	45.6%	45.3%	
Skill											
Employer Nominations(b)	5,600	4,800	4,000	3,300	4,640	5,560	5,950	5,650	5,390	5,800	
Business Skills(c)	6,200	3,300	1,900	2,400	4,900	5,820	5,360	6,080	6,260	6,700	
Distinguished Talents	200	200	200	100	200	190	180	210	110	170	
Skilled-Independent(d)	29,400	13,000	11,800	15,000	10,600	15,000	13,270	13,640	15,610	21,350	
Skilled-Australian Sponsored(a)	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,540	9,240	7,900	5,950	
1 November Onshore	—	—	500	9,600	3,800	980	370	180	60	30	
Total Skill	41,400	21,300	18,300	30,400	24,100	27,550	34,670	35,000	35,330	40,000(g)	
% of total program	41.9%	31.4%	29.1%	39.7%	29.2%	37.3%	51.7%	51.5%	50.3%	52.6%	
Special Eligibility											
	1,700	1,400	1,300	1,600	1,700	1,730	1,110	890	2,850	1,600	
Total Program(e)	98,900	67,900	62,800	76,500	82,500	73,900	67,100	67,900	70,200	76,000	

(a) From 1 July 1997 the Concessional Family Category was replaced by the Skilled-Australian Linked category and transferred from the Family to the Skill Stream. On 1 July 1999 it was renamed the Skilled-Australian Sponsored category.

(b) Includes Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreements, and Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

(c) Business Migration Program changed to Business Skills during 1991–92.

(d) Named Independent prior to 1 July 1999.

(e) Please note that figures have been rounded and total may not be the exact sum of components.

(f) Legislation to implement a 4000 'contingency reserve' in 2000–01 to aged parents was rejected in the Senate in October 2000.

(g) A further 5,000 'contingency reserve' places are available in 2000–01 to migrants with skills in short supply.

Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS