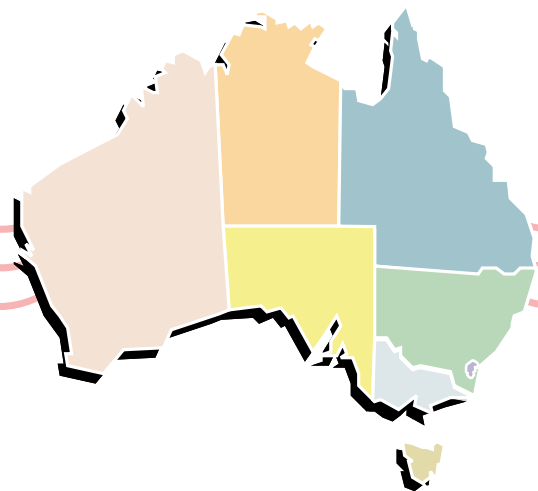


Chapter 2

The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

- The number of Migration Program visas granted in 2000–01 increased by 14.8 per cent compared with 1999–2000. A further increase of 15.4 per cent to 93,000 is planned for 2001–02.
- The United Kingdom, South Africa and India were the top Skill Stream countries of origin in 2000–01.
- Skilled Independent visa grants have increased by 43.4 per cent in 2000–01 compared with 1999–2000.
- Family Stream visas have fallen sharply as a percentage of the Migration Program, from 68.7 per cent in 1995–96 to 41.5 per cent in 2000–01.
- In 2000–01, 91.1 per cent of all Family Stream visas went to spouses, fiances and children of Australian citizens and permanent residents.
- Under the full range of State specific migration mechanisms 3,846 people were granted visas in 2000–01, an increase of 16.2 per cent over 1999–2000.
- 4,000 refugees (offshore) received Humanitarian Program visas in 2000–01, making up 29.1 per cent of all Humanitarian Program grants.
- More people from Afghanistan applied for Protection visas in 2000–01 than from any other country.
- People from Laos, Lebanon 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). Together they provide an intake that:

- has highly targeted skills which 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 residents who have maintained ties with Australia and resolution of status for certain groups of people.

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 Nominated categories, 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 Sponsored, 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, and was again re-named to Skilled-Australian Sponsored.

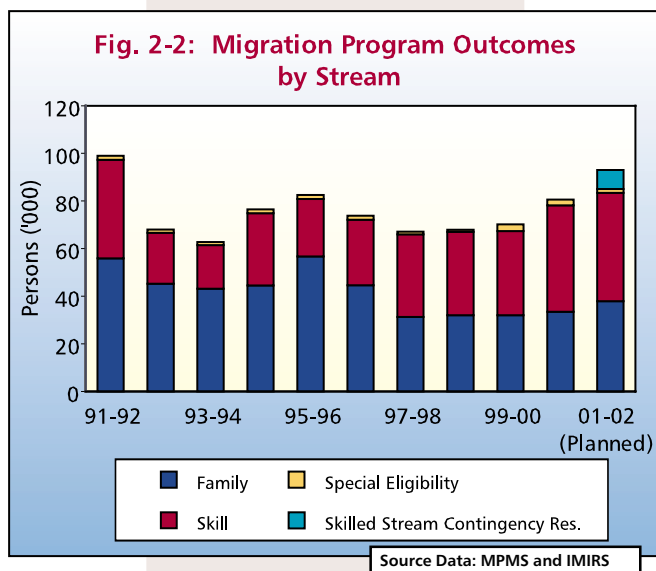
In 1999–2000 a special 'contingency reserve' of 5,000 places had been made available in the Skill Stream, reflecting the excellent performance of skilled migrants, and noting calls from industry and some State/Territory governments for an expansion in the skilled migrant intake. Although not used in 1999–2000, some 4,450 of the available 5,000 were used in 2000–01. An increase reserve of 8,000 places will be available in 2001–02. The use of the reserve is subject to business, employers, regional authorities and State and Territory Governments generating additional demand 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), State/Territory Nominated Independents (STNI), Regional Established Business in Australia (REBA) and State and Territory Sponsored Business Owner and Senior Executive categories. It is also used for Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Fig.2-1: Program Management Structure (2001–02)

Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program

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

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



professionals with Australian qualifications in the points tested subclasses as announced in the January 2001 ICT Industry Innovation Action Plan. Its use has been expanded in 2001–02 to accommodate the points tested subclasses for overseas students who successfully obtain an Australian qualification in an occupation on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL).

The Government 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. For 2001–02 the Government announced a contingency reserve of 1,000 additional places and an additional 4,000 per year thereafter for parents if there is support for options from the community and Opposition parties. This would achieve a fair sharing of the costs associated with parent entry between the parents, sponsors and taxpayers.

Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program Outcome

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 2000–01 program was 80,610 including 4,450 in the Skill Stream contingency reserve, which was 14.8 per cent higher than the 1999–2000 outcome of 70,200. The planned program for 2001–02 at 85,000 is 5.4 per cent higher than the 2000–01 outcome. In addition, the 2001–02 program includes an 8,000 place contingency reserve in the Skill Stream. It is expected that the overall program will be delivered at 93,000.

There were 44,730 visas granted in the Skill Stream in 2000–01, which is the highest level since 1990–91 when it reached 49,800. These Skill Stream visa grants represented 55.5 per cent of the Migration Program. Family Stream visas represented 41.5 per cent of the Program. The Family Stream total of 33,470 included 28,370 spouses and fiances, the second highest level in the past 10 years. (The remaining 3.0 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 Sponsored 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 2000–01, 22,660 persons were granted permanent residence after entry to Australia (onshore), accounting for 28.1 per cent of the Migration Program. The Family Stream accounted for 56.4 per cent of those granted residence after entry to Australia and the Skill Stream 33.8 per cent.

Fig. 2-3: Migration Program Visas Granted: 1992-93 to 2001-02 (planned)

Migration Category/ Component	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01 ^(f)	Planned 01-02 ^(f)
Family										
Spouses/Fiances	27,800	25,100	26,100	33,550	25,130	25,790	24,740	26,330	28,370 ^(g)	32,400 ^(g)
Parents	5,300	4,500	5,100	8,890	7,580	1,080	3,120	1,900	1,070	500 ^(h)
Dependent Children	2,700	2,500	2,500	2,830	2,200	2,190	2,070	2,160	2,120	2,150
Other	1,700	1,700	3,100	3,450	2,330	2,250	2,100	1,600	1,910	2,850
Concessional Family ^(a)	7,700	9,400	7,700	8,000	7,340	—	—	—	—	—
Total Family	45,300	43,200	44,500	56,700	44,580	31,310	32,040	32,000	33,470	37,900
% of total program	66.7%	68.8%	58.2%	68.7%	60.3%	46.7%	47.2%	45.6%	41.5%	40.8%
Skill										
Employer Nominations ^(b)	4,800	4,000	3,300	4,640	5,560	5,950	5,650	5,390	7,510	6,000
Business Skills ^(c)	3,300	1,900	2,400	4,900	5,820	5,360	6,080	6,260	7,360	7,900
Distinguished Talents	200	200	100	200	190	180	210	110	230	170
Skilled Independent ^(d)	13,000	11,800	15,000	10,600	15,000	13,270	13,640	15,610	22,380	25,050
Skilled Australian Sponsored ^(a)	—	—	—	—	—	9,540	9,240	7,900	7,200	6,350
1 November Onshore	—	500	9,600	3,800	980	370	180	60	60	30
Skilled Stream Contingency Res.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,000 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Total Skill	21,300	18,300	30,400	24,100	27,550	34,670	35,000	35,330	44,730	53,500
% of total program	31.4%	29.1%	39.7%	29.2%	37.3%	51.7%	51.5%	50.3%	55.5%	57.5%
Special Eligibility	1,400	1,300	1,600	1,700	1,730	1,110	890	2,850	2,420	1,600
Total Program^(e)	67,900	62,800	76,500	82,500	73,900	67,100	67,900	70,200	80,610	93,000

(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, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and from 2000-01 State/Territory-Nominated Independent.

(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) Program numbers do not include New Zealand citizens.

(g) Net outcome as places in the Migration Program taken by provisional visa holders such as spouses, fiances and interdependents who do not subsequently obtain permanent visas are returned to the Program in the year that the temporary visas expire.

(h) Does not include a contingency reserve of an additional 1,000 places in 2001-02 and an additional 4,000 places per year thereafter available subject to support from the community and opposition.

(i) A contingency reserve of an additional 8,000 places is available for use:

- (1) subject to business, State/Territory Governments and/or regional certifying bodies being able to generate additional demand through migration mechanisms specifically designed for their use; and
- (2) to accommodate overseas students who successfully obtain an Australian qualification in an occupation in national shortage (that is occupations on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL))

Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS