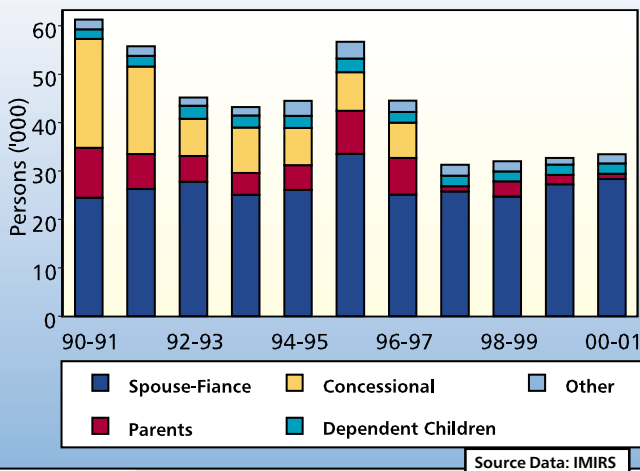


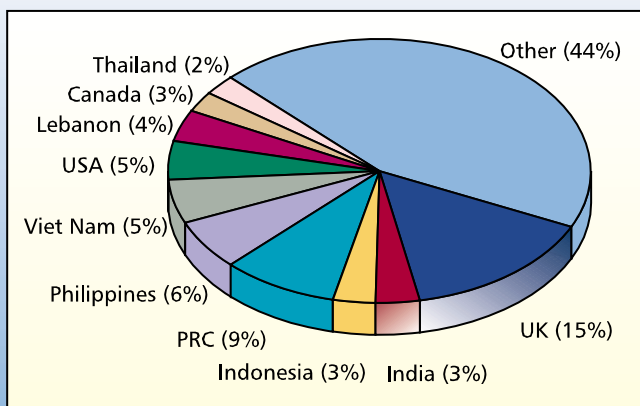
# Family Migration

**Fig. 2-12: Family Visa Grants by Visa Sub-class**



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 2-13: Family Stream Visas Grants by Country of Birth 2000-01**



Source Data: IMIRS

## Family Visa Grants

The Family Stream of Australia's Migration Program enables the reunion of immediate family members such as spouses, fiancé(e)s, interdependent partners, dependent children, adopted children, and certain other members of extended families such as parents, orphan relatives, carers, aged dependent relatives, and remaining relatives. There are no skill or English language requirements for applicants in this stream; family migrants are selected on the basis of their family relationship with their sponsor or nominator in Australia.

As illustrated by Fig. 2-12, the annual number of Family visas issued fell sharply from 1995-96 when they represented 68.7 per cent of total Migration Program grants, to 1997-98 when they stabilised at around 46.7 per cent of total grants. This shift occurred as the Australian Government refocused the Migration Program towards skilled migration, to reflect Australia's current social and economic needs, while maintaining a strong commitment to family migration.

The total number of Family visas granted in 2000-01 was 33,470 (41.5 per cent of the Migration Program), further shifting the balance of the Migration Program towards skilled migration. 15 per cent of Family Stream visas were granted to people born in the United Kingdom, 9 per cent to people from the PRC, 6 per cent to people from the Philippines and 5 per cent to people from Viet Nam.

The increase in the planning level for the 2001-02 Migration Program to allow for an increase in the Skill Stream has also allowed for an increase in the Family Stream planning levels. The planning level for the Family Stream for 2001-02 has increased by over 4,000 places, to 37,900 places, which represents 40.8 per cent of the program. The increase in Family Stream places will meet the demand for the migration of spouses, dependent children and other close family members.

### Partner

The Partner category includes spouse, prospective marriage (fiancé(e)) and interdependency visa subclasses. In 2000-01 Partners, 62.3 per cent of whom were female, accounted for 86.3 per cent (28,880 persons) of Family Stream visa grants. Of these, 24,753 were spouse visa grants, 3,613 prospective marriage visas and 514 interdependency visas. The planning level for 2001-02 for Partner visas represents a 14.4 per cent increase over the planning level for 2000-01. This reflects the overall increase in planning levels for the 2001-02 Migration Program.

Fig. 2-14 illustrates the proportion of spouses and fiancé(e)s granted visas from particular countries in 2000-01. The largest number came from the United Kingdom (16 per cent), followed by the PRC (8 per cent), the Philippines (6 per cent), the USA (5 per cent), Viet Nam (5 per cent) and Lebanon (4 per cent).

## Child

The Child category includes Dependent Children, Orphan Relatives and Adopted Children. A total of 2,124 Child category grants were made in 2000–01 (6.3 per cent of grants in the Family Stream). Demand in the Child category was less than anticipated in 2000–01, being 6.0 per cent below the planning level of 2,260. The outcome was 1.8 per cent lower than that for 1999–2000 which was 2,164 grants.

Fig. 2-15 illustrates the proportions of dependent children migrating to Australia in 2000–01 from particular countries. Figures include children who were adopted overseas and children born of people resident in Australia. The largest number came from the Philippines (15 per cent), followed by PRC (14 per cent).

## Parent

Following research indicating that migrants in the Parent category pose a significantly higher ongoing cost to the Australian community, the Government introduced changes to parent entry arrangements whereby some of those costs might be shifted to the sponsor and the applicant. In March 1999, these changes were disallowed in the Senate. As a result of the disallowance and in order to better manage the financial costs associated with aged migrant entry, the Government reduced the number of parent places available in 1999–2000 to 500.

In November 1999, the Government introduced the Designated Parent to assist only those parents who applied for the parent visa that was disallowed. In 2000–01, 555 Designated Parent visas were granted and the remaining visas are expected to be granted in the 2001–02 program year. A total of 1,066 Parent visas were granted in 2000–01 (including Parent and Designated Parent subclasses), representing 3.2 per cent of the Family stream. This compares to 1999–2000 when a total of 1,905 Parent visas were granted, a decrease of 44 per cent.

For the 2000–01 program year, a visa place contingency reserve of 4,000 places was made available for a proposed new visa category. However, in October 2000, the legislation for the proposed visa category was defeated in the Senate. Therefore the Government has maintained the number of Parent visa places at 500 for the 2001–02 program year.

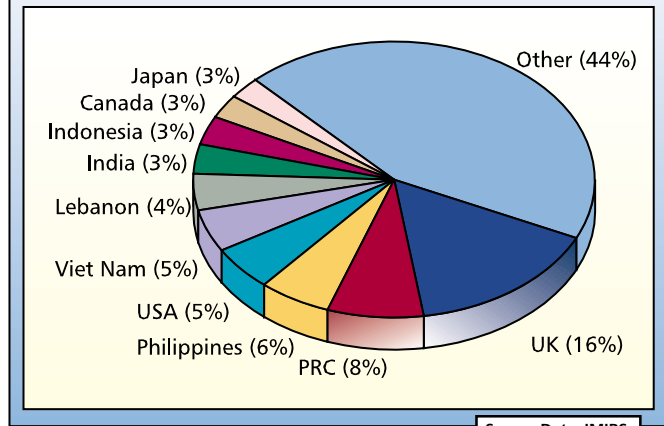
Fig. 2-16 illustrates the proportion of parents granted a permanent visa from particular countries in 2000–01. The largest number came from the United Kingdom (20 per cent), followed by the PRC (19 per cent), Sri Lanka (7 per cent), South Africa (7 per cent), India (5 per cent), HKSAR (3 per cent) and Fiji (3 per cent).

## Priority Processing

The Minister has given a Direction under section 499 of the Migration Act on the order of priority for processing Family stream applications. Higher priority is given to immediate family categories such as dependent children (including children for adoption and orphan relatives), spouses, fiancé(e)s and interdependent partners of sponsors in Australia. Lower priority is accorded to all other Family stream applicants such as parents and other family members.

**Fig. 2-14: Spouse and Fiance Visa Grants by Country of Birth**

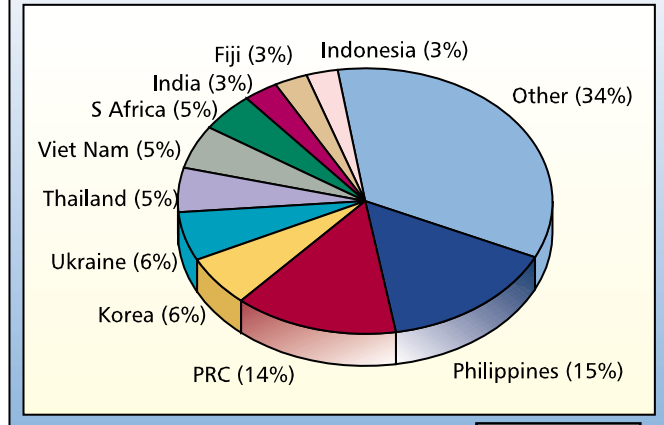
2000-01



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 2-15: Dependent Children Visa Grants by Country of Birth**

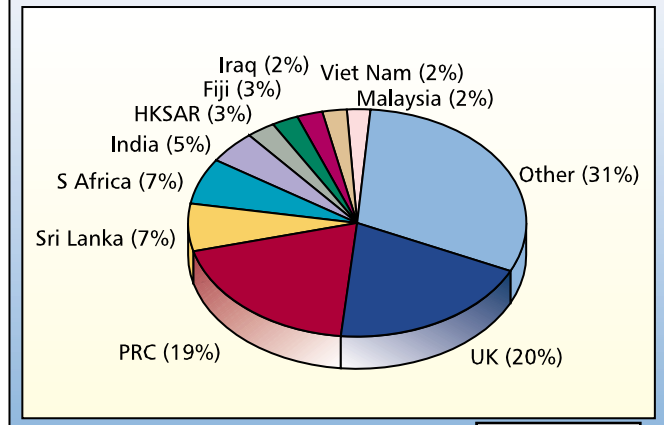
2000-01



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 2-16: Parent Visa Grants by Country of Birth**

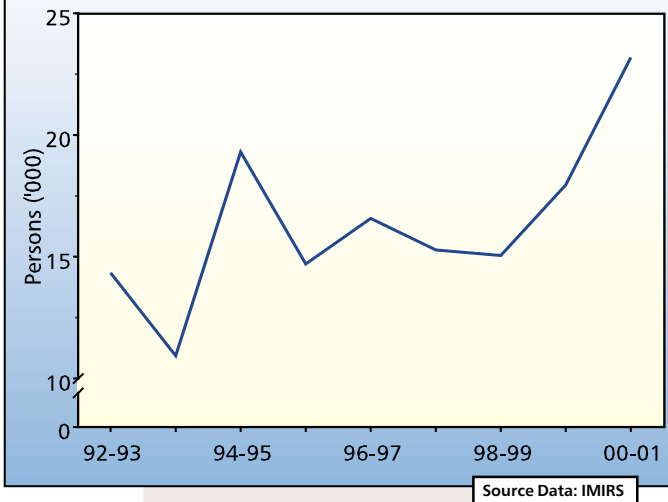
2000-01



Source Data: IMIRS

# Onshore Residence Visa Grants

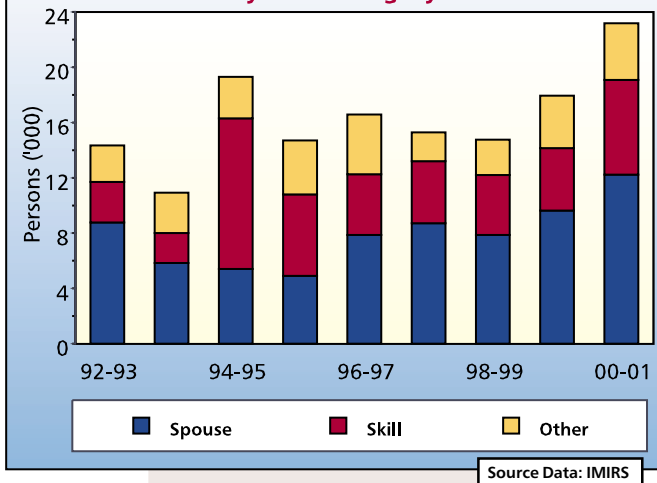
**Fig. 2-17: Onshore Residence Visa Grants**



While most people apply for migration at an Australian mission overseas and enter on a permanent visa, in some circumstances people already in Australia on a temporary visa are able to apply to remain permanently, have their applications processed onshore and be granted a permanent visa. People granted residence after arrival in Australia are included in the Migration Program. Permanent visas may be granted onshore to applicants for most Family Stream categories, except fiancé(e)s, and to some Skill Stream categories, including the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, the Business Skills category and the '1 November 1993' categories.

In 2000–01, 22,660 persons were granted residence after applying for a permanent visa in Australia, representing 28.1 per cent of the grants under the migration program. This was 30.7 per cent more than in 1999–2000. The increase in 2000–01 reflects increased grants in both the Family Stream, mainly through spouses, and the Skill Stream.

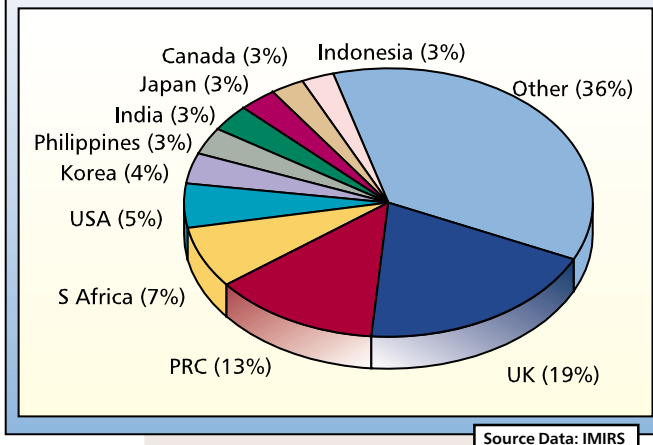
**Fig. 2-18: Onshore Residence Visa Grants by Visa Category**



There has been a 59.9 per cent increase in total Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreements and Business Skills grants onshore (included in the Skill Stream in Fig. 2-18) since 1999–2000. This increase reflects the rise in the number of skilled workers and business people coming to Australia on temporary visas who later apply for permanent visas, sponsored by their employer or on the basis of having operated a successful business in Australia. The Temporary Entry Section on page 39 has more details about these temporary visas.

As in previous years, the majority of people granted residence onshore in 2000–01 were approved on spouse grounds (51.4 per cent). Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreements, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and Business Skills visas accounted for a further 32.9 per cent of all onshore grants. The Resolution of Status visa grants (included in 'other' in Fig. 2-18) accounted for 8.9 per cent of all onshore grants. The large one-off increase in 1994–95 reflects the grant of the majority of '1 November' visas, mainly to Chinese nationals in Australia at the time of the Tiennanmen Square uprising.

**Fig. 2-19: Onshore Residence Visa Grants by Country of Birth 2000-01**



In 2000–01, persons born in the United Kingdom accounted for 19 per cent of onshore residence visas.