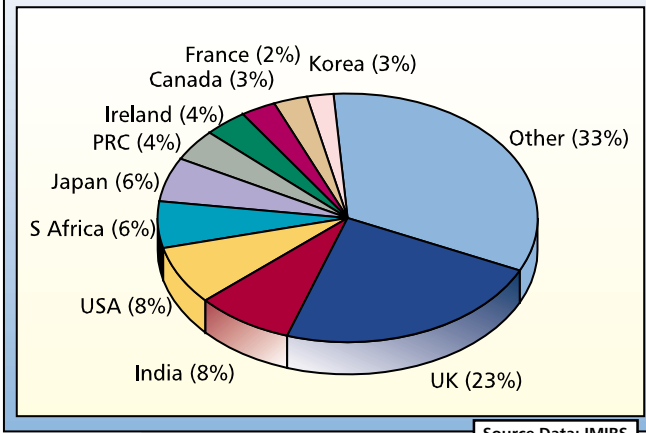


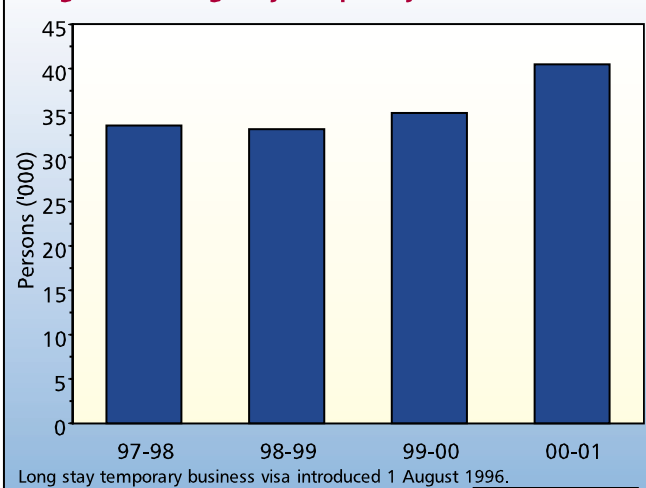
# Skilled Temporary Residents

**Fig. 4-14: Business Temporary Residents by Country of Citizenship 2000-01**



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 4-15: Long Stay Temporary Business Grants**



Source Data: IMIRS

The employer-sponsored temporary business visas allow employers to fill skill shortages from overseas and to access new ideas, skills and technology. These visa holders are on the whole highly skilled and have relatively high income levels, and are therefore able to contribute to economic growth through improved productivity and increased demand for goods and services. The entry of managers and skilled specialists under these categories can also enhance Australia's ability to compete in international markets, including the markets from which the temporary residents have come.

## Business (Long Stay)

Australia has modern, flexible and streamlined temporary entry arrangements which provide for business people and skilled key personnel seeking to stay in Australia for up to four years. The arrangements provide for:

- personnel (executives, managers and specialists) for companies operating in Australia;
- personnel from offshore companies seeking to establish a branch in Australia, participate in joint ventures, or fulfil a contract awarded to an offshore company;
- independent executives seeking to establish a new business or joining existing businesses in Australia; or
- personnel coming temporarily under a labour or regional headquarters agreement.

Skilled temporary residents are not able to access Medicare or social security benefits. They must pay to access health and education services but they still pay Australian taxes (income tax and GST), superannuation and the Medicare levy. Given that they have salary rates generally above the Australian average, they make a disproportionately high positive contribution to Commonwealth, State and Territory budgets.

The program's key aim is to enable business to enhance international competitiveness through the quick and smooth transfer of key skills, while safeguarding employment and training opportunities for Australian workers.

The key benefits for Australia under this category include:

- expanding trade;
- improving links with international markets;
- increasing local industry global competitiveness; and
- maintaining or increasing local training and employment opportunities.

Most Business (Long Stay) visa holders are employed in professional or management positions. Almost 30 per cent of approved nominations in 2000-01 were for positions in the Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) industry where there is intense pressure on Australia to remain internationally competitive in attracting ICT workers to fill shortages.

Australia is a net importer of ICT workers and is far better placed than many other countries that are competing for skilled labour.

In July 2001, changes were made to the 457 business sponsored visa, requiring minimum salary and skill threshold for all positions filled. These replaced the previous requirements for non key activities to be labour market tested.

In 2000–01, a total of 40,493 Temporary Residence Business visas were granted including Independent Executives who were establishing businesses in Australia, an increase of 15.7 per cent compared with 1999–2000. The top five occupations sponsored by employers in 2000–01 were computing professionals (10.2 per cent), applications and analyst programmers (6.2 per cent), general managers (4.8 per cent), registered nurses (4.4 per cent) and accountants (3.9 per cent).

### Independent Executives

The Independent Executive stream of the Business (Long Stay) visa is a non-sponsored temporary visa that enables a person to enter Australia for the purpose of establishing, or buying into, a business and managing that business.

The category attracts independent business people who do not wish to apply for permanent business entry or cannot meet the Business Skills category business assets and experience criteria. Independent Executive visa holders are the main feeder group for onshore Business Skills (Residence) (subclasses 845 and 846) although there is no formal link between them at this stage.

In 2000–01, a total of 3,411 Independent Executive visas were granted. At 30 June 2001, there were an estimated 6,619 Independent Executive visa holders in Australia, up by 23.4 per cent on the 5,363 present in June 2000.

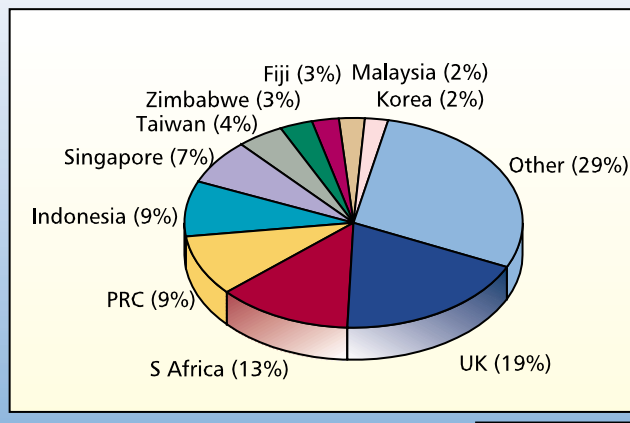
### Medical Practitioner

This visa allows for qualified general and specialist medical practitioners where there is a demonstrated need for employing practitioners from overseas. Temporary resident doctors are recruited to fill identified 'area of need' positions. 3,438 visas were granted in 2000–01 (1,780 principal applicants and 1,658 dependants).

Australia benefits from this category as many temporary resident doctors are providing services in regional and remote areas of Australia, as entry under this category must be to 'an area of need' as identified by State Health Authorities.

**Fig. 4-16: Business (Long Stay) Independent Executive Visa Grants by Country of Citizenship**

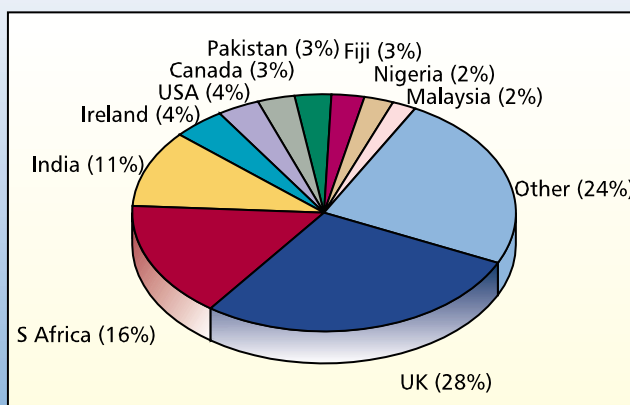
2000-01



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 4-17: Medical Practitioner Grants by Country of Citizenship**

2000-01



Source Data: IMIRS

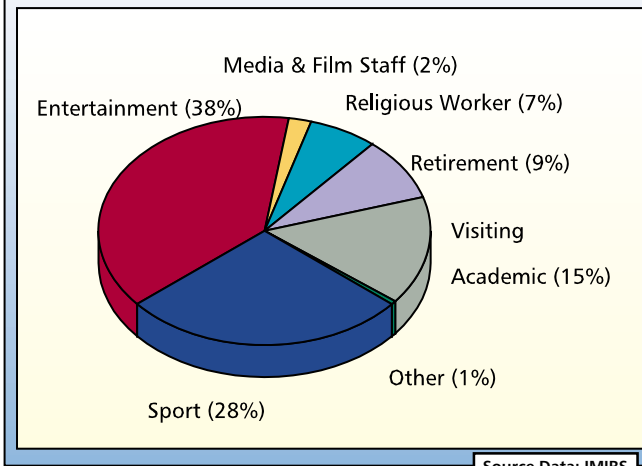
### Educational

This visa is for qualified people to join educational and research institutions or organisations to fill academic, teaching and research positions that cannot be filled from within the Australian labour market (1,738 visas).

This category provides benefits to Australia by allowing educational and research institutions to appoint internationally regarded academics and researchers who are able to contribute new ideas and knowledge as well as enhancing international cooperation. Given the concerns about the 'brain drain' from Australia of key academics, this category is essential to making sure Australia maintains a net inflow of people with such skills.

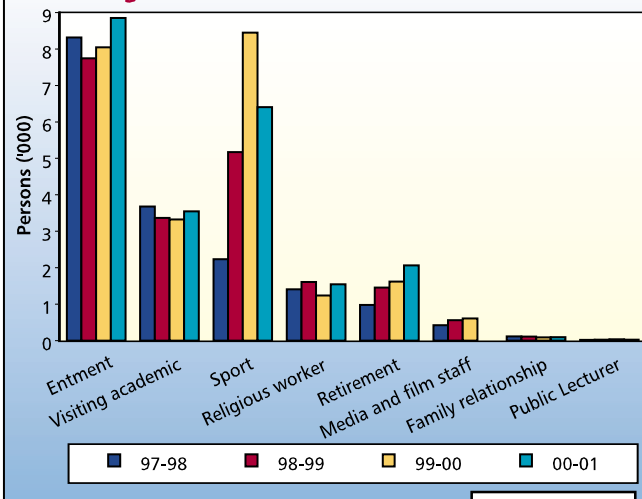
# Other Temporary Entrants

**Fig. 4-18: Social/Cultural Visa Grants**



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 4-19: Social/Cultural Visa Grants**



Source Data: IMIRS

## Social/Cultural Entrants

A total of 23,036 social/cultural temporary visas were granted in 2000–01, down by 1.6 per cent compared with 23,405 in 1999–2000. This slight decline reflects the unusually large number of sport visas issued in 1999–2000 in the lead up to the Sydney Olympics. The Social/Cultural group is made up of people entering on the following visas:

**Sport** — for amateur or professional sports people from other countries to engage in competition with Australian residents and to improve general sporting standards in Australia through high calibre competition and training (6,407 visas).

**Entertainment** — for people taking part in a wide range of social and cultural events and activities, taking into account the need to protect employment of Australians in the entertainment industry (8,850 visas).

**Media and Film Staff** — visas granted to correspondents and other professional media staff posted to Australia by overseas news organisations, and photographers and film and television teams making documentaries or commercials for overseas consumption (506 visas).

**Religious Worker** — for religious workers, including ministers, priests and spiritual leaders to serve the spiritual needs of people of their faiths in Australia (1,545 visas).

**Retirement** — for the extended temporary stay of people who want to retire in Australia (2,061 visas).

**Visiting Academic** — allows the entry of people who will contribute to the sharing of research knowledge (3,546 visas).

**Public Lecturer** — professional lecturers or subject experts invited to make public presentations (27 visas).

**Family relationship** — is intended to allow young people of secondary school age to have an extended holiday for up to 12 months. This provides an opportunity to learn about Australia and, where appropriate, learn English on an informal basis while staying with relatives or close family friends who are Australian citizens or permanent residents (94 visas).

## International Relations Entrants

A total of 14,876 international relations visas were granted in 2000–01, up marginally from 14,475 in 1999–2000. This group is made up of people entering on the following visas:

**Diplomatic** — for diplomats, consular staff and other officials, accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2,275 visas).

**Foreign government agency** — to enable foreign government officials to conduct official business on behalf of their government where the officials do not have diplomatic or official status in Australia (387 visas).

**Domestic worker (diplomatic)** — for the entry of domestic staff for diplomats and consular staff posted to Australia, granted on advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (140 visas).

**Domestic worker (overseas executive)** — for domestic workers for independent/senior executives temporarily in Australia where a domestic worker is necessary for the proper discharge of the executive's representational duties (40 visas).

**Exchange** — for skilled people overseas who want to broaden their work experience while guaranteeing Australian residents similar opportunities overseas; or for people under certain bilateral exchange agreements (2,038 visas).

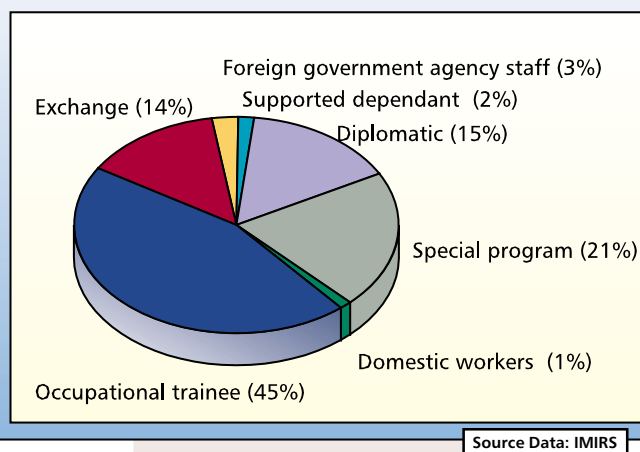
**Special program** — for people to experience other cultures and enhance international relations and broaden their experience and knowledge by participating in approved youth exchange schemes or community-based non-commercial programs (3,049 visas).

**Occupational trainee** — for people to undertake a supervised training program that is workplace-based rather than classroom-based. The training should provide visa holders with additional or enhanced skills in their area of expertise or occupation which they can utilise in their employment upon return to their home country (6,660 visas).

**Supported Dependant** — for dependants of an Australian citizen or permanent resident who is usually resident outside Australia and intends to remain temporarily in Australia (233 visas).

**Expatriate** — for family members of people employed in remote localities in South East Asia, the South Pacific or Papua New Guinea by international companies that have business associations with Australia (54 visas).

**Fig. 4-20: International Relations Visa Grants 2000-01**



**Fig. 4-21: International Relations Visa Grants**

