

Chapter 2

The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

- The outcome for the 2002-03 Migration Program was 108,070, the largest and most highly skilled Program in the past decade. It represented a 16.1 per cent increase on the 2001-02 outcome.
- Nearly one-third (29 per cent) of the total program in 2002-03 was taken by persons granted permanent residence after entry to Australia.
- There were 66,053 people granted Skill Stream visas in 2002-03, an increase of 23.4 per cent on the previous year. The Skill Stream made up 61.1 per cent of the total program, which is the highest proportion on record.
- The United Kingdom, India, South Africa and the PRC were the top Skill Stream countries of birth in 2002-03.
- There were 40,794 people granted Family Stream visas, an increase of 7.1 per cent on the previous year.
- The United Kingdom, the PRC, Viet Nam and the Philippines were the top Family Stream countries of birth in 2002-03.
- There were 12,525 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program in 2002-03, a slight increase on the previous year.
- The number of Humanitarian Program visas granted onshore in 2002-03 was 869, well down on the 3,891 onshore visas issued in 2001-02.



The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

Annual Immigration Programs

Australia administers separate Migration and Humanitarian Programs which regulate the flow of persons seeking permanent residence in Australia (excluding New Zealand citizens). The Programs provide a balance between Australia's international humanitarian obligations and the Government's economic, social and environmental objectives.

The Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program has two main streams: a Skill Stream which targets skills which contribute to Australia's economy and a Family Stream which recognises the value and importance of family migration to Australia's social and economic goals. 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 usually following consultations with State, Territory and local governments, business, industry, trade union, ethnic, environment and other community representatives.

In May 2002, the Government announced that the Migration Program would be in the range of 100,000–110,000 places (plus parent contingency reserve), barring exceptional circumstances, until 2005–06. The 2003–04 Migration Program will be delivered within the range, the level depending on:

- application rates in demand driven categories such as spouses, fiances, children and employer nominated and business categories;
- the take up of state-specific and regional migration categories to achieve a better dispersal of the intake;
- the extent of national skill shortages and the ability to attract migrants with the necessary skills; and
- the availability of high standard applicants in the skilled categories.

Migration Program Management Structure

People who enter Australia to live via the Migration and Humanitarian Programs contribute to net overseas migration along with arrivals and departures of New Zealand citizens, long-term visitors, Australian residents (permanent or long-term), and those who change their status. Only the Migration and Humanitarian Programs operate with set planning levels. Within the Migration Program, components such as 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 offset by reductions in components such as Independent and Skilled Australian Sponsored, Fiances, Interdependents and Preferential/Other Family.

The composition of the Family and Skill Streams changed on 1 July 1997 when the points-tested Concessional Family category moved to the Skill Stream, and was renamed 'Skilled Australian Linked'. This reflected the greater emphasis on skill-related attributes in the selection criteria. Those skill-related attributes were further strengthened in changes made from 1 July 1999, and the category was again renamed to Skilled-Australian Sponsored.

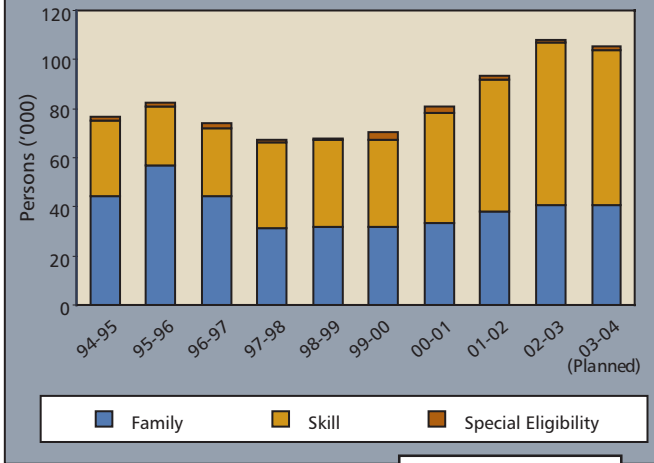
In 2002–03 the Government moved from providing a Skill Stream contingency reserve (operating in 2000–01 and 2001–02) to a Migration Program set within the range of 100,000–110,000 places.

**Fig. 2-1: Program Management Structure (2003–04)
Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program**

Skill	Family	Special Eligibility
Skilled Independent & Skilled Australian Sponsored^(a) Points tested Planning level adjusted subject to demand in Business Skills and ENS	Fiances & Interdependents Can be capped subject to demand for spouse and dependent child places	Can be capped
Business Skills, ENS & Distinguished Talent Demand driven	Spouses & Dependent Children Demand driven Exempt from capping	
State-Specific and Regional Migration Demand Driven	Parents & Preferential/Other Family Can be capped subject to demand in all other Family categories	
	Parent Contingency Reserve	

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

Fig. 2-2: Migration Program Outcomes by Stream



In 2003–04 the Government made a parent contingency reserve of 6,500 places available (includes 2,500 places rolled over from 2002–03) in addition to the existing 500 parent places. This results in 5,500 places for the new Contributory Parent visa category and 1,500 places for the existing Parent/Aged Parent category. The contingency reserve will be 4,000 places per annum thereafter, resulting in 3,500 places for Contributory Parents and 1,000 places for Parents/Aged Parents.

2002–03 Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program Outcome

The outcome for the 2002–03 Program was 108,070, the largest and most highly skilled Program in the past decade. It represented a 16.1 per cent increase on the 2001–02 outcome of 93,080, but is below the levels of the late 1980s when the Program peaked at 124,700 in 1988–89.

The 2002–03 Skill Stream outcome of 66,050 places or 61.1 per cent of the Migration Program is the highest level on record. The Family Stream outcome of 40,790 places (including 35,060 partner visas) or 37.7 per cent of the Program is the highest level in the past 7 years. Special Eligibility visas made up the remaining 1.1 per cent of the Migration Program. The balance between Skill and Family Stream visas represent a substantial shift from the 68.7 per cent Family and 29.2 per cent Skill in 1995–96. Major factors contributing to this shift include establishment of the Skilled-Australian Sponsored category in the Skill Stream, increased use of the suite of State-specific and regional migration mechanisms and the ability of successful overseas students to apply for migration while still in Australia.

The 2002–03 outcome under the State-specific and regional migration initiatives reached 7,940. This is an increase of 92.0 per cent over 2001–02 and represents over 12.0 per cent of the Skill Stream. More details relating to these initiatives can be found in Chapter 3.

In 2002–03, 31,330 places or 29 per cent of the Migration Program were taken by persons granted permanent residence after entry to Australia. The Skill Stream accounted for 58.3 per cent of the onshore component and the Family Stream 38.4 per cent. The size of the Skill Stream onshore more than doubled when compared with 2000–01 reflecting to a large extent the introduction on 1 July 2001 of the provision which allows overseas students completing their studies in Australia to apply in Australia for permanent residence.

Fig. 2-3: Migration Program Outcomes: 1995–96 to 2003–04 (planned)

Migration Category	95–96	96–97	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01 ^(f)	01–02 ^(f)	02–03 ^(f)	Planned 03–04 ^(f)
Family									
Spouses/Fiances/Interdependents	34,200	25,530	26,180	25,040	26,650	28,870 ^(g)	33,340 ^(g)	35,060 ^(g)	35,400 ^(g)
Parents	8,890	7,580	1,080	3,120	1,900	1,070	560	510	7,000 ^(h)
Dependent Children	2,830	2,200	2,190	2,070	2,160	2,120	2,160	2,680	2,800
Other(a)	2,800	1,930	1,860	1,810	1,280	1,400	2,020	2,520	1,900
Concessional Family ^(b)	8,000	7,340	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Family	56,700	44,580	31,310	32,040	32,000	33,470	38,090	40,790	40,600
% of total program	68.7	60.3	46.7	47.2	45.6	41.5	40.9	37.7	36.4
Skill									
Employer Nominations ^(c)	4,640	5,560	5,960	5,750	5,400	7,510	9,560	10,540	10,500
Business Skills	4,900	5,820	5,360	6,080	6,260	7,360	7,590 ⁽ⁱ⁾	6,740 ⁽ⁱ⁾	7,400
Distinguished Talents	200	190	180	210	110	230	210	180	200
Skilled-Independent ^(d)	10,600	15,000	13,250	13,470	15,600	22,380	29,880	38,120	33,400
Skilled-Australian Sponsored	—	—	9,540	9,310	7,900	7,200	6,250	10,470	11,800
1 November Onshore	3,800	980	370	180	60	60	20	20	0
Total Skill	24,100	27,550	34,670	35,000	35,330	44,730	53,520	66,050	63,300
% of total program	29.2	37.3	51.7	51.5	50.3	55.5	57.5	61.1	56.8
Special Eligibility	1,700	1,730	1,110	890	2,850	2,420	1,480	1,230	1,100
Total Program^(e)	82,500	73,900	67,100	67,900	70,200	80,610	93,080	108,070	106,500- 116,500^(j)

(a) Includes Aged Dependent Relative, Carer, Special Need Relative and Remaining Relative.

(b) 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.

(c) Includes Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreements, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and State/Territory-Nominated Independent.

(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. Places taken by provisional visa holders who do not subsequently obtain permanent visas due to refusal or withdrawal are returned to the Program.

(h) Includes a contingency reserve of an additional 6,500 places.

(i) Net outcome as cancelled visas are returned to the Program in the year in which they are cancelled.

(j) Made up of Migration Program range of 100,000–110,000 places plus the parent contingency reserve of 6,500 places.

Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Data on Visas Granted

Data on grants of permanent visas are program outcomes. Outcomes are the number of visas granted net of visas cancelled, but include any cancelled visas that have been re-issued in the reference period.