

Chapter 2

The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

- The outcome for the 2003-04 Migration Program was 114,360, the largest and most highly skilled Program in the past decade. It represented a 5.8 per cent increase on the 2002-03 outcome.
- Nearly one-third (32.1 per cent) of the total program in 2003-04 was taken by persons granted permanent residence after entry to Australia.
- There were 71,240 people granted Skill Stream visas in 2003-04, an increase of 7.9 per cent on the previous year. The Skill Stream made up 62.3 per cent of the total program, which is the highest proportion on record.
- Within the Skill Stream, the main countries of citizenship in 2003-04 were the United Kingdom, India, the PRC and South Africa.
- There were 42,230 people granted Family Stream visas, an increase of 3.5 per cent on the previous year.
- Within the Family Stream, the main countries of citizenship in 2003-04 were the United Kingdom, the PRC, the Philippines and Viet Nam.
- There were 13,851 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program in 2003-04, an increase on the previous year.
- The number of Humanitarian Program visas granted onshore in 2003-04 was 788, down on the 897 onshore visas issued in 2002-03.



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 that 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 small Special Eligibility Stream includes groups such as former Australian residents who have maintained ties with Australia and certain groups of people subject to resolution of status.

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 and other community representatives.

For 2004-05, the Government announced that the Migration Program would be in the range of 105,000–115,000 places (plus a contingency reserve of 5,000 places for the new Skilled-Independent Regional visa) until 2005–06. The level within the range at which the Migration Program will be delivered in any given year depend 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 intended length of stay. Only the Migration and Humanitarian Programs operate with set planning levels. Within the Migration Program, components such as State-Specific and Regional Migration, 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 Skilled

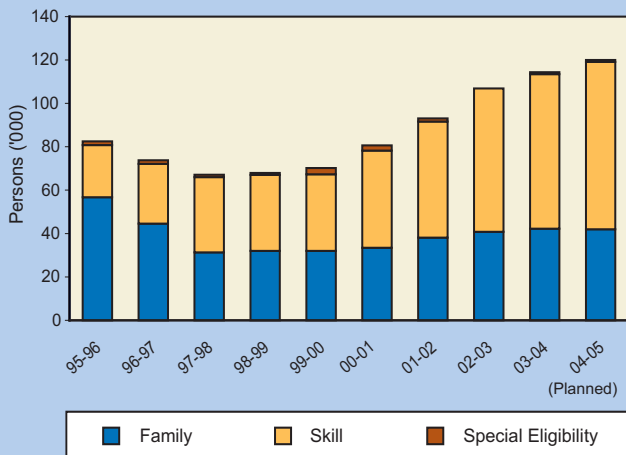
Independent and Skilled Australian Sponsored, Fiances, Interdependents and Preferential/Other Family.

The 2003-04 Migration Program was set within the range of 100,000-110,000 plus additional places for parents pending the introduction of the new Contributory Parent visa. With the establishment of this new visa, the Government moved to include it within the normal Program in 2004-05. As a consequence, the range for the 2004-05 Program was increased to 105,000 - 115,000. The additional 5,000 places consist of 4,000 places for parents and 1,000 places for additional medical practitioners and their families as part of the Government's MedicarePlus package.

**Fig. 2-1: Program Management Structure (2004–05)
Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program**

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

Fig. 2-2: Migration Program Outcomes by Stream



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Further strengthening the regional focus of the Migration Program, the Government has introduced a new Skilled Independent Regional visa and made available an additional 5,000 places for applicants in this category in 2004-05. More details of this visa category can be found in the Skilled Migration section of this Chapter.

A total of 120,000 places are, therefore, available in 2004-05. It is likely the Program will be delivered very close to this level.

2003-04 Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program Outcome

The outcome for the 2003-04 Program was 114,360, the largest and most highly skilled Program in the past decade. It represented a 5.8 per cent increase on the 2002-03 outcome of 108,070, but is below the levels of the late 1980s when the Program peaked at 124,700 in 1988-89.

The 2003-04 Skill Stream outcome of 71,240 places or 62.3 per cent of the Migration Program is the highest level on record. The Family Stream outcome of 42,230 places (including 32,350 partner visas) or 36.9 per cent of the Program is the highest level in the past eight years. Special Eligibility visas made up the remaining 0.8 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 2003-04 outcome under the State-Specific and Regional Migration initiatives reached 12,730. This is an increase of 60.2 per cent over 2002-03 and represents 17.9 per cent of the Skill Stream. More details relating to these initiatives can be found in Chapter 3.

In 2003-04, 36,690 places or 32.1 per cent of the Migration Program were taken by persons granted permanent residence after entry to Australia. The Skill Stream accounted for 63.6 per cent of the onshore component and the Family Stream 34.4 per cent. The size of the Skill Stream onshore has more than trebled 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: 1996–97 to 2004–05 (planned)

Migration Category	96–97	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01 ^(f)	01–02 ^(f)	02–03 ^(f)	03–04 ^(f)	Planned 04–05 ^(f)
Family									
Spouses/Fiances/Interdependents	25,530	26,180	25,040	26,650	28,870 ^(g)	33,340 ^(g)	35,060 ^(g)	32,350 ^(g)	33,200 ^(g)
Parents	7,580	1,080	3,120	1,900	1,070	560	510	4,930	4,500
Dependent Children	2,200	2,190	2,070	2,160	2,120	2,160	2,680	2,660	2,800
Other Family ^(a)	1,930	1,860	1,810	1,280	1,400	2,020	2,520	2,280	1,500
Concessional Family ^(b)	7,340	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Family	44,580	31,310	32,040	32,000	33,470	38,090	40,790	42,230	42,000
% of total program	60.3	46.7	47.2	45.6	41.5	40.9	37.7	36.9	35.0
Skill									
Employer Nominations ^(c)	5,560	5,960	5,750	5,400	7,510	9,560	10,540	10,400	11,900
Business Skills	5,820	5,360	6,080	6,260	7,360	7,590 ^(h)	6,740 ^(h)	5,670 ^(h)	5,400 ^(h)
Distinguished Talents	190	180	210	110	230	210	180	230	200
Skilled-Independent ^(d)	15,000	13,250	13,470	15,600	22,380	29,880	38,120	40,350	47,600 ⁽ⁱ⁾
Skilled-Australian Sponsored	—	9,540	9,310	7,900	7,200	6,250	10,470	14,590	12,000
1 November Onshore	980	370	180	60	60	20	20	10	—
Total Skill	27,550	34,670	35,000	35,330	44,730	53,520	66,050	71,240	77,100
% of total program	37.3	51.7	51.5	50.3	55.5	57.5	61.1	62.3	64.3
Special Eligibility	1,730	1,110	890	2,850	2,420	1,480	1,230	890	900
Total Program^(e)	73,900	67,100	67,900	70,200	80,610	93,080	108,070	114,360	110,000- 120,000^(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 and Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

(d) Named Independent prior to 1 July 1999. Includes States/Territory-Nominated Independent and Skilled Independent Regional.

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

(i) Includes 5,000 additional places for Skilled Independent Regional.

(j) Made up of Migration Program range of 105,000–115,000 places plus 5,000 additional places for the Skilled Independent Regional.

Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Data on Visas Granted

Data on grants of permanent visas are Migration Program outcomes. Outcomes are the number of visas granted net of Business Skills visas cancelled under s134 of the *Migration Act 1958* and places taken by provisional spouse/fiance and interdependent visa holders who do not subsequently obtain permanent visas due to refusal or withdrawal.