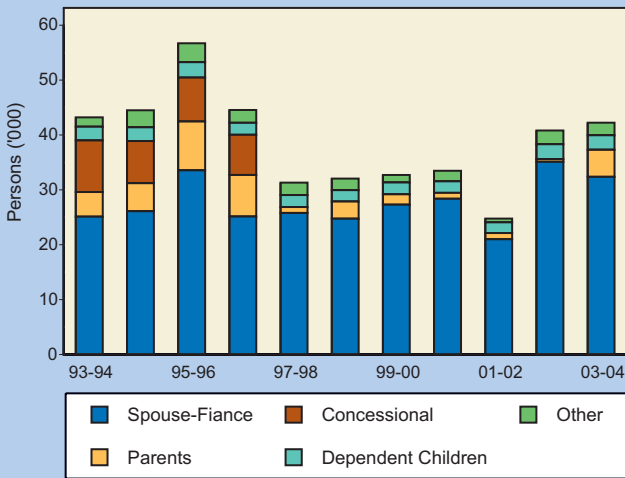


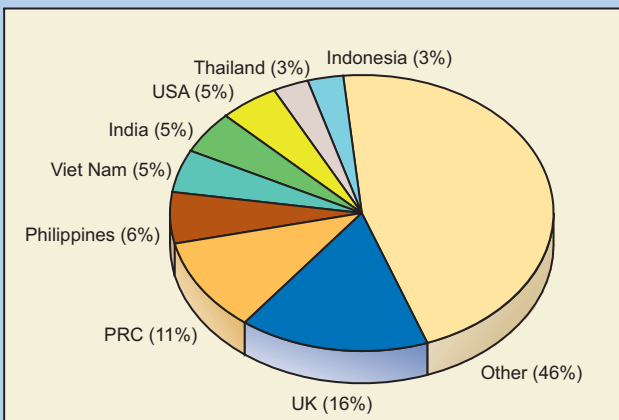
# Family Migration

**Fig. 2-10: Family Stream Outcomes by Visa**



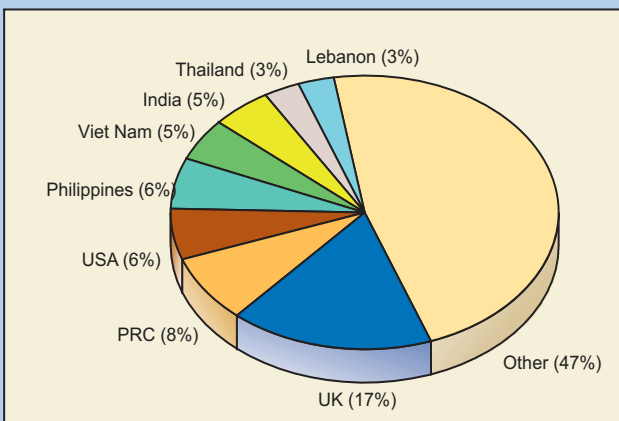
Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

**Fig. 2-11: Family Stream Outcomes by Country of Citizenship 2003-04**



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

**Fig. 2-12: Spouse and Fiance Outcomes by Country of Citizenship 2003-04**



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

The Family Stream of Australia's Migration Program enables the migration of immediate family members such as spouses, children, parents and certain other members of extended families. Migrants in the Family Stream are selected on the basis of their family relationship with their sponsor in Australia. There is no test for skills or language ability as there is for Skill Stream migrants.

The number of Family Stream visa grants has increased since 1996-97, but at the same time Family Stream migration has decreased as a percentage of the total Migration Program. This shift has occurred as the Australian Government refocussed the Migration Program towards skilled migration, to reflect Australia's social and economic needs, while maintaining a strong commitment to family migration.

The number of family visas granted in 1996-97 was 31,173 (49.2 per cent of total Migration Program grants). While the number of grants remained stable in 1997-98 (at 31,310), it reduced as a percentage of total Migration Program grants to 46.7 per cent. The number of Family Stream visas granted in 2003-04 was 42,229 (36.9 per cent of the Migration Program), corresponding to a further shift in the balance of the Migration Program towards skilled migration.

The planned level for the Family Stream in 2004-05 is 42,000 visas, which represents 35 per cent of the total planned Migration Program (120,000 places).

In 2003-04, 16.2 per cent of Family Stream visas were granted to people who held citizenship in the United Kingdom, followed by the PRC (11.1 per cent), the Philippines (5.9 per cent) and Viet Nam (5.0 per cent).

## Partner

Partner visas includes the spouse, prospective marriage (fiance) and interdependency visa subclasses. In 2003-04, partners accounted for 85.6 per cent (32,354 persons) of Family Stream visa grants. Most of the partner visas granted were for spouse visas (26,681), with 5,034 granted being prospective marriage visas and 639 being interdependency visas.

In 2003-04, the largest number of partner visas were granted to people who held citizenship in the United Kingdom (17.0 per cent), followed by the PRC (7.5 per cent), USA (5.7 per cent) and the Philippines (5.6 per cent).

Partner visa recipients added to the growth capacity of the Australian population, most being women and most being of child-bearing age. Women outnumbered men as primary applicants in the grant of spouse and prospective marriage visas in 2003-04: women accounted for 65.6 per cent of these visas. However, men outnumbered women as the primary applicants in the grant of interdependency visas, accounting for 66.5 per cent of these visas.

## Preferential / Other Family

While those granted partner visas in 2003-04 included more than 200 applicants aged over 65, most were much younger. While prospective marriage visa recipients were generally younger than spouse and interdependency visa recipients, for all three visa categories more than 75 per cent of the primary applicants were aged between 20 and 39 years. Partner visa holders also brought with them 3,479 dependants, mainly children, (most between 0 and 19 years of age) who migrated as secondary applicants on partner visas, in 2003-04.

Changed processing arrangements for partner visas, introduced in Australia in 2000 and overseas in late 2001, have significantly reduced processing times. Processing times in Australian offices are now approximately three months, and the median processing time for partner visa applications overseas is now three months in low risk posts and six months in high risk posts.

At the same time, the number of unfinalised applications in process in Australia has decreased by 41.5 per cent (from 8,041 cases in August 2001 to 4,703 cases in June 2004) and overseas by 10 per cent (from 13,528 cases in August 2001 to 12,222 cases in June 2004).

Bona Fides Units (BFUs) were established in all DIMIA offices in Australia at the beginning of 2002 to further enhance the integrity of partner visa processing. These specialist units undertake more intensive checking in cases where possible fraud has been identified.

During 2003-04, 1,183 cases were finalised following BFU activity. Of these 21 per cent were refused as the parties were not in a genuine relationship (compared with an overall refusal rate in Australia of 7 per cent); 55 per cent were granted after establishing the bona fides of the relationship; 5 per cent resulted in the application being withdrawn. 19 per cent involved cases where the BFU returned their findings to onshore and offshore processing offices that had referred cases for investigation.

## Child

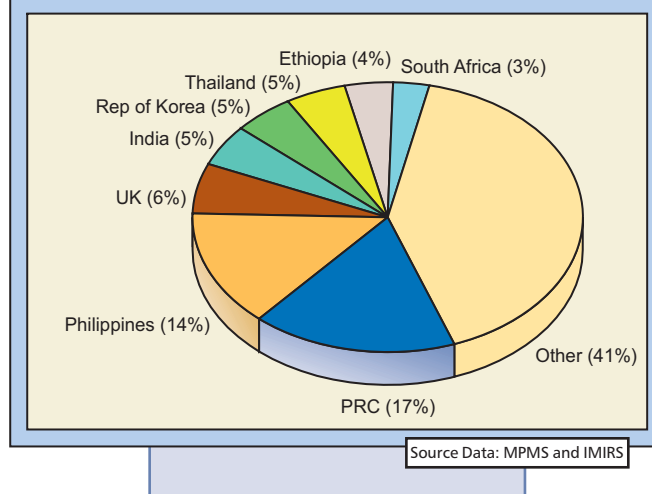
The child category includes visas for dependent children, orphan relatives and adopted children. A total of 2,162 visas were granted in this category in 2001-02 (5.7 per cent of grants in the Family Stream) and 2,681 visas were granted in 2002-03 (6.6 per cent of grants in the Family Stream). In 2003-04, a total of 2,662 visas were granted (0.7 per cent decrease on the 2002-03 total) which represented 6.3 per cent of grants in the Family Stream.

In 2003-04, the largest number of visas in the child category were granted to citizens of the PRC (17.2 per cent), followed by the Philippines (14.2 per cent), the United Kingdom (6.0 per cent) and the Republic of Korea (5.0 per cent).

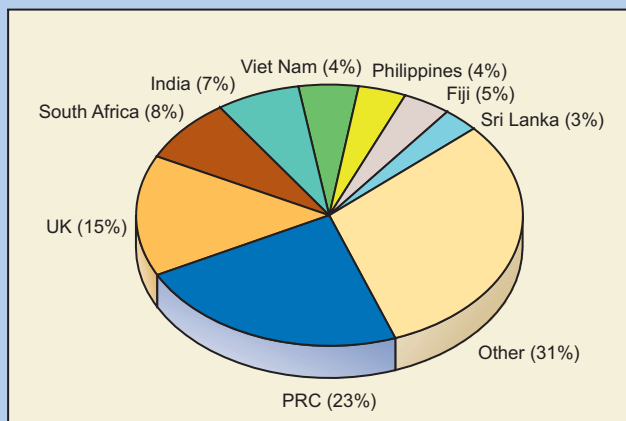
The preferential/other family category includes visas for aged dependent relatives, remaining relatives and carers. In 2003-04, a total of 2,284 visas were granted in the other family category, representing 5.4 per cent of Family Stream visa grants. Of these grants, around 63 per cent were remaining relatives, 24 per cent were carers and 13 per cent were aged dependent relatives. In 2002-03, a total of 2,524 visas were granted in the other family category, representing 6.2 per cent of Family Stream visa grants.

In 2003-04, the largest number of visas in the preferential/other family category were granted to citizens of the PRC (14.2 per cent), followed by the United Kingdom (10.7 per cent), the Philippines (9.3 per cent) and Cambodia (5.2 per cent).

**Fig. 2-13: Dependent Children Outcomes by Country of Citizenship 2003-04**

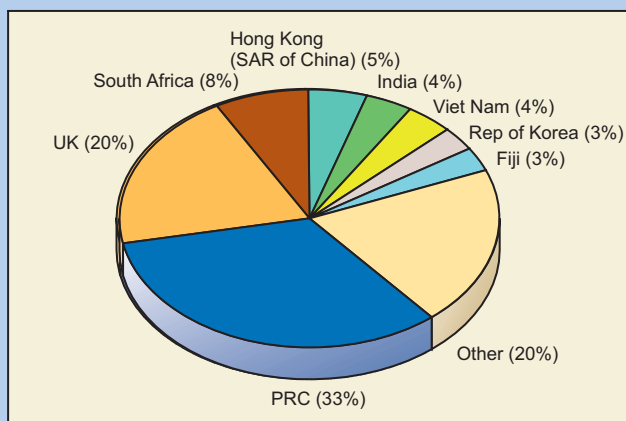


**Fig. 2-14: Parent Outcomes by Country of Citizenship (Non-Contributory) 2003-04**



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

**Fig. 2-15: Parent Outcomes by Country of Citizenship (Contributory) 2003-04**



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

## Parents

Since 1999-2000, the Australian Government has limited the number of parent places available to parents each program year. This follows research indicating that migrants in the parent category pose a relatively high ongoing cost to the Australian community. 2003-04 saw the introduction of the new contributory parent category thus creating two distinct parent visa categories. This has enabled the Government to expand the number of places for parents.

### Parents (non-contributory)

In 2003-04, 1,502 (non-contributory) parent visas were granted, comprising 1,500 visas in the parent subclasses and 2 visas in the designated parent subclasses (this now-closed category was introduced in November 1999 to allow for parents affected by the Senate's disallowance of a new parent category in March 1999). This compares

with 513 parent visas granted in 2002-03, comprising 500 visas in the parent subclasses and 13 visas in the designated parent subclasses.

In 2003-04, the largest number of parent visas were granted to citizens of the PRC (23.3 per cent), followed by the United Kingdom (14.7 per cent), South Africa (7.6 per cent) and India (6.9 per cent).

As at 30 June 2004, there were 20,080 applicants for a visa in the parent category, of whom around 15,300 have been assigned a queue date. The offshore component of this pipeline is around 14,520 persons while around 5,560 persons are in the onshore component. This compares with 17,140 and 6,070 respectively at the end of 2002-03.

### Parents (contributory)

Legislation making provision for the new contributory parent migration category was passed by Parliament in March 2003 and commenced on 27 June 2003 (offshore applicants) and 1 July 2003 (onshore applicants).

This category substantially increases the number of places available for parents to migrate each year on the basis that they or their sponsor make a fairer contribution to their health and welfare costs. In the contributory category in 2003-04, parents were required to pay a second visa application charge of \$25,000 per adult, and a ten-year \$10,000 Assurance of Support bond for the main applicant and \$4,000 for adult secondary applicants.

In 2003-04, 3,427 contributory parent visas were granted. In the contributory parent category, the largest number of visas were granted to citizens of the PRC (32.9 per cent), followed by the United Kingdom (19.9 per cent), South Africa (7.6 per cent) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) (4.7 per cent).

In 2004-05 a total of 4,500 parent places will be available, including 1,000 in the (non-contributory) parent visa category and 3,500 in the contributory parent visa category.

All applications for parent visas from persons residing overseas are processed at the Perth Offshore Parents Centre, resulting in significant efficiency gains, due to specialisation and economies of scale.

## Priority Processing

The Minister has given a direction under section 499 of the *Migration Act 1958* on the order of priority for processing Family Stream visa applications. Higher priority is given to immediate family members, such as dependent children (including children for adoption and orphan relatives), spouses, fiances and interdependent partners of sponsors in Australia. Lower priority is accorded to parents and other family members.

# Onshore Residence Outcomes

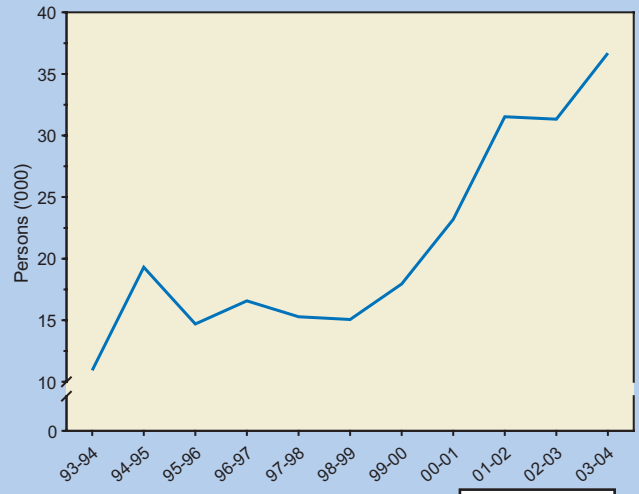
While the majority of people still apply for migration while they are overseas, an increasing number of people already in Australia on a temporary visa are applying onshore for a permanent visa. People granted residence on a skill, family or special eligibility basis after arrival in Australia, are included in the Migration Program. Permanent visas may be granted onshore to applicants for most Family Stream categories, except fiances, and to some Skill Stream categories, including the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and the Business Skills category. From 1 July 2001, overseas students completing their courses in Australia also can apply onshore for permanent residence in the Skill Stream.

In 2003–04, the Migration Program included 36,690 persons granted residence after applying for a permanent visa in Australia, representing 32.1 per cent of the outcome of the Migration Program.

In 2003–04, 13,161 visas were granted in Australia to successful overseas students in the GSM categories under provisions introduced on 1 July 2001. This is an increase of 51.8 per cent over the outcome for 2002–03. In addition, there has been a 6.7 per cent increase in the total Employer Nominations onshore (included in the Skill Stream in Fig. 2-17) since 2002–03. This increase reflects the rise in the number of skilled workers coming to Australia on temporary visas who later apply for permanent visas, sponsored by their employer in Australia. Chapter 5, Temporary Entry, has more details about these temporary visas.

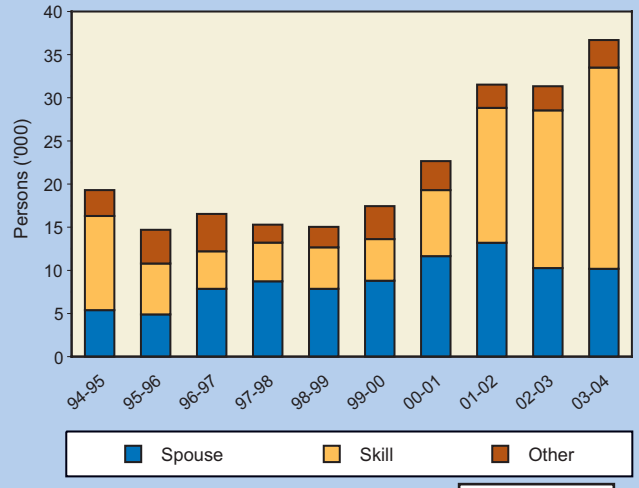
In 2003–04, the main countries of citizenship for people granted onshore residence visas were the United Kingdom (16.9 per cent), the PRC (11.7 per cent), India (8.9 per cent), Indonesia (4.9 per cent) and the Republic of Korea (4.8 per cent).

**Fig. 2-16: Onshore Residence Outcomes**



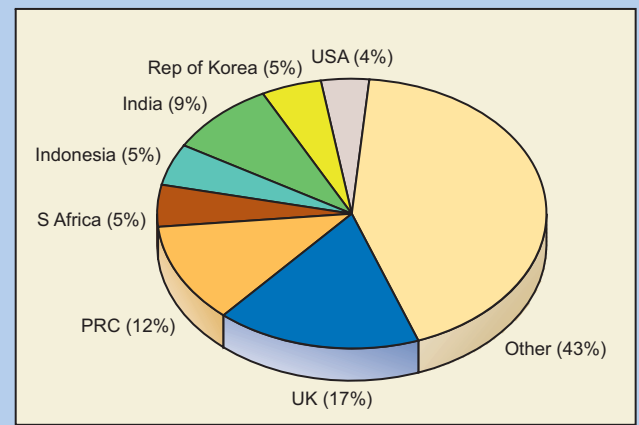
Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 2-17: Onshore Residence Outcomes by Visa Category**



Source Data: IMIRS

**Fig. 2-18: Onshore Residence Outcomes by Country of Citizenship 2003–04**



Source Data: IMIRS