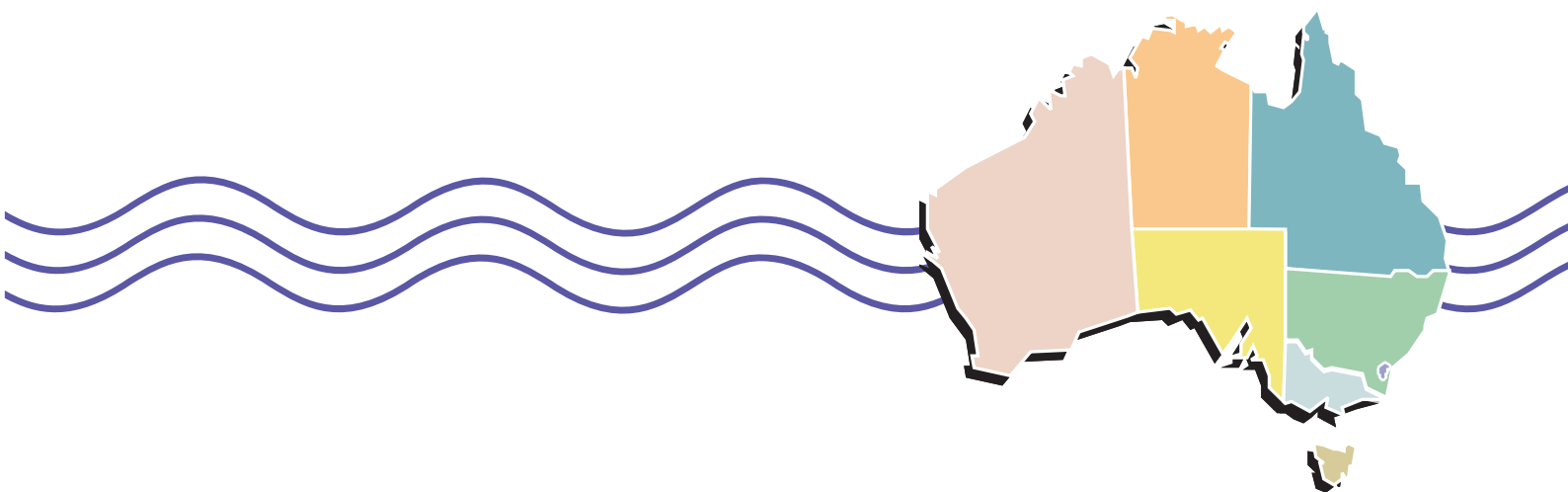


Chapter 2

The Migration and Humanitarian Programs

- The outcome for the 2004-05 Migration Program was 120,100, the largest since the late 80s. It represented a 5 per cent increase on the 2003-04 outcome. The planning level for 2005-06 is between 130,000 and 140,000.
- Nearly one-third (32.9 per cent) of the total Program in 2004-05 was taken by persons granted permanent residence after initial entry to Australia on a temporary basis.
- There were 77,880 people granted Skill Stream visas in 2004-05, an increase of 9.3 per cent on the previous year. The Skill Stream made up 64.9 per cent of the total program, which is the most skilled on record.
- Within the Skill Stream, the main countries from which people came in 2004-05 were the United Kingdom, India, the PRC and South Africa.
- There were 41,740 people granted Family Stream visas.
- Within the Family Stream, the main countries of citizenship in 2004-05 were the United Kingdom, the PRC, the Philippines and India.
- There were 13,178 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program in 2004-05, a slight decrease over the previous year.
- There were 895 Humanitarian Program visas granted onshore in 2004-05.



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 and skill shortages 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 certain groups of people subject to resolution of status.

For 2005-06, the Government announced that the Migration Program would be in the range of 130,000–140,000 places with a Skill Stream of around 97,500 at the top of the range – exceeding the 2004-05 record by almost 20,000. The level within the range at which the Migration Program will be delivered in any given year depends on:

- application rates in demand driven categories such as spouses, fiancés, 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

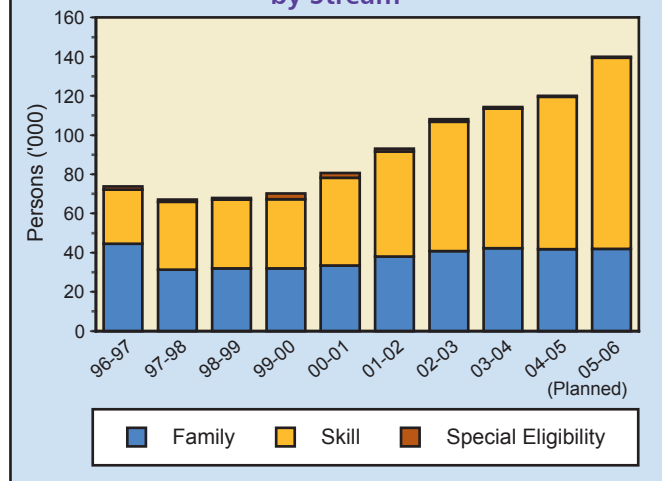
People who enter Australia via the Migration and Humanitarian Programs contribute to net overseas migration along with arrivals and departures of New Zealand citizens, long-term visitors, Australian residents (permanent or long-term), and those who change their intended length of stay. Only the Migration 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, Fiancés, Interdependents and Preferential/Other Family.

**Fig. 2-1: Program Management Structure (2005–06)
Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program**

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

Fig. 2-2: Migration Program Outcomes by Stream



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

2004-05 Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program Outcome

The outcome for the 2004-05 Program was 120,060, the largest and most highly skilled Program in the past decade. It represented a 5 per cent increase on the 2003-04 outcome of 114,360, but is below the levels of the late 1980s when the Program peaked at 124,700 in 1988-89.

The 2004-05 Skill Stream outcome of 77,880 places or 64.9 per cent of the total Program is the highest on record. The Family Stream outcome of 41,740 places (including 33,060 partner visas) was 34.8 per cent of the Program. Special Eligibility visas made up the remaining 0.4 per cent. The balance between Skill and Family Stream visas represents 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, the ability of successful overseas students to apply for migration while still in Australia and a significant increase in employer sponsorship.

The 2004-05 outcome under the State-Specific and Regional Migration initiatives reached 18,700. This is an increase of 47 per cent over 2003-04 and represents 24 per cent of the Skill Stream. More details relating to these initiatives can be found in Chapter 3.

Onshore Residence Outcomes

While the majority of people applying to migrate do so from 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 fiancés, and to some Skill Stream categories, including the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, and the Business Skills category. Since 1 July 2001, overseas students completing their courses in Australia have also been able to apply onshore for permanent residence in the Skill Stream.

In 2004-05, the Migration Program included 39,600 persons granted residence after applying for a permanent visa in Australia, representing 32.9 per cent of the outcome of the Migration Program.

In 2004-05 some 16,485 visas were granted in Australia to successful overseas students in the General Skilled Migration categories under provisions introduced on 1 July 2001. This is an increase of 25.4 per cent over the outcome for 2003-04. In addition, there has been a 24.5 per cent increase in the total Employer Nominations onshore (included in the Skill Stream in Fig. 2-4) over 2003-04. 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 2004-05, the main countries of citizenship for people granted onshore residence visas were the United Kingdom (17.6 per cent), the PRC (11.6 per cent), India (8.9 per cent), Indonesia (5.1 per cent), the Republic of Korea (4.6 per cent) and Malaysia (4.6 per cent).

Fig. 2-3: Migration Program Outcomes: 1997–98 to 2005–06 (planned)

Migration Category	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01 ^(e)	01–02 ^(e)	02–03 ^(e)	03–04 ^(e)	04–05 ^(e)	Planned 05–06 ^(e)
Family									
Spouses/Fiances/Interdependents	26,180	25,040	26,650	28,870 ^(f)	33,340 ^(f)	35,060 ^(f)	32,350 ^(f)	33,060 ^(f)	33,300 ^(f)
Parents	1,080	3,120	1,900	1,070	560	510	4,930 ^(h)	4,500	4,500
Dependent Children	2,190	2,070	2,160	2,120	2,160	2,680	2,660	2,490	2,500
Other Family ^(a)	1,860	1,810	1,280	1,400	2,020	2,520	2,280	1,690	1,700
Total Family	31,310	32,040	32,000	33,470	38,090	40,790	42,230	41,740	42,000
% of total program	46.7	47.2	45.6	41.5	40.9	37.7	36.9	34.8	30.0
Skill									
Employer Nominations ^(b)	5,950	5,580	5,390	7,420	9,310	9,740	10,400	13,020	15,000
Business Skills	5,360	6,080	6,260	7,360	7,590 ^(g)	6,740 ^(g)	5,670 ^(g)	4,820 ^(g)	5,400 ^(g)
Distinguished Talents	180	210	110	230	210	180	230	190	200
Skilled-Independent ^(c)	13,250	13,470	15,600	22,380	29,880	38,120	38,720	41,180	49,200
State/Territory Sponsored ^(h)	20	170	10	90	260	790	1,630	4,140	10,000
Skilled-Australian Sponsored	9,540	9,310	7,900	7,200	6,250	10,470	14,590	14,530	17,700
1 November Onshore	370	180	60	60	20	20	10	—	—
Total Skill	34,670	35,000	35,330	44,730	53,520	66,050	71,240	77,880	97,500
% of total program	51.7	51.5	50.3	55.5	57.5	61.1	62.3	64.9	69.6
Special Eligibility	1,110	890	2,850	2,420	1,480	1,230	890	450	500
Total Program^(d)	67,100	67,900	70,200	80,610	93,080	108,070	114,360	120,060	130,000- 140,000

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

(b) Includes Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreements and Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

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

(d) Please note that figures have been rounded and total may not be the exact sum of components.

(e) Program numbers do not include New Zealand citizens or holders of Secondary Movement Offshore Entry (temporary), Secondary Movement Relocation (Temporary) and Temporary Protection Visas.

(f) 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.

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

(h) Includes State/Territory Nominated Independent and 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 net of places taken by provisional spouse/fiance and interdependent visa holders who do not subsequently obtain permanent visas due to refusal or withdrawal.