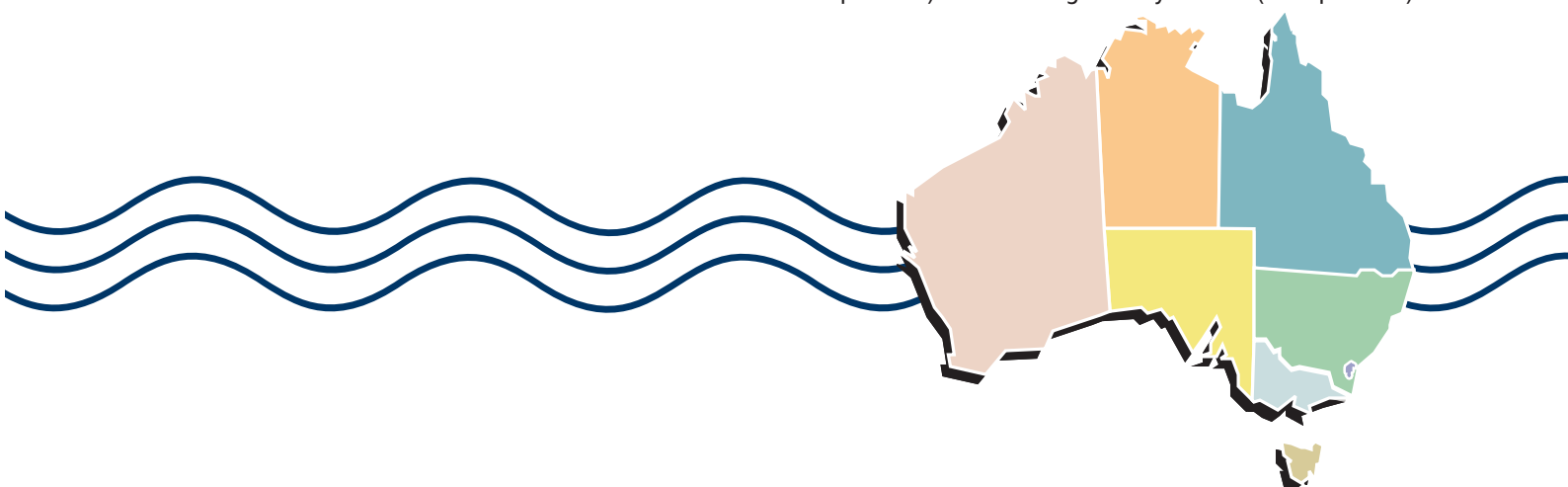


Chapter 5

Temporary Entry

- Nearly 4.0 million Temporary Entry visas (not including Bridging visas) were issued in 2005–06. Around 90 per cent of the Temporary Entry visas issued were offshore Visitor visas (including Business visas). Visitor visas issued for 2005–06 were down by 0.7 per cent on the previous year. Visitors contribute more than \$18.0 billion in export earnings annually.
- A record number of 190,674 visas were granted to overseas students in 2005–06. Education exports were valued at \$10.1 billion for 2005–06. The industry, directly or indirectly contribute towards 51,000 jobs for Australians.
- In 2005–06 the main source of overseas students was the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), followed by India, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America (USA), Malaysia and Japan.
- Onshore permanent residence visas for skilled students have been popular, with 17,896 (including dependants) visas granted in 2005–06.
- Over 111,973 people were granted Working Holiday Maker visas to Australia in 2005–06, up by about 7.3 per cent on 2004–05. It is estimated that they spend over \$1.3 billion annually in Australia.
- In 2005–06, a total of 71,150 Business (Long Stay) visas (excluding Independent Executives) were granted, a rise of 46.4 per cent compared with the previous year.
- At the end of June 2006, there were an estimated 630,513 people in Australia on Temporary Entry visas, excluding New Zealand citizens. These mainly consisted of students (33.6 per cent), visitors (30.5 per cent), Long Stay Business (12.8 per cent) and Working Holiday Makers (10.1 per cent).



Temporary Entry

Temporary Entry Programme

The Temporary Entry Programme allows people from overseas to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes which result in some benefit to Australia.

Temporary Entrants are required to pay taxes on any income earned in Australia but do not generally have access to social welfare benefits or Medicare. They must meet Australia's health and character requirements as well as any specific visa criteria.

Temporary Entrants form a significant and increasing proportion of the total number of people in Australia at any one time, as is the growing trend world-wide. Long-term Temporary Entrants (those here for 12 months or more) are counted as part of Australia's resident population and included in estimates of net overseas migration.

Types of Temporary Entrant

There are six broad groups of Temporary Entrants.

Visitors - mostly tourists either here for a holiday or visiting friends and relatives, while some come for short-term business purposes. A small number of people come to Australia for pre-arranged medical treatment. Many visitors come on an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). The ETA accounted for 81.5 per cent of all tourist and short-term Business visas issued worldwide. The ETA replaces the visa label or stamp in a passport and is available to passport holders of 34 countries and locations. The majority of ETAs are issued through travel agents and airlines or directly over the Internet.

Working Holiday Makers (WHM) - there are 19 reciprocal WHM arrangements currently in effect. These arrangements ensure that young Australians are also offered similar opportunities for cultural understanding through working holidays overseas.

Overseas Students - people who wish to undertake full-time study in registered courses in Australia.

Professional Development - professionals, managers and government officials from overseas who wish to undertake tailored training programmes that are relevant to their further professional development.

Business - there are two types of Temporary Business entrants. People whose primary purpose for making a short trip to Australia is business related enter on a Business Visitor visa (short stay). Those who are recruited by Australian companies as skilled personnel enter as Temporary Business residents for periods of stay up to four years.

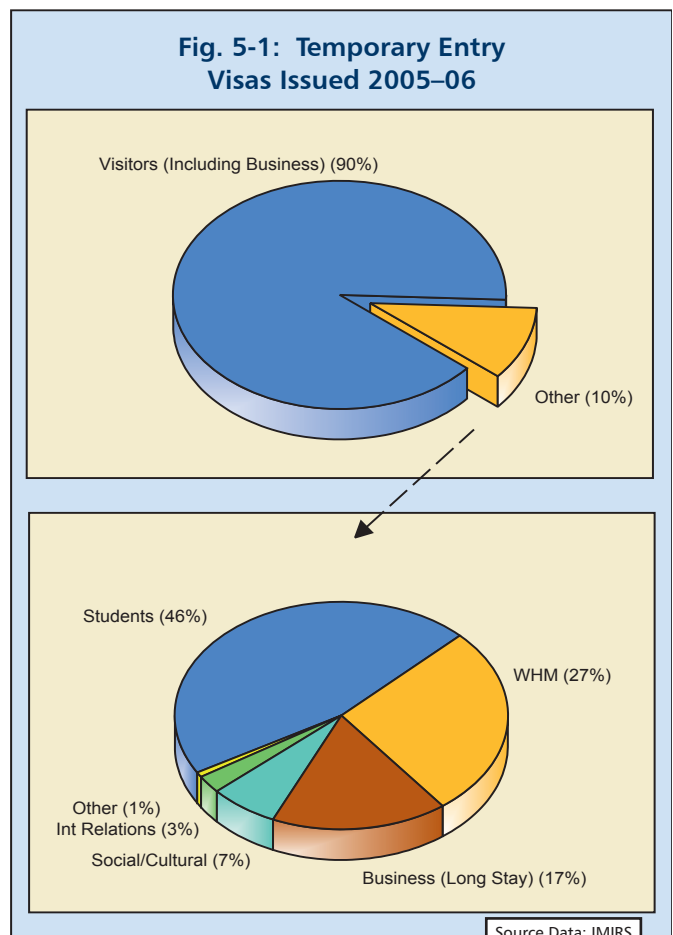
Other Temporary Visas - there is also a range of other Temporary Residence visas designed to allow overseas people to come to

Australia for a variety of social and cultural, economic and international relations purposes.

In 2005–06 a total of 3,978,420 Temporary Entry visas (excluding Bridging visas) were granted of which the vast majority of 3,563,372 were offshore Visitor visas (including business visitors). Working Holiday Makers (111,973) and overseas students 190,674 accounted for 72.9 per cent of the remaining Temporary Entrants.

This total is up 0.5 per cent from the 3,960,321 Temporary Entry visas granted in 2004–05.

Fig. 5-1: Temporary Entry Visas Issued 2005–06



Source Data: IMIRS

Visitors

During 2004–05, visitors to Australia generated tourism export earnings of \$18.3 billion. This amounted to 11.1 per cent of Australia's total export earnings.

Visitor Visa Applications

Offshore Visitor visa applications in 2005–06 were down by 0.9 per cent compared with 2004–05, with 3,621,874 applications lodged, of which 80.2 per cent were for Electronic Travel Authority (ETA).

The Visitor visa subclasses that showed an increase in applications include:

- Business Visitors (ETA) 182,164 (up 10.5 per cent);
- Business Visitors (Non-ETA) 195,377 (up 5.1 per cent);
- Tourist (Non-ETA) 504,236 (up 5.1 per cent).

The Visitor visa subclasses that showed a decrease in applications include:

- Tourist (ETA) 2,722,321 (down 3.0 per cent);
- Sponsored Family Visitor 13,962 (down 0.2 per cent).

UK passport holders were granted 18.3 per cent of all Visitor visas granted (compared with 17.9 per cent in 2004–05). Japanese passport holders were granted 17.3 per cent of all Visitor visas granted (compared with 17.6 per cent in 2004–05). Applications from the USA passport holders showed an increase of 0.9 per cent.

For countries where passport holders lodge more than 15,000 applications, the largest increases in visitor applications for 2005–06, compared to 2004–05 were:

- India* up 20.7 per cent;
- South Africa* up 9.8 per cent;
- Philippines* up 7.8 per cent;
- PRC* up 4.7 per cent;
- Sweden up 4.5 per cent;
- France up 4.2 per cent;
- Irish Republic up 3.6 per cent; and
- Fiji* up 3.9 per cent.

*non-ETA country

Major Source Countries

The top ten countries of passport holders for Visitor visa grants during 2005–06 were:

- UK 651,077;
- Japan 616,650;
- USA 389,062;
- Republic of Korea 215,871;
- PRC* 206,776;
- Germany 136,406;
- Singapore 122,980;
- Malaysia 121,216;
- Canada 98,381; and
- France 97,940.

*non-ETA country

The following countries of passport holders (lodging more than 15,000 applications) showed a decrease in visitor applications for 2005–06, compared with 2004–05:

- UK down 0.6 per cent;
- Switzerland down 2.3 per cent;
- Republic of Korea down 3.2 per cent;
- Taiwan down 3.8 per cent;
- Japan down 4.1 per cent;
- Thailand* down 9.6 per cent;
- Malaysia down 12.6 per cent; and
- Singapore down 17.2 per cent.

*non-ETA country

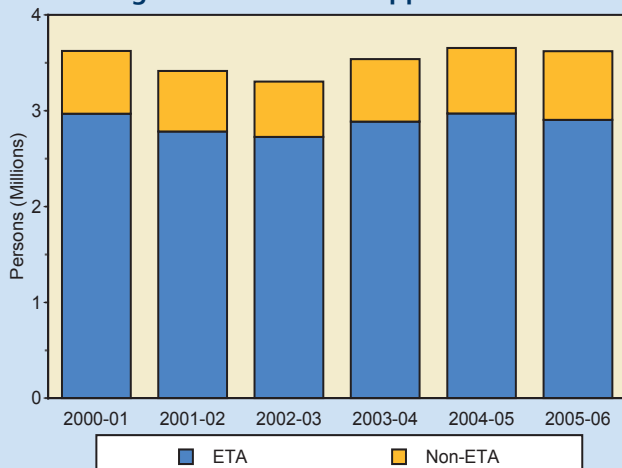
Electronic Lodgement

Electronic lodgement of offshore short stay Visitor visa applications (known as "e676") started in March 2003 and was initially only available to passport holders from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In March 2004, the facility was extended to Kuwait.

The main difference between e676 and ETA is that e676 allows tourists to apply for stays in Australia for up to 12 months. Unlike ETAs, e676 is only available to tourists and not for business visitors. Nevertheless, e676 offers many of the same benefits of ETAs including greater convenience for applicants, faster processing times and visa label free travel, which means applicants do not need to send or deliver their passport to a visa office.

In July 2004, the facility was extended to passport holders from the European Union (EU) accession countries (Czech Republic, Republic of Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and, in April 2005, to Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. In July 2005 access to e676 was extended to all ETA-eligible passport holders.

Fig. 5-2: Visitor Visa Applications



Source Data: IMIRS

In 2005–06, 43.6 per cent of Subclass 676 applications that could be lodged electronically were lodged that way. The following passport holders had the highest electronic take-up rates:

- Slovenia 97.9 per cent;
- Estonia 97.1 per cent;
- Latvia 88.4 per cent;
- Czech Republic 87.5 per cent;
- Switzerland 84.4 per cent;
- Sweden 77.4 per cent; and
- Denmark 75.4 per cent.

Visitor Visa Grants

In 2005–06, passport holders from the UK, Japan, the USA, the Republic of Korea and the PRC constituted 58.4 per cent of all Visitor visas granted.

The largest increases for 2005–06, compared to 2004–05 in Visitor visa grants, to non-ETA passport holders included (where there were more than 1,000 grants):

- Qatar 1,160 grants, up 73.4 per cent;
- Viet Nam 11,445 grants, up 32.6 per cent;
- Saudi Arabia 4,547 grants, up 32.2 per cent;
- Peru 1,011 grants, up 31.0 per cent;
- Cambodia 2,144 grants, up 26.9 per cent;
- Brazil 9,410 grants, up 26.3 per cent;
- Chile 3,953 grants, up 25.8 per cent;
- India 71,407 grants, up 25.2 per cent;
- Papua New Guinea 7,480 grants, up 19.9 per cent; and
- Russian Federation 7,187 grants, up 17.9 per cent.

Among ETA passport holders, the largest increases in grants for 2005–06, compared to 2004–05 included:

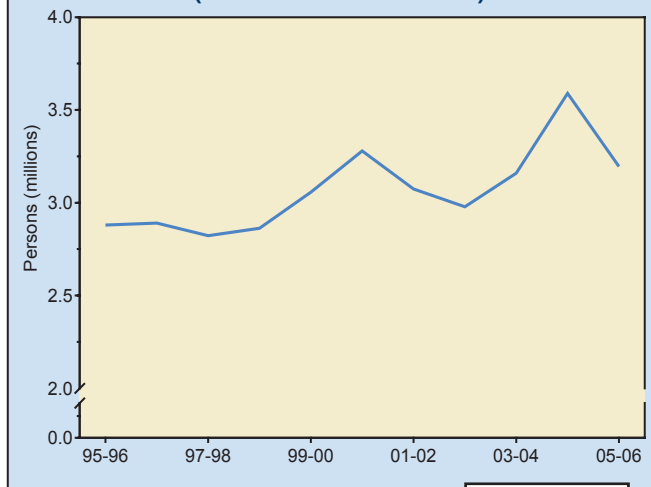
- Sweden 31,051 grants, up 4.6 per cent;
- France 98,449 grants, up 4.2 per cent;
- Spain 15,347 grants, up 3.8 per cent;
- Irish Republic 51,443 grants, up 3.4 per cent;
- Hong Kong (SAR) 76,700 grants, up 3.3 per cent;
- Austria 19,259 grants, up 1.6 per cent;
- Denmark 21,568 grants, up 1.2 per cent;
- Canada 99,030 grants, up 1.0 per cent;
- Netherlands 53,330 grants, up 0.8 per cent; and
- USA 390,785 grants, up 0.8 per cent.

Visitor Visa Approval Rate

For 2005–06, the global Visitor visa approval rate (which is the number of Visitor visas granted as a percentage of all Visitor visa applications decided) was at an all time high at 98.7 per cent. This compares with 98.5 per cent in 2004–05 and 98.4 per cent in 2003–04. The improving approval rate is the result of continuing DIMA initiatives including the use of the “no further stay” condition and the Sponsored Family Visitor Programme.

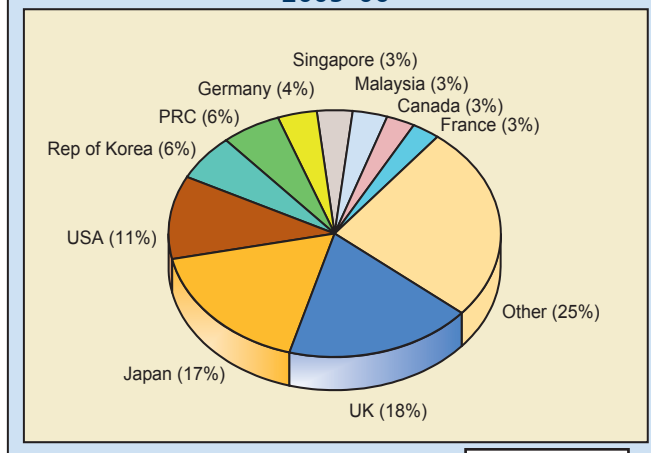
The approval rate for countries and locations whose passport holders are eligible for ETAs was 99.99 per cent (compared to 99.98 per cent in 2004–05 and 99.99 per cent in 2003–04).

Fig. 5-3: Visitor Visa Grants (excl. Business Visitors)



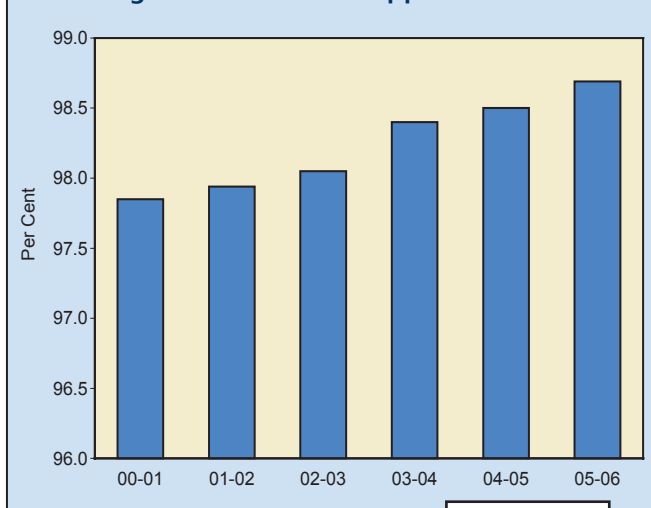
Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 5-4: Visitor Visa Grants by Country of Citizenship 2005–06



Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 5-5: Visitor Visa Approval Rates



Source Data: IMIRS

Passport holders from several countries (including Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA) recorded a 100 per cent approval rate in 2005–06 in all three ETA subclasses (Business Entrant - Long Validity, Visitor - Short Validity and Business Entrant - Short Validity).

For non-ETA eligible passport holders the approval rate rose to 93.8 per cent from 91.9 per cent in 2004–05 and 91.1 per cent in 2003–04. Several non-ETA countries with relatively high numbers of applications (more than 3,000) had approval rates significantly higher than the non-ETA average rate, including:

- South Africa 99.1 per cent;
- Mauritius 98.6 per cent;
- Mexico 98.5 per cent;
- Saudi Arabia 98.1 per cent;
- Papua New Guinea 97.8 per cent;
- Argentina 97.3 per cent;
- Chile 96.6 per cent;
- Indonesia 96.6 per cent;
- Israel 96.0 per cent; and
- Russian Federation 95.1 per cent.

There were still a number of countries and locations where the passport holder's approval rate was less than the global average, which tends to reflect the nature of the caseload. All Visitor visa applicants are required to meet criteria prescribed in migration legislation before a Visitor visa can be granted. Visitor visa legislation and policy seeks to strike a balance between assisting and encouraging the entry of genuine visitors, and protecting Australia by refusing entry to those people who may seek to enter Australia to work illegally or to breach Visitor visa conditions in some way.

When deciding whether an applicant intends a genuine visit, decision-makers must take into account such factors as the applicant's personal circumstances, their employment and financial situation (including their ability to support themselves in Australia without working), and any other matters that may impact on their desire to depart Australia at the conclusion of their visit.

Approval rates for some countries, while still lower than the global (non-ETA) average of 93.8 per cent, have improved in 2005–06 compared with 2004–05, including:

- India 92.5 per cent (up from 89.3 per cent);
- Turkey 90.0 per cent (up from 89.2 per cent);
- Philippines 88.0 per cent (up from 87.5 per cent);
- Iran 86.7 per cent (up from 85.6 per cent);
- Fiji 85.8 per cent (up from 83.2 per cent); and
- Lebanon 80.7 per cent (up from 79.0 per cent).

Non-Return Rate of Visitors

The Non-Return Rate (NRR) is a calculation of the visitors who arrived in Australia on a visa that has now ceased but who did not depart within the validity of that initial visa - as a percentage of all visitor arrivals (whose visas have ceased) in the period. The NRR includes those who:

- remained in Australia unlawfully, or
- departed Australia on a ceased visa, or
- have applied for another type of visa while in Australia and have:
 - since departed Australia on that subsequent visa;
 - remained in Australia on that subsequent visa; or been granted a Bridging visa.

The extent to which different passport holders do actually depart within the validity of their Visitor visas is relevant feedback to overseas posts and State/Territory Offices to assist them in making decisions on future Visitor visa applications.

The rising Visitor visa approval rate has not been at the expense of the integrity of the Visitor Programme as the visitor NRR continues to fall. The NRR across all Visitor visa subclasses (including ETA) in 2005–06 was 1.20 per cent, compared with 1.22 per cent in 2004–05, 1.47 per cent in 2003–04, 1.60 per cent in 2002–03 and 1.85 per cent in 2001–02.

A number of countries registered a decrease in their passport holder's visitor NRRs in 2005–06 at the same time that Visitor visa approval rates were increasing. For example, the NRR for visitors holding passports from the PRC in 2005–06 was 0.64 per cent (down from 0.65 per cent in 2004–05, 0.84 per cent in 2003–04 and 1.17 per cent in 2002–03) while their Visitor visa approval rate increased to 94.7 per cent (from 93.3 per cent in 2004–05, 91.8 per cent in 2003–04 and 88.9 per cent in 2002–03).

Other countries registering improved Visitor visa NRRs in 2005–06, compared with 2004–05, included:

- Cambodia 1.01 per cent (down from 1.74 per cent);
- Belgium 1.05 per cent (down from 1.52 per cent);
- Kenya 1.30 per cent (down from 2.29 per cent);
- Cyprus 1.63 per cent (down from 2.32 per cent);
- Romania 2.00 per cent (down from 2.96 per cent);
- Kirabati 2.05 per cent (down from 3.36 per cent);
- Turkey 2.90 per cent (down from 4.40 per cent);
- Tonga 3.14 per cent (down from 4.60 per cent);
- Poland 3.16 per cent (down from 5.25 per cent); and
- Samoa 4.46 per cent (down from 6.86 per cent).

Passport holders with the lowest NRRs included:

- Kuwait 0.32 per cent of 3,113 arrivals;
- Japan 0.37 per cent of 644,171 arrivals;
- Mexico 0.51 per cent of 4,235 arrivals;
- Singapore 0.57 per cent of 155,205 arrivals;
- UAE 0.58 per cent of 5,338 arrivals;
- PRC 0.64 per cent of 230,429 arrivals;
- Taiwan 0.65 per cent of 100,274 arrivals;
- Argentina 0.68 per cent of 3,287 arrivals;

- Thailand 0.82 per cent of 50,189 arrivals; and
- South Africa 0.86 per cent of 43,382 arrivals.

The total non-ETA visitor NRR for 2005–06 was 1.70 per cent (1.69 per cent in 2004–05). The NRR for non-ETA visitor subclasses are as follows:

Subclass	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
	per cent		
Business Short stay	1.06	0.87	0.82
Tourist – Short Stay	1.63	1.43	1.73
Sponsored Family Visitor	2.03	1.57	2.47
Tourist – Long Stay	8.09	6.63	5.83

The NRR for visitors travelling on ETAs for 2005–06 across the three ETA subclasses was 1.08 per cent (down from 1.10 per cent in 2004–05, 1.32 per cent in 2003–04 and 1.33 per cent in 2002–03).

In 2005–06 the number of people applying for protection visas after entering Australia on Visitor visas, was 2,441, this is a 9.2 per cent increase over 2004–05 (2,236).

In 2005–06, the protection visa rate (i.e. the number of protection visa applications as a percentage of visitor arrivals) was 0.07 per cent compared with 0.06 per cent in 2004–05, 0.07 per cent in 2003–04 and 0.10 per cent in 2002–03.

Sponsored Family Visitor Visa

The Sponsored Family Visitor Programme allows Australian citizens and permanent residents to formally sponsor their relatives to visit Australia. This programme has proved to be successful in allowing applicants about whom there are some residual concerns about their intentions, to be granted a visa to visit family in Australia. In order to strengthen the integrity of the programme, a security bond may be requested.

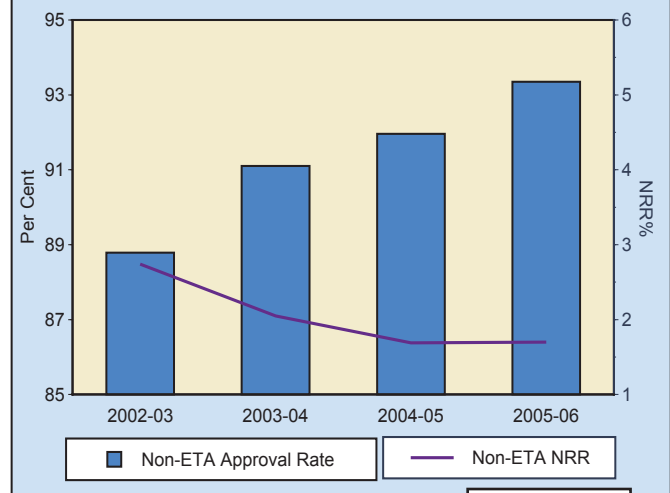
On 2 April 2005, following extensive community consultations, the processing of the Sponsored Family Visitor applications was repatriated to Australia and now allows a period of stay of up to 12 months (compared to the previous maximum of three months) in certain circumstances.

There were 13,928 Sponsored Family Visitor visa applications lodged in 2005–06, compared with 13,962 applications in 2004–05.

The approval rate increased to 89.4 per cent, compared with 80.0 per cent in 2004–05, 75.0 per cent in 2003–04 and 63.2 per cent in 2002–03 (The approval rate has been rising consistently over the past four years). The non-return rate for 2005–06 was 2.5 per cent, compared with 1.6 per cent in 2004–05 and 2.0 per cent in 2003–04.

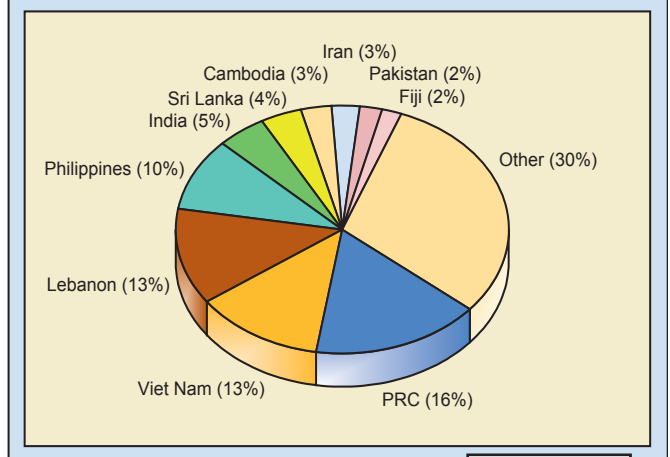
The top ten passport holders for Sponsored Family Visitor visa applicants were the PRC, Viet Nam, Lebanon, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Iran, Pakistan and Fiji.

Fig. 5-6: Non-ETA Visitor Visa Grant Rate Vs NRR



Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 5-7: Sponsored Family Visitor Visa Applications 2005–06



Source Data: IMIRS

In 2005–06 86.8 per cent of Sponsored Family Visitor visas had a bond imposed, compared to 88.1 per cent in 2004–05 post repatriation. There were 8,928 bonds lodged totalling \$84,311,645. The average bond amount decreased to \$9,443 (from \$11,445 in 2004–05). The most frequently applied bond amount was \$10,000 (in 30.0 per cent of cases).

Business Visitor Visa

The Short Stay Business Visitor visa is for people who wish to enter Australia for business purposes - ie: transacting business; attending business meetings, events or conferences; pursuing business investment opportunities consistent with their overseas business operations; or undertaking short term highly skilled project work.

368,333 Business Visitor visas were granted in 2005–06, an 8.5 per cent increase over the 339,424 grants in 2004–05.

The top ten passport holders for Business Visitor visa grants overall in 2005–06 were the PRC*, the USA, the UK, India*, Japan, Thailand*, Singapore, Indonesia*, Germany and Canada. (*Non-ETA countries.)

There were 186,290 Non-ETA Short Stay Business Visitor grants in 2005–06, 6.6 per cent higher than in 2004–05. The approval rate was 96.4 per cent of applications, compared with 95.3 per cent in 2004–05. Significant increases in grants included:

- Chile 1,281 grants (up 33.3 per cent);
- India 24,917 grants (up 31.3 per cent);
- Argentina 1,121 grants (up 29.2 per cent);
- Brazil 2,417 grants (up 25.9 per cent);
- Turkey 1,188 grants (up 23.9 per cent);
- Fiji 3,446 grants (up 22.7 per cent);
- Papua New Guinea 3,153 grants (up 20.3 per cent);
- Philippines 7,090 grants (up 19.0 per cent);
- South Africa 8,228 grants (up 18.1 per cent); and
- Sri Lanka 1,525 grants (up 12.8 per cent).

The Non-Return Rate for business visitors in 2005–06 was 0.8 per cent (similar to 2004–05), 1.1 per cent in 2003–04 and 1.3 per cent in 2002–03.

The protection visa application rate for business visitors in 2005–06 was 0.11 per cent, down from 0.26 per cent in 2004–05 and 0.28 per cent in 2003–04.

Sponsored Business Visitor Visa

In 2005–06, 724 Sponsored Business Visitor visa applications were received, a substantial increase on 140 in 2004–05, 19 in 2003–04 and 30 in 2002–03. Passport holders from the PRC accounted for 75.1 per cent of applications received, followed by India (7.2 per cent), Indonesia (1.5 per cent) and Pakistan (1.2 per cent).

International Events Coordinator Network

Australia continues to be a popular destination for conferences. In recent years Australia has consolidated its reputation as a leading provider of high-quality event/conference facilities and attractions. In October 1999, in recognition of the importance of tourism to the Australian economy, and to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to facilitating the entry of genuine visitors, DIMA established the International Events Coordinator Network (IECN). The IECN's role is to assist organisers of international events in Australia to prepare for the immigration-related requirements of their participants, and acts as a conduit between the event organisers and the Australian missions processing visa applications for participants.

In 2005–06 the IECN provided information on visa requirements and procedures in respect of 790 events, compared with 687 in 2004–05, 406 in 2003–04 and 204 in 2002–03.

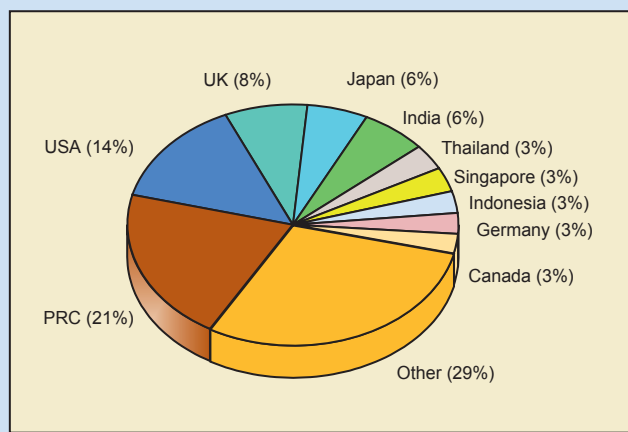
This outcome confirms that the IECN is continuing to gain broader recognition in the events and conference industry.

The Tourism and Visa Advisory Group

The Tourism and Visa Advisory Group (TVAG) was established by DIMA in July 2002 as a forum where the department and peak bodies in the tourism industry can discuss tourism and visa-related issues. The TVAG has been successful in ensuring that the key stakeholders in the tourism industry are included in the policy consultation process.

The TVAG consists of representatives from Tourism Australia, the Australian Tourism and Export Council, Tourism Taskforce Australia, Qantas, the Board of Airline Representatives Australia, the Australian Hotels Association, State and Territory tourism authorities and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

Fig. 5-8: Business Visitor Grants by Country of Citizenship 2005–06



Source Data: IMIRS

Approved Destination Status

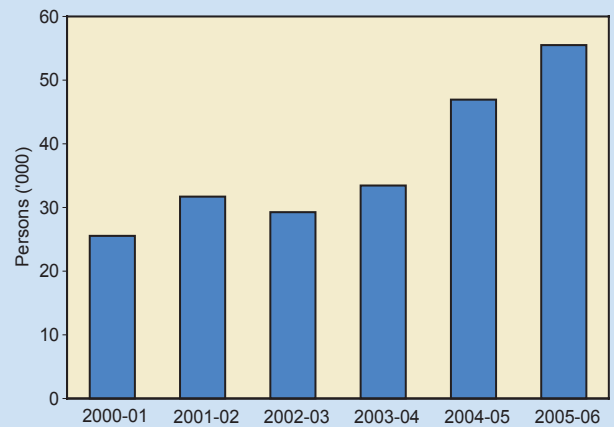
The Approved Destination Status (ADS) scheme is an initiative of the Chinese government giving passport holders of the PRC access to streamlined group travel to other countries. Australia was the first western country to be approved as a destination under the scheme.

Under the ADS scheme, approved PRC and Australian travel agents arrange group tours for the PRC tourists to Australia, accompanied by a tour leader. A condition of their visas is that ADS tourists must adhere to an approved itinerary.

Since the inception of ADS in August 1999, 223,007 tourists have arrived on ADS visas. In 2005–06, 55,487 Visitor visas were granted under the ADS scheme, compared with 45,083 in 2004–05.

The ADS scheme used to operate in nine regions of the PRC: Beijing and Shanghai Municipal governments and Guangdong province, Hebei, Tianjin, Shandong, and Chongqing in the Beijing Consular area and Zhejiang and Jiangsu in the Shanghai consular area. In August 2006, these arrangements were extended to cover the whole of the PRC. There are 73 approved ADS agents in the PRC and 52 Australian travel agencies now participating in the ADS scheme

Fig. 5-9: Approved Destination Status Grants



Source Data: ADS Statistics