

# Migration Programs

## Annual immigration programs

Australia administers separate migration and temporary entry programs which regulate the flow of persons into Australia (excluding New Zealand citizens). The Migration 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 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.

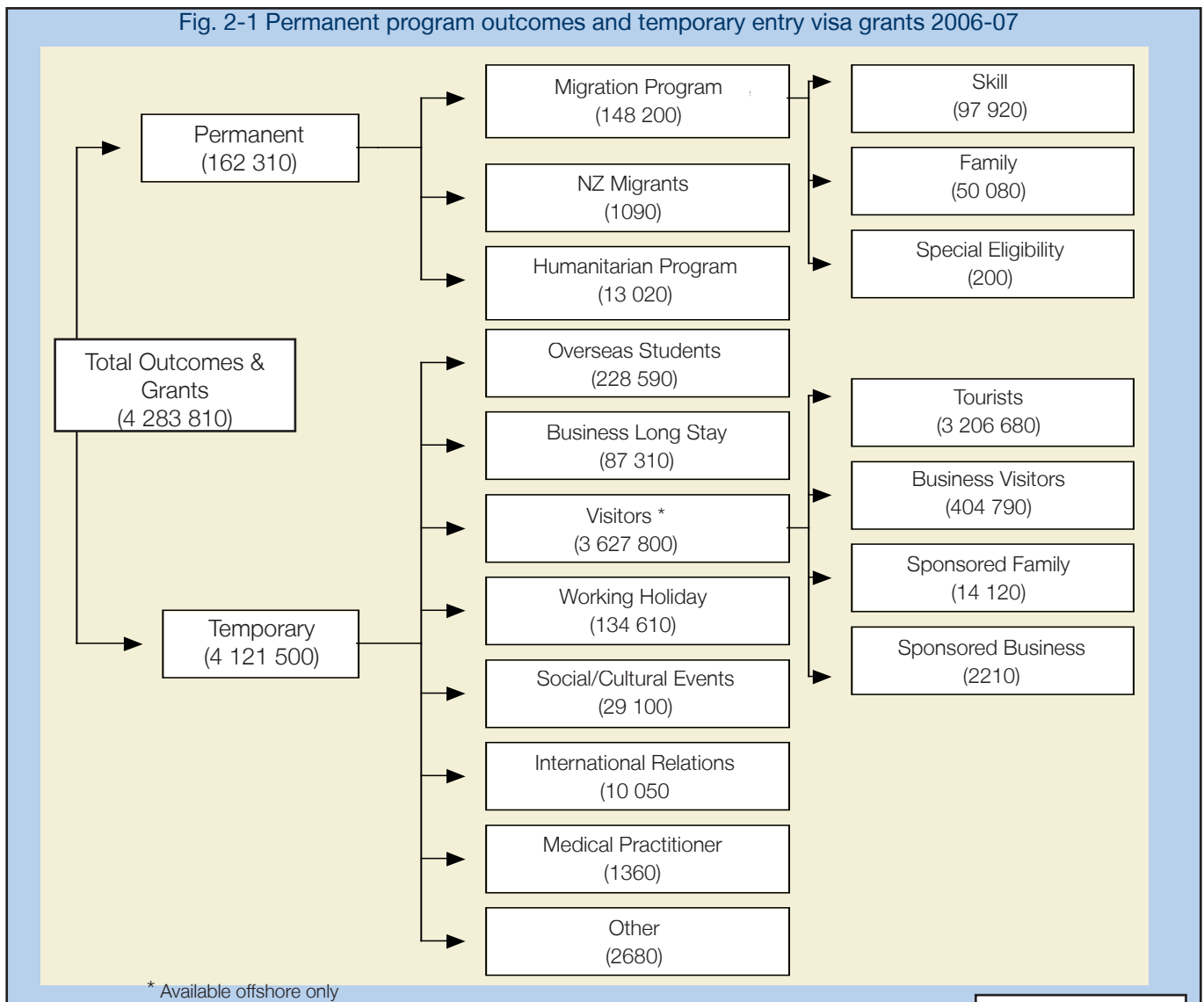
For 2007-08, the government announced that the Migration Program would be in the range of 142 800 to 158 800 places with a Skill Stream of around 108 500 at the top of the range – 10 500 more places than the 2006-07 Skill Stream. The level within the range at which the Migration

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;
- the extent of national skill needs and the ability to attract migrants with the necessary skills; and
- the availability of high standard applicants in the skilled categories.

The Temporary Entry Program which is discussed further in Chapter 3 allows people from overseas to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes which result in some benefit to Australia.

Fig. 2-1 Permanent program outcomes and temporary entry visa grants 2006-07



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

## Migration Program management structure

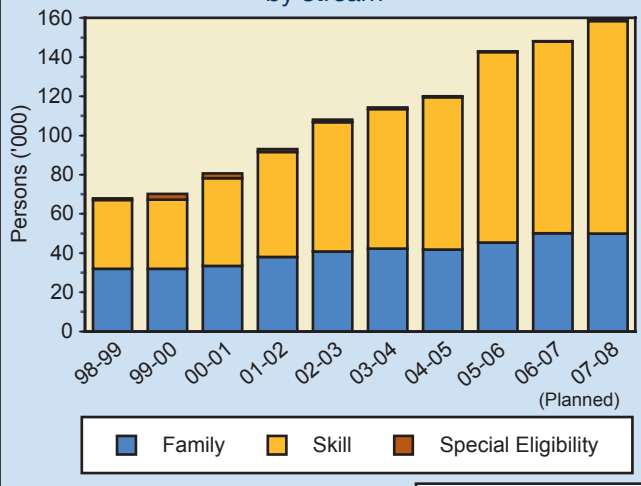
The Migration and Humanitarian Programs operate with set planning levels. Within the Migration Program, components such as State-Specific and Regional Migration, Business Skills, Employer Nominated categories, Distinguished Talent, Spouses and Dependent Children are demand

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 and Preferential/Other Family.

Fig. 2-2: Program management structure (2006–07)  
migration program

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

Fig. 2-3: Migration Program outcomes by stream



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

## 2006-07 Migration Program outcome

The outcome for the 2006-07 program was 148 200, the largest since the late 1980s. It represented a 3.7 per cent increase on the 2005-06 outcome of 142 930. The 2006-07 Skill Stream outcome of 97 920 places accounted for 66.1 per cent of the total program. The Family Stream outcome of 50 080 places (including 40 440 partner places) was 33.8 per cent of the program. It includes an additional 4000 partner places over the initial planning figure for 2006-07 due to increased demand. Special Eligibility places made up the remaining 0.2 per cent. The balance between Skill and Family Stream represents a substantial shift from the 29.2 per cent Skill and 68.7 per cent Family shares 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 2006-07 outcome under the State-Specific and Regional Migration initiatives reached 25 850. This is a decrease of 6.0 per cent over 2005-06 and represents 26.4 per cent of the Skill Stream. More details relating to these initiatives can be found later in this chapter.

Fig. 2-4: Migration Program outcomes: 1999-00 to 2007-08 (planned)

Migration Category	99-00	00-01 <sup>(e)</sup>	01-02 <sup>(e)</sup>	02-03 <sup>(e)</sup>	03-04 <sup>(e)</sup>	04-05 <sup>(e)</sup>	05-06 <sup>(e)</sup>	06-07 <sup>(e)</sup>	Planned 07-08 <sup>(e)</sup>
<b>Family</b>									
Spouses/Fiances/Interdependents	26 650	28 870 <sup>(f)</sup>	33 340 <sup>(f)</sup>	35 060 <sup>(f)</sup>	32 350 <sup>(f)</sup>	33 060 <sup>(f)</sup>	36 370 <sup>(f)</sup>	40 430 <sup>(f)</sup>	40 500 <sup>(f)</sup>
Parents	1900	1070	560	510	4930	4500	4500	4500	4500
Dependent Children	2160	2120	2160	2680	2660	2490	2550	3010	3000
Other Family <sup>(a)</sup>	1280	1400	2020	2520	2280	1690	1870	2140	2000
<b>Total Family</b>	<b>32 000</b>	<b>33 470</b>	<b>38 090</b>	<b>40 790</b>	<b>42 230</b>	<b>41 740</b>	<b>45 290</b>	<b>50 080</b>	<b>50 000</b>
% of total Program	45.6	41.5	40.9	37.7	36.9	34.8	31.7	33.8	31.5
<b>Skill</b>									
Employer Nominations <sup>(b)</sup>	5390	7420	9310	9740	10 400	13 020	15 230	16 580	22 800
Business Skills	6260	7360	7590 <sup>(g)</sup>	6740 <sup>(g)</sup>	5670 <sup>(g)</sup>	4820 <sup>(g)</sup>	5060 <sup>(g)</sup>	5840 <sup>(g)</sup>	6000 <sup>(g)</sup>
Distinguished Talents	110	230	210	180	230	190	100	230	200
Skilled Independent <sup>(c)</sup>	15 600	22 380	29 880	38 120	38 720	41 180	49 860	54 180	55 600
State/Territory Sponsored <sup>(h)</sup>	10	90	260	790	1630	4140	8020	6930	8000
Skilled Australian Sponsored	7900	7200	6250	10 470	14 590	14 530	19 060	14 170	15 900
1 November Onshore	60	60	20	20	10	—	10	—	—
<b>Total Skill</b>	<b>35 330</b>	<b>44 730</b>	<b>53 520</b>	<b>66 050</b>	<b>71 240</b>	<b>77 880</b>	<b>97 340</b>	<b>97 920</b>	<b>108 500</b>
% of total Program	50.3	55.5	57.5	61.1	62.3	64.9	68.9	66.1	68.3
<b>Special Eligibility</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>2420</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total Program<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>70 200</b>	<b>80 610</b>	<b>93 080</b>	<b>108 070</b>	<b>114 360</b>	<b>120 060</b>	<b>142 930</b>	<b>148 200</b>	<b>142 800- 158 800</b>

- (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 Skilled Independent and Skilled Independent-Regional Study only.  
 (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 selected Humanitarian visas such as 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, State/Territory Nominated Independent (Regional Study) 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.