

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 fiancés, and to some Skill Stream categories, including the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, and the Business Skills category. Overseas students completing their courses in Australia can also apply onshore for permanent residence in the Skill Stream.

In 2006-07, the Migration Program included 49 848 persons granted residence after applying in Australia for a permanent visa, representing 33.6 per cent of the outcome of the Migration Program.

In 2006-07, some 22 858 visas were granted in Australia to successful overseas students in General Skilled Migration categories under provisions introduced on 1 July 2001. This is an increase of 27.7 per cent over the outcome for 2005-06. In addition, there has been a 4.7 per cent increase in the total Employer Nominations onshore (included in the Skill Stream in Figure 2-5) over 2005-06. 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 3, Temporary Entry, has more details about these temporary visas.

In 2006-07, the main countries of citizenship for people granted onshore residence visas were the PRC, UK, India, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Malaysia.

