



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Report on Migration Program 2007–08

Financial Year to 30 June 2008



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At 30 June 2008, the Migration Program outcome was 158,630. This is 0.1 per cent below the planning level (Top of range).

The overall Program can be broken down into:

- The Skill Stream – 108,540 places were delivered (0.0 per cent above the planning level)
 - The Family Stream – 49,870 places were delivered (0.3 per cent below the planning level)
 - The Special Eligibility Stream – 220 places were delivered (26.7 per cent below the planning level)
-

The majority of the Migration Program was sourced from the United Kingdom, India and the Peoples' Republic of China

54.6 per cent of Principals in the Skill Stream had an occupation on the MODL. This is a significant increase compared to 51.5 per cent in 2006-07 and 43.8 per cent in 2005-06.

The Employer Sponsored category continued its strong performance in 2007-08 with an outcome of 23,762 against an initial planning level of 15,878. This was a growth of 43.2 per cent (7,177 places) on the 2006-07 program year. Growth is expected to continue in this category in 2008-09.

The State Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM) outcome was 26,162 or 24.1 per cent of the Skill Stream.

The Parent category met the planning level of 1,000 places while the Contributory Parent category had an outcome of 3,499 (one short of the planning level of 3,500). The allocation of an additional 3,000 places in 2008-09 will help relieve pressure in these categories.

The Partner category had an outcome of 39,931. This was 1.4 per cent below the planning level. Lodgements in this category have again grown in 2007-08. In response to increasing demand in this category an additional 2,000 places are available in 2008-09.

Demand in the Preferential/Other Family category continues to grow, with the 2007-08 outcome 18.9 per cent above the planning level of 2,000. An additional 500 places are available in the 2008-09 program to help meet demand.

MIGRATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Performance

- The relative performance of each Stream against the planning level is outlined in Table 1. Diagram A compares the 2007-08 outcome to the previous ten years. The Skill/Family balance of the Program compared to previous years is shown in Diagram B. Diagram C shows the 2007-08 Migration Program outcome by category. Details of the offshore and onshore outcome by category and performance against planning levels are in Attachment A.

Table 1: Performance against planning level (%) to 30 June 2008

	Stream			
	Family ¹	Skill ²	Special Eligibility	Total
Planning Level	50,000	108,500	300	158,800
Total Outcome	49,870	108,540	220	158,630
% Variation	-0.3	0.0	-26.7	-0.1

- Adjusted for netting out of refusals/withdrawals of spouse/fiancé/interdependent temporary visa holders.
- Adjusted for netting out of business skills visa cancellations.

Diagram A: Migration Program outcomes 1997-98 to 2007-08

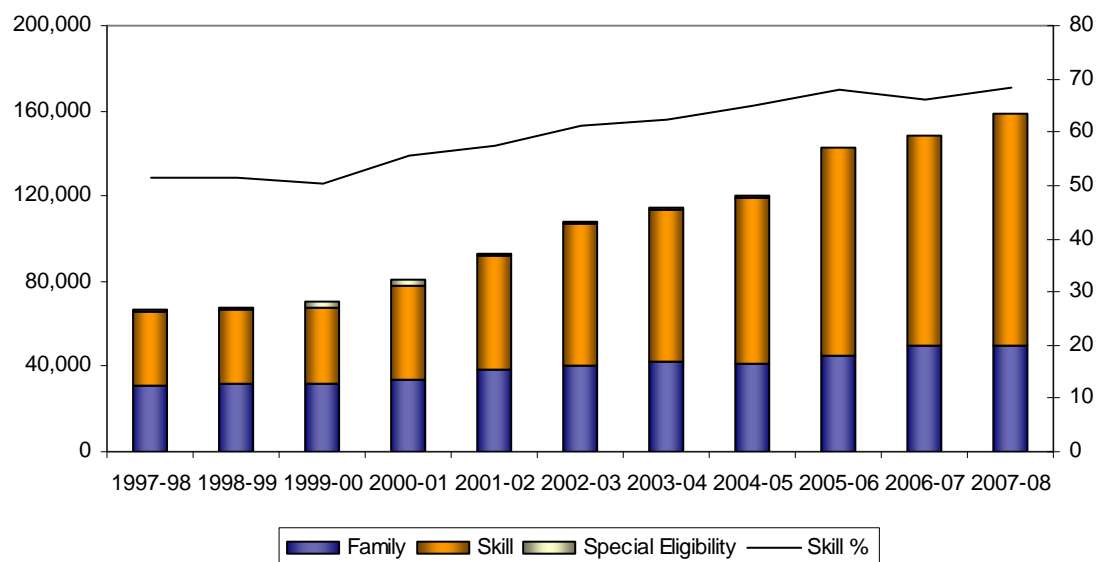
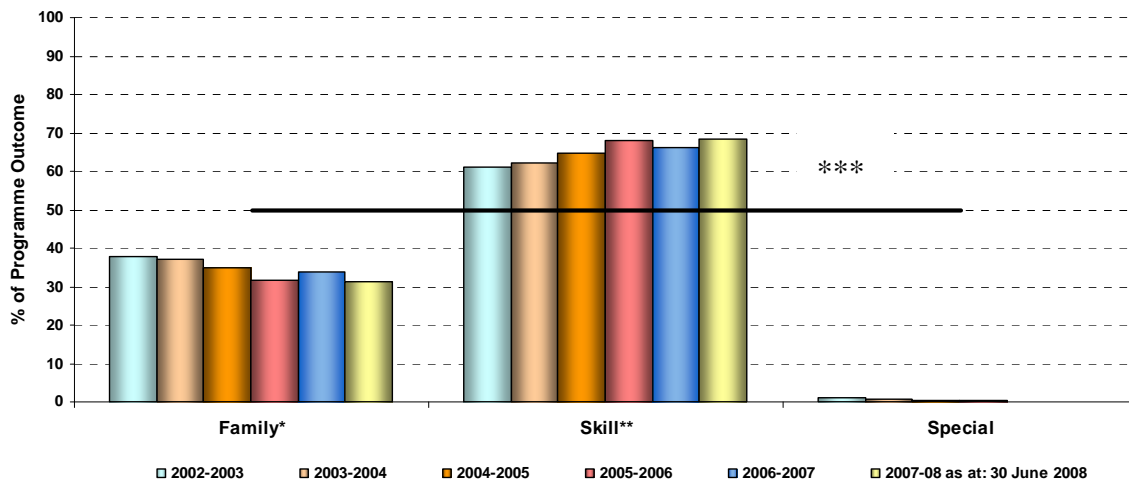


Diagram B: Streams as a percentage of total Program outcome 2002-03 to 2007-08 as at June 2008

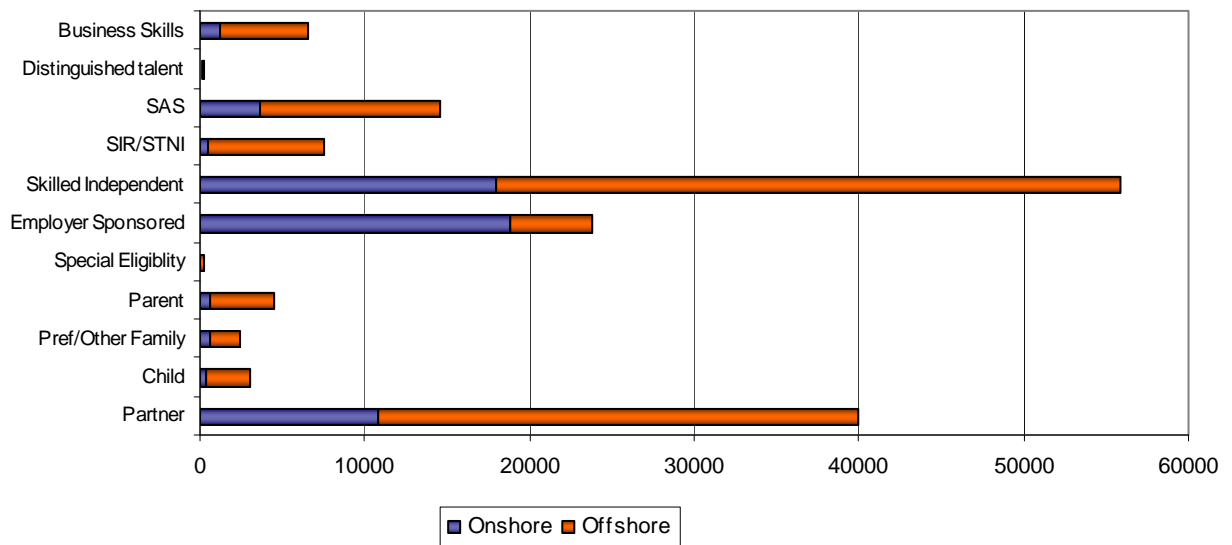


* For 2003-04 Family includes Parent outcomes under the contingency reserve.

* For 2004-05 Skill includes SIR outcomes from the contingency reserve.

*** The 50 per cent Skill Stream threshold sought by the Government.

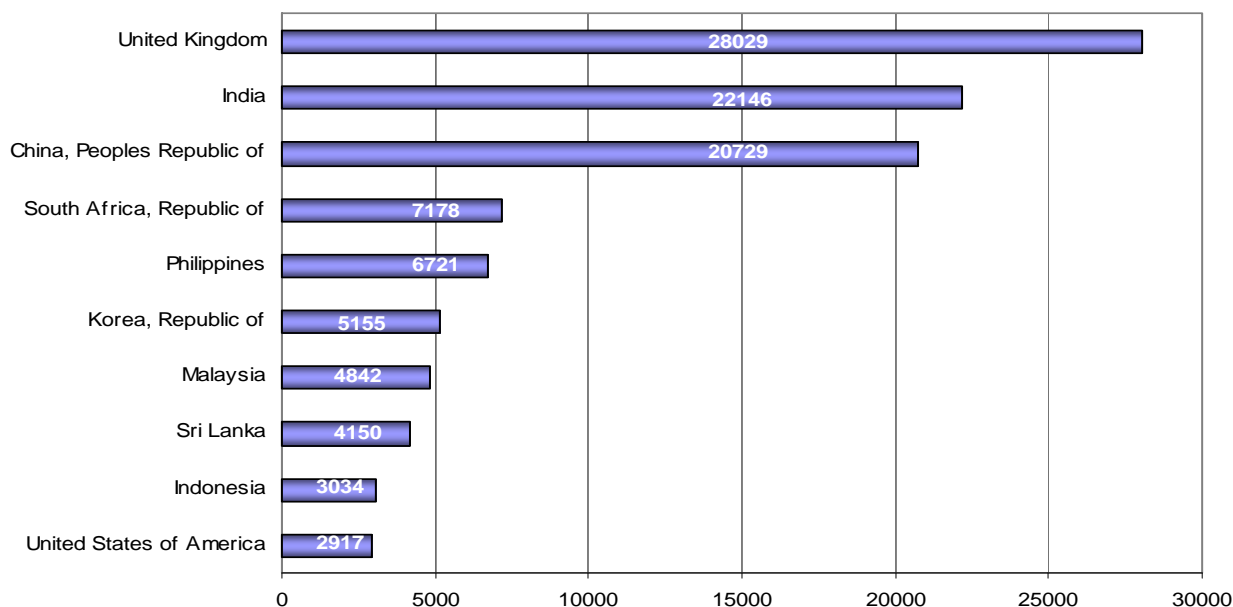
Diagram C: Migration Program category outcomes 2007-08



Source countries

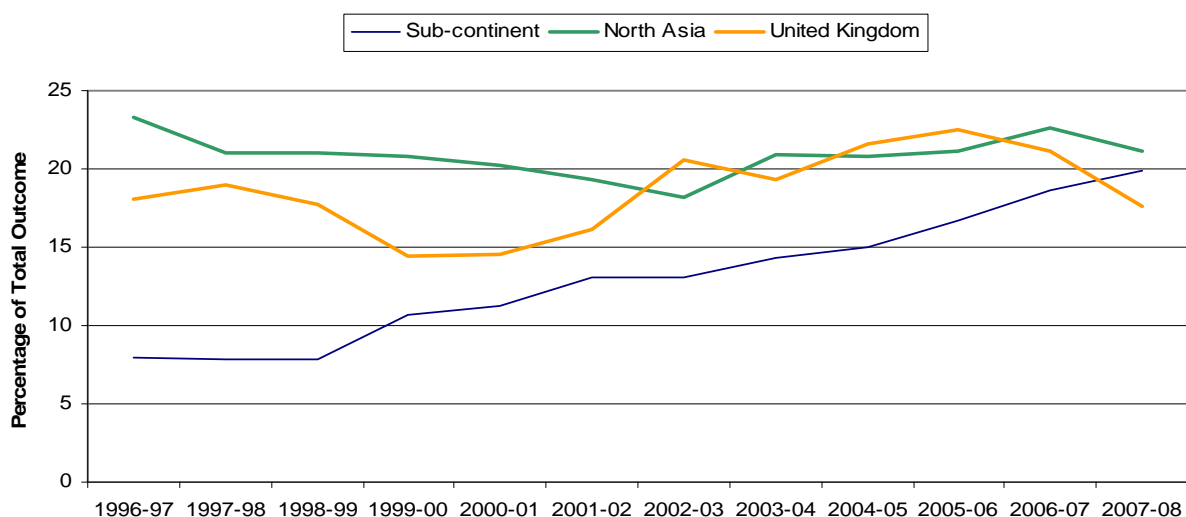
2. The United Kingdom remains Australia’s largest source of migrants with an outcome of 28,029 or 17.7 per cent of the total Migration Program (down from 31,401 in 2006-07). This is a significant reduction from 21.2 per cent of the program in 2006-07 and 22.5 per cent in 2005-06. Diagram D shows the top 10 citizenships, excluding New Zealand citizens (New Zealand citizens are not counted as part of the Migration Program).

Diagram D: Top ten citizenships of migrants 2007-08



3. The proportion of applicants from India increased in the 2007-08 program year. India has overtaken the People’s Republic of China as the second largest source country, with 14.0 per cent and 13.0 per cent of total outcome respectively. In terms of regions, the Indian sub-continent¹ now provides 19.9 per cent of the Migration Program (an increase from 18.6 per cent in 2006-07). North Asia² provided 21.14 per cent of the 2007-08 Migration Program and the United Kingdom was the source of 17.7 per cent of the program. Diagram E demonstrates that the percentage growth in grants to citizens of the Indian sub-continent countries.

Diagram E: Proportion of program – Major regions



¹ Includes Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal

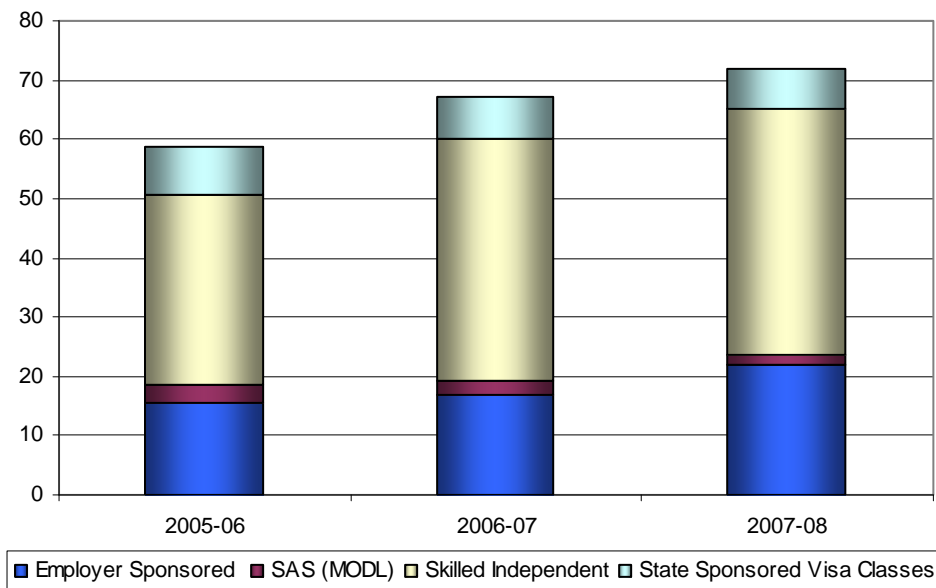
² Includes China, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Vietnam and Taiwan.

SKILL STREAM IN DETAIL

4. The Skill Stream outcome for 2007-08 was 108,540 (66,475 offshore and 42,065 onshore) and 0.0 per cent above the planning level of 108,500.
5. The planning level for 2007-08 was an increase of 11,000 places over 2006-07. An initial increase of 5,000 places was augmented by a further 6,000 places in February 2008 in response to ongoing labour shortages. There was a continued emphasis on applicants who:
 - are nominated by employers;
 - are nominated by State/Territory governments; and
 - have an occupation on the MODL.

These target groups accounted for 72.0 per cent of the Migration Program outcome in 2007-08. Diagram F displays the improvement over previous program years.

Diagram F: Target groups as percentage of program: 2005-06 to 2007-08

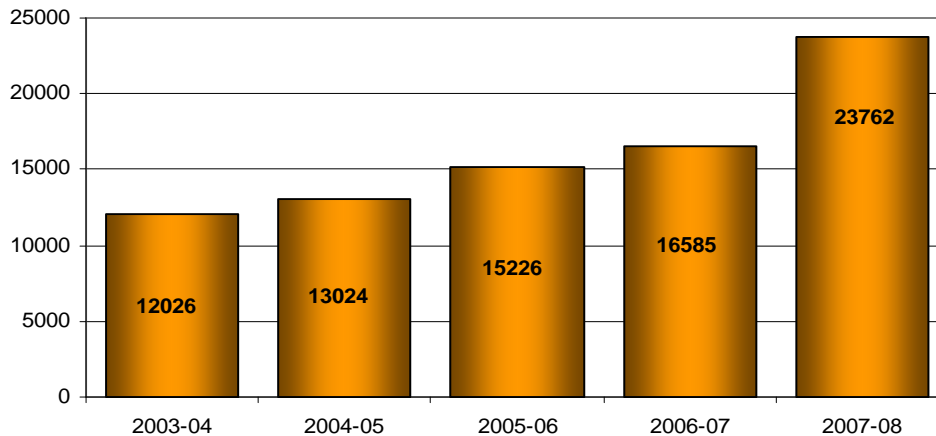


6. Demand in the Skill Stream remained strong in the 2007-08 Program year. 151,685 lodgements were received in the Skill Stream in 2007-08. This is a slight increase (0.7 per cent) on the 2006-07 Program year. 130,433 clients remain in the pipeline as at 30 June 2008.

Employer Sponsored

7. Demand in the Employer Sponsored category increased from 16,397 lodgements in 2005-06 to 21,023 lodgements in 2006-07, and 28,507 in 2007-08.
8. The Employer Sponsored category outcome for 2007-08 was 23,762, an increase of 43.2 per cent (7,177 places) on the 2006-07 program year. The growth in this category is demonstrated in Diagram G.

Diagram G: Employer Sponsored Outcome 2003-04 to 2007-08

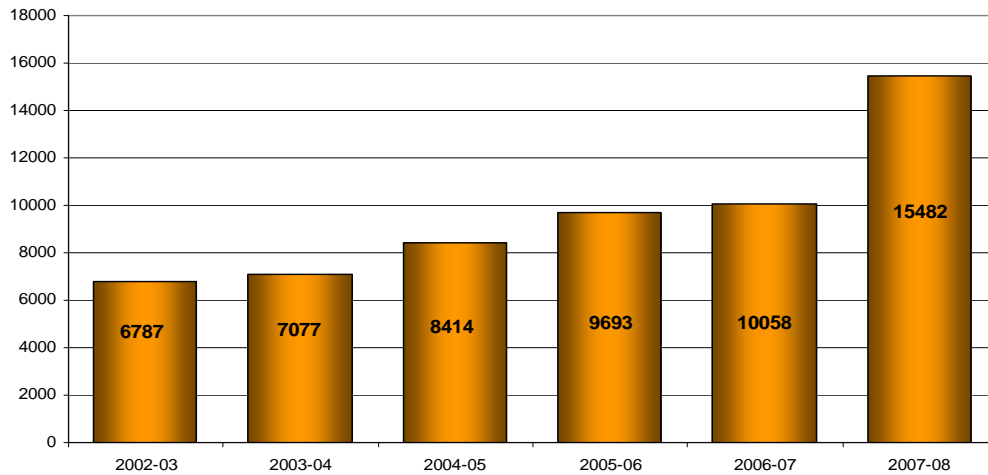


9. This outcome is comprised of three components:
 1. Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) with an outcome of 15,482.
 2. Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) with an outcome of 5,062.
 3. Labour Agreement (LA) with an outcome of 3,218.
10. The 2007-08 Employer Sponsored outcome now comprises 21.9 per cent of the Skill Stream compared to 16.9 in 2006-07 and 15.6 per cent in 2005-06.
11. Demand in this category is high and, accordingly, the planning level has been increased to 28,000 places for the 2008-09 program year (from 22,800 in 2006-07). As at 30 June 2008, there were 11,879 onhand applications for visas in the Employer Sponsored category, with an average of 2,376 applications received every month (a 34 per cent increase from 1,770 in the 2006-07 Program year). The continuation of this high number of applications is crucial to the delivery against the 2008-09 planning level.

Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)

12. The outcome for the ENS was 15,482. This increase of 53.9 per cent on the 2006-07 outcome is the main driver of growth in the Employer Sponsored category this year, and comes after several years of steady growth. This is demonstrated in Diagram H.

Diagram H: Employer Nomination Scheme outcome 2001-02 to 2007-08

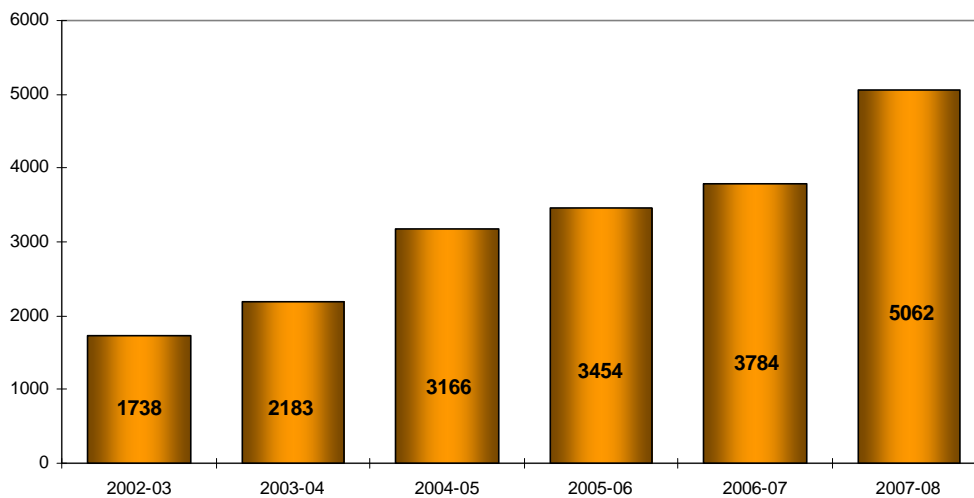


13. Demand in this category has grown substantially. In 2007-08, 18,968 applications were lodged, an increase of 43.4 per cent on 2006-07. Continued growth in demand can be expected through 2008-09, fed, in part, by growth in the temporary 457 visa category.

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)

14. The RSMS outcome in 2007-08 was 5,062, a 33.7 per cent increase on the 2006-07 outcome. Diagram I displays the consistent growth in this category in recent years.

Diagram I: RSMS growth 2002-03 to 2007-08



15. Demand in the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme category increased from 4,041 lodgements in 2005-06 to 4,986 lodgements in 2006-07, an increase of 20.2 per cent. In 2007-08 there were 6,687 lodgements received, an increase of 34.1 per cent from 2006-07.

Labour Agreement (LA)

16. The Labour Agreement outcome in 2007-08 was 3,218, an increase of 17.3 per cent from the 2006-07 outcome of 2,743.
17. 2,852 applications were lodged for visas in the LA group, a reduction of 5.6 per cent on the 2006-07 program year.

Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL)

18. The MODL lists those occupations and specialisations identified by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) that are in short supply. MODL occupations are given additional points on the General Skilled Migration Points test and receive priority processing.
19. In the total Skill Stream outcome of 108,540 there were 58,209 MODL grants. This represents 53.6 per cent of the total Skill Stream and is an increase on 51.5 per cent in 2006-07.

Table 2: Skill Stream Percentage of MODL occupations

	Total Skill	MODL	% MODL
Principals	52,417	28,597	54.6
Secondaries	56,123	29,612	52.8
Total	108,540	58,209	53.6

General Skilled Migration (GSM)

20. The GSM category outcome for 2007-08 was 78,000, 1.9 per cent below its initial planning level of 79,500. This is comprised of three components:
1. Skilled Independent with an outcome of 55,891.
 2. Skilled Australian Sponsored (SAS) with an outcome of 14,579.
 3. State/Territory Sponsored Migration (STNI) with an outcome of 7,530.
21. GSM operates as the balancing component in the Skill Stream. Given the strong and sustained growth trend in the demand driven Employer Sponsored category, the GSM planning levels were adjusted downwards slightly to meet the Skill Stream planning level.

Skilled Independent

22. The Skilled Independent outcome in 2007-08 was 55,891, 0.5 per cent above the planning level of 55,600 places.
23. Demand for the Skilled Independent visa appears to be growing again after a drop in demand that coincided with the new legislation introduced on 1 September 2007. Just 3,242 applications were lodged in September after the changes, as compared to 7,133 in June 2008.

Skilled Australian Sponsored (SAS)

24. 14,579 visas were delivered in the Skilled Australian Sponsored category, 8.3 per cent below the planning level of 15,900.
25. In 2007-08, there was a 25.2 per cent increase on lodgements in the SAS category (21,338 lodgements in 2007-08) from the 2006-07 Program year.

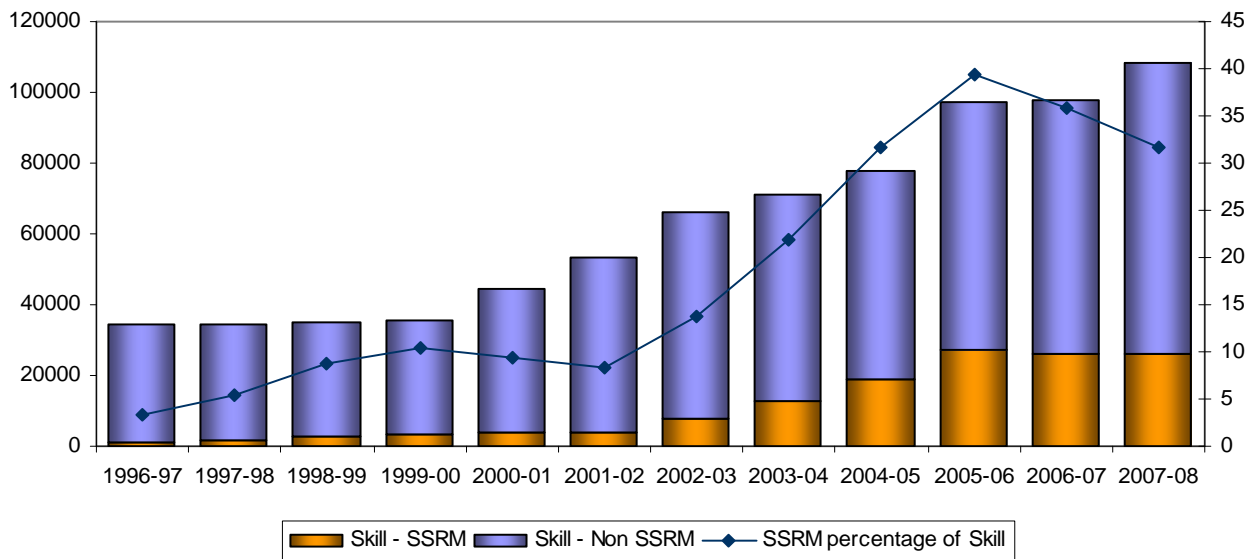
State/Territory Sponsored Migration

26. State/Territory Sponsored Migration had an outcome of 7,530. This was 5.9 per cent below the planning level of 8,000, and an increase of 8.7 per cent on the 2006-07 program year.
27. Demand in this category dropped 15.7 per cent in 2007-08 (from 12,623 lodgements in 2006-07 to 10,641 lodgements in 2007-08).

State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM)

28. The SSRM outcome for the 2007-08 Migration Program was 26,162, a slight increase from the 2006-07 outcome of 25,845. This outcome represents 24.1 of the total Skill Stream in 2007-08. Diagram J shows SSRM as a percentage of the Skill Stream since 1996-97.

Diagram J: SSRM as a percentage of the Skill Stream



29. In absolute terms Victoria had the largest SSRM outcome with 9,268 (35.4 per cent) followed by South Australia with 7,041 (26.9 per cent) and Western Australia with 3,167 (12.1 per cent).

Business Skills

30. The outcome for the Business Skills visa classes was 6,565, 9.4 per cent above the planning level of 6,000 places. This represents a 12.5 per cent increase on the 2006-07 outcome of

5,836.

31. Demand in this category increased by 4.6 per cent in 2007-08, with 11,540 lodgements made. 11,665 clients remain in the pipeline.

Skill Matching Database (SMD)

32. As at 30 June 2008 there were 15,434 applicants on the SMD.

33. The top 10 occupations of applicants on the SMD were: Accountant (3,532), Computing Professional (1,815), Cook (642), Hairdresser (515), Mechanical Engineer (496), Applications and Analyst Programmer (400), Civil Engineer (347), Registered Nurse (338), General Electrician (288) and Electrical Engineer (279).

Occupations of Principal Applicants in the Skill Stream

34. At the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) major group level, Professionals formed the largest component with an outcome of 32,555 followed by Tradespersons & Related Workers (12,644), Associate Professionals (3,147) and Managers and Administrators (2,999). This is illustrated in Diagram K.

Diagram K: Skill Stream by Occupation Group

35. The occupation outcomes in the Skill Stream for the period ending 30 June 2008 are shown in Diagram L.

36. Certain professions have been grouped together, eg. Systems Programmer and Applications and Analyst Programmer have been combined and listed as Business & Information Professionals (Computing Professionals).

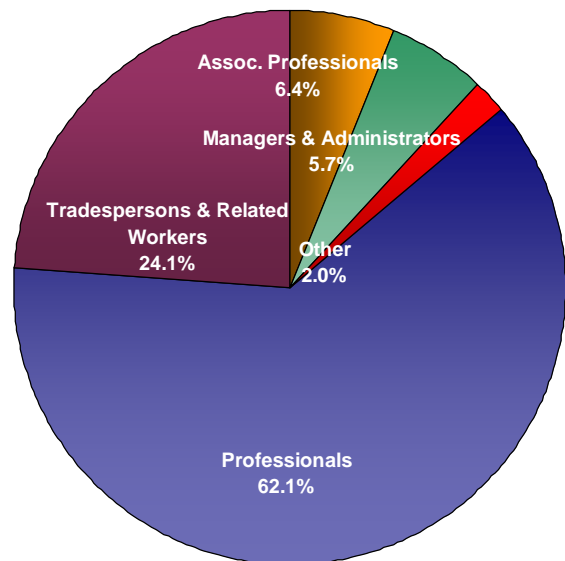
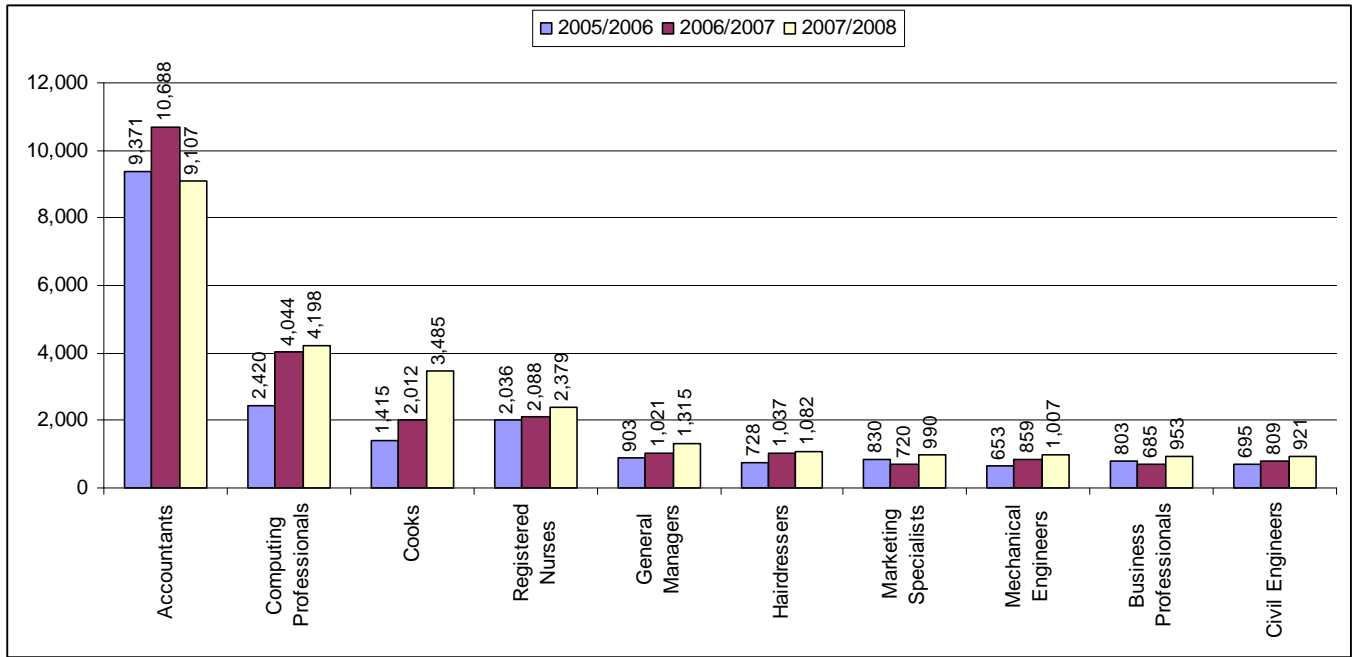


DIAGRAM L: Skill Stream Outcome Top 10 Occupations: 2005-06 to 2007-08



FAMILY STREAM IN DETAIL

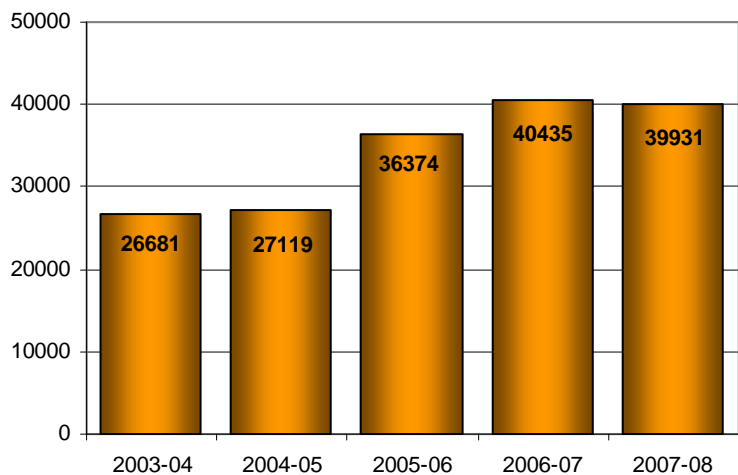
37. The outcome of 49,870 in the Family Stream was 0.3 per cent below the planning level of 50,000.

38. Demand in the Family Stream increased from 63,313 lodgements in 2006-07 to 65,272 lodgements in 2007-08, an increase of 3.1 per cent. 61,311 clients remain in the pipeline, 40.1 per cent of which are Non-Contributory Parents.

Partner

39. The outcome in the Partner category of 39,931 was 1.4 per cent below the planning level of 40,500 places. This outcome is comprised of 32,740 Spouse, 650 Interdependent and 6,541 Fiancé visas. Diagram M shows Partner outcomes since 2003-04.

Diagram M: Partner outcome 2003-04 to 2007-08



40. Demand in the Partner category continued to grow. Lodgements increased from 45,026 in 2006-07 to 46,530 lodgements in 2007-08, an increase of 3.3 per cent.

Child

41. The Child category outcome was 3,062 or 2.1 per cent above the planning level at the end of June 2008.

42. Demand in the Child category steadied this program year after substantial growth in the 2006-07 Program year, when lodgements increased 19 per cent on 2005-06. In the 2007-08 program year, 3,747 lodgements were received in the Child category, compared to 3,791 in 2006-07. 1,681 clients remain in the pipeline.

Parent

Non-Contributory Parent

43. The Non-Contributory Parent met its planning level of 1,000 places in 2007-08.

44. Demand in the Non Contributory Parent category decreased slightly from 4,204 lodgements in 2006-07 to 3,989 lodgements in 2007-08, a reduction of 5.1 per cent.

Contributory Parent

45. Demand in the Contributory Parent category continued to grow after lodgements rose 15.6 per cent in 2006-07 to 6,769. 7,043 lodgements were received in 2007-08, an increase of 3.1 per cent.

46. The Contributory Parent category outcome was 3,499, against its planning level of 3,500. Caps were set at:

- 2,521 visa grants in subclass 143 with 2,520 places delivered;
- 650 visa grants in subclass 173 with 650 delivered;
- 300 visas grants in subclass 864 with 300 places delivered; and
- 29 visa grants in subclass 884 with 29 places delivered.

47. All caps were met except the 143 subclass. This was due to a data load error.

TABLE 3: PROGRESS IN THE PARENT CATEGORY – to 30 June 2008 (persons)

Category	Offshore	Onshore	Total
Non-Contributory Parent (subclasses 103/804)			
Planning level	695	305	1,000
Applicants in queue (<i>as at 30 June</i>)	14,128	5,362	19,490
Grants	768	232	1000
Contributory Parent (s/c 143/173/864/884)			
Cap	3,171	329	3,500
Grants	3,170	329	3,499

Preferential/Other Family

48. The Preferential/Other Family category outcome at 30 June 2008 was 2,378 or 18.9 per cent above the planning level of 2,000. The breakdown of this caseload is detailed in Table 4.

TABLE 4: PREFERENTIAL/OTHER FAMILY CATEGORY OUTCOME – to 30 June 2008

Group	Offshore	Onshore	Total	Per cent
Aged Dependent Relative	95	59	154	6.5
Remaining Relative	1,071	385	1,456	61.2
Carer	602	166	768	33.3
Total	1,768	610	2,378	100

49. Demand in the Preferential/Other category increased from 3,632 lodgements in 2006-07 to 3,963 lodgements in 2007-08, an increase of 9.1 per cent.

SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY STREAM

50. The outcome for the Special Eligibility Stream was 220 against the planning level of 300 or 26.7 per cent below the planning level. This stream remains very low volume with the largest component being the Former Resident visa with 208 grants in 2007-08.

2007-08 MIGRATION PROGRAM OUTCOME

Component	Total	Planning Level
Spouse ⁽¹⁾	32 740	
Interdependent ⁽¹⁾	650	
Fiance ⁽¹⁾	6541	
Sub Total Partner	39 931	40 500
Child ⁽²⁾	3062	3000
Preferential/Other Family ⁽³⁾	2378	2000
Contributory Parent	3499	3500
Parent ⁽⁴⁾	1000	1000
Total Family	49 870	50 000
Employer Sponsored ⁽⁵⁾		
RSMS	5062	
ENS	15 482	
Labour Agreement	3218	
Employer Sponsored - Total	23 762	22 800
General Skilled Migration		
Skilled Independent	55 891	55 600
State/Territory Sponsored Visa Classes (SIR/STNI) ⁽⁶⁾		
SIR	4108	
STNI	3422	
State/Territory Sponsored Visa Classes (SIR/STNI) - Total	7530	8000
Skilled Australian Sponsored ⁽⁷⁾	14 579	15 900
General Skilled Migration - Total	78 000	79 500
Distinguished Talent	211	200
Business Skills⁽⁸⁾ - Total	6565	6000
1 November Onshore	2	
Total Skill	108 540	108 500
Special Eligibility	220	300
Total Program	158 630	158 800

*NOTE: Migration Program Outcome numbers do not include New Zealand citizens or holders of Secondary Movement Offshore Entry (Temporary), Secondary Movement Relocation (Temporary) and Temporary Protection Visas.

- 1 Net outcome as places taken by provisional visa holders who do not subsequently obtain permanent visas are returned to the Migration Program in the year that the temporary visas expire.
- 2 Includes child-adoption, child dependent and orphan minor.
- 3 Includes aged dependent, carer, orphan unmarried and remaining relatives.
- 4 Includes Designated and non-contributory Parents
- 5 Includes Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS), Labour Agreement, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS).
- 6 Includes State/Territory Nominated Independent Scheme (STNI) and Skilled Independent Regional (SIR).
- 7 Includes brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, non-dependent children, working age parents, grandchildren and first cousins who have been skill tested.
- 8 Net outcome as cancelled visas are returned to the Migration Program in that year.