



Australian Government
**Department of Immigration
and Border Protection**

2015–16 Migration Programme Report

Programme year to 30 June 2016

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Executive summary

The total permanent migration programme outcome for 2015–16 was 189,770 places within the planning level of 190,000.

The major source countries in the migration programme were India (21.2 per cent), China (15.3 per cent) and the United Kingdom (10.0 per cent).

Within the managed migration programme the breakdown was:

- 128,550 places were delivered in the Skill stream;
- 57,400 places were delivered in the Family stream; and
- 308 places were delivered in the Special Eligibility stream.

From 2015–16 the Child visas sit outside the managed migration programme, but remain within the overall ceiling of permanent migration places. The outcome of Child visas for the year was 3512 places.

Skill stream

The Skill stream accounted for 67.7 per cent of the total 2015–16 migration programme outcome.

At the major group level of the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), the top three major occupation groups for primary visa grants in the Skill stream were Professionals (64.8 per cent), Technicians and Trades Workers (17.7 per cent) and Managers (9.9 per cent).

Within the Skill stream:

- the Employer Sponsored category had an outcome of 48,250 places. It comprised 37.5 per cent of the 2015–16 Skill stream outcome, with 35,981 places (74.6 per cent) granted under the Employer Nomination Scheme and 12,269 places (25.4 per cent) granted under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme;
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) had an outcome of 72,840 places. GSM comprised 56.7 per cent of the Skill stream outcome in 2015–16. Within GSM, 85.1 per cent (31,061) of primary places granted had an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL); and
- outcome in the Business Innovation and Investment Programme and the Distinguished Talent categories were 7260 and 200 places respectively.

The State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM) had an outcome of 40,101 (31.2 per cent of the total Skill stream outcome). These visas are included in the various Skill stream categories discussed above.

Family stream

The Family stream (excluding Child) accounted for 30.2 per cent of the total 2015–16 migration programme outcome.

Within the Family stream:

- the Partner category had an outcome of 47,825 places (including spouses, fiancés or partners of Australian citizens, permanent residents and eligible New Zealand citizens). It comprised 83.3 per cent of the 2015–16 Family stream outcome;

- the outcome for Contributory Parent and Non-Contributory Parent categories were 7175 and 1500 places, respectively; and
- the outcome for the Other Family category was 900 places.

Special eligibility

The Special Eligibility stream outcome of 308 places accounted for 0.2 per cent of the total 2015–16 migration programme outcome.

States and territories

The states/territories that attracted the largest number of migrants were:

- New South Wales with an outcome of 61,742 (32.5 per cent);
- Victoria with 47,516 (25.0 per cent);
- Western Australia with 22,488 (11.9 per cent); and
- Queensland with 21,860 (11.5 per cent).

Migration programme summary

The total permanent migration programme outcome for 2015–16 was 189,770 places:

- Skill stream - 128,550 places;
- Family stream - 57,400 places;
- Special Eligibility stream - 308 places; and
- Child visas - 3512 places.

Figure 1 presents total permanent migration programme outcome by year from 2006–07 to 2015–16. The composition of the total permanent migration programme has been relatively steady over the last five programme years, with the Skill stream comprising on average 68.0 per cent of the total programme.

Figure 1 – Migration programme outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16

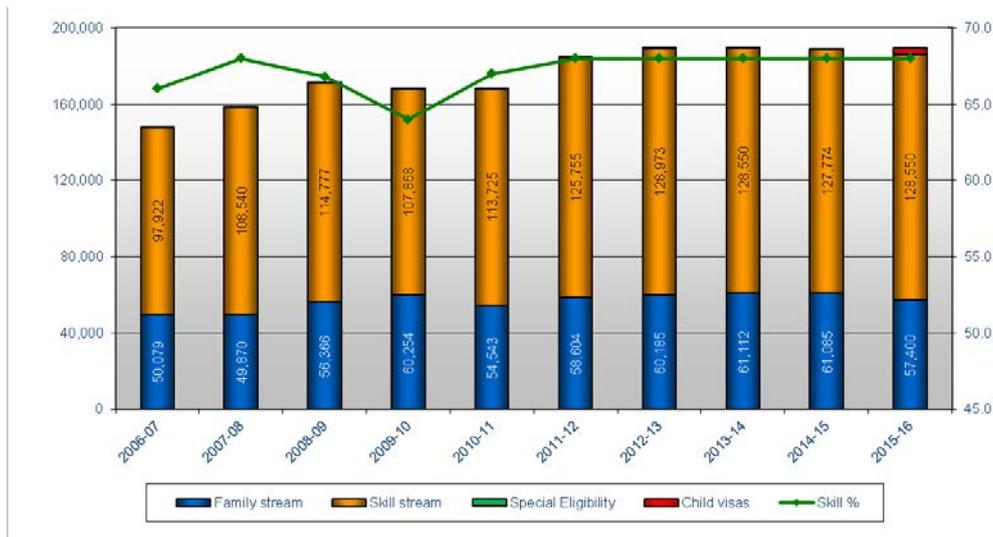
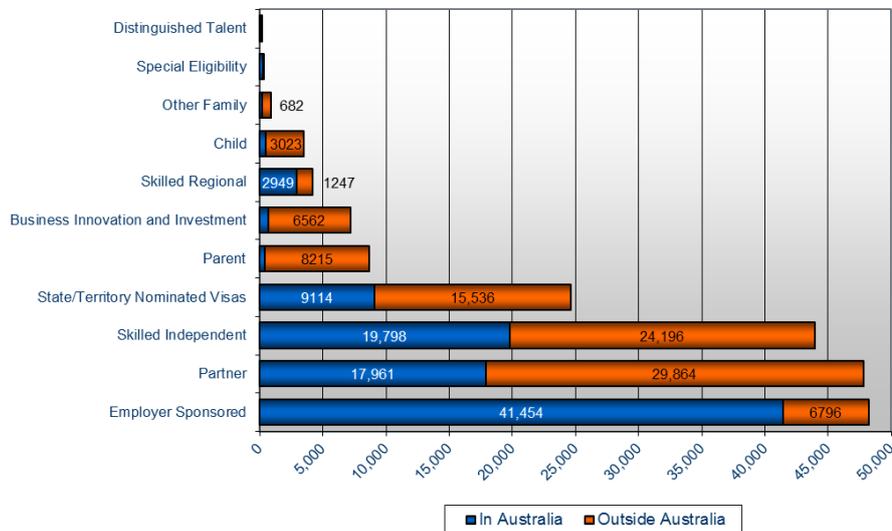


Figure 2 presents outcome of Skill and Family stream categories and Child visas split by applicant location (in Australia or outside Australia).

Figure 2 – Skill, Family and Child visa outcome 2015–16 by the location of the applicant when the application is lodged (in Australia versus outside Australia)



The visa categories with the largest component of clients outside Australia are:

- Partner with 29,864 places;
- Skilled Independent with 24,196 places; and
- State and Territory Nominated visas with 15,536 places.

The visa categories with the largest component of clients in Australia are:

- Employer Sponsored with 41,454 places;
- Skilled Independent with 19,798 places; and
- Partner with 17,961 places.

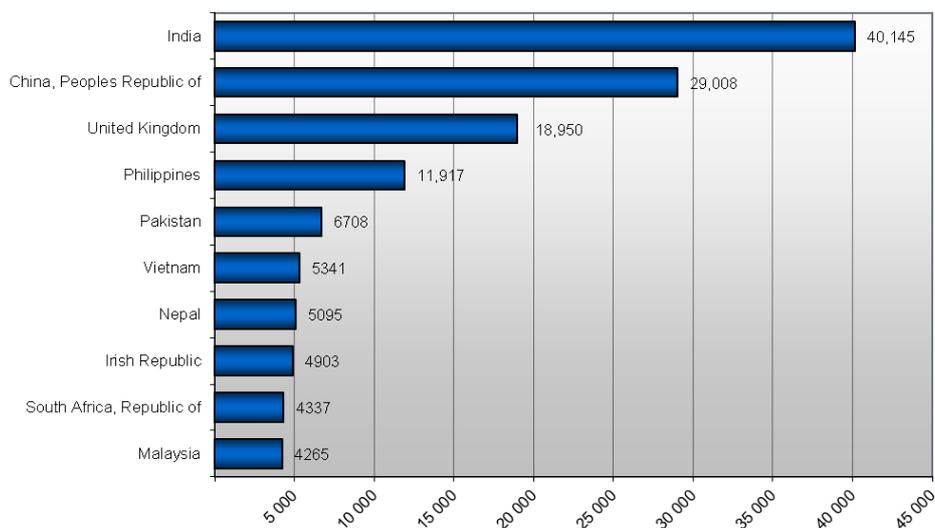
Source countries

The largest source countries of migrants for 2015–16 were:

- India with an outcome of 40,145 places (21.2 per cent of outcome), up from 34,874 (18.4 per cent of outcome) for 2014–15;
- China with 29,008 places (15.3 per cent), up from 27,872 (14.7 per cent); and
- United Kingdom with 18,950 places (10.0 per cent), down from 21,078 (11.1 per cent).

Figure 3 shows the top 10 citizenship countries of migrants, excluding New Zealand citizens (as New Zealand citizens are not counted as a part of the migration programme).

Figure 3 – Top ten source countries of migrants 2015–16

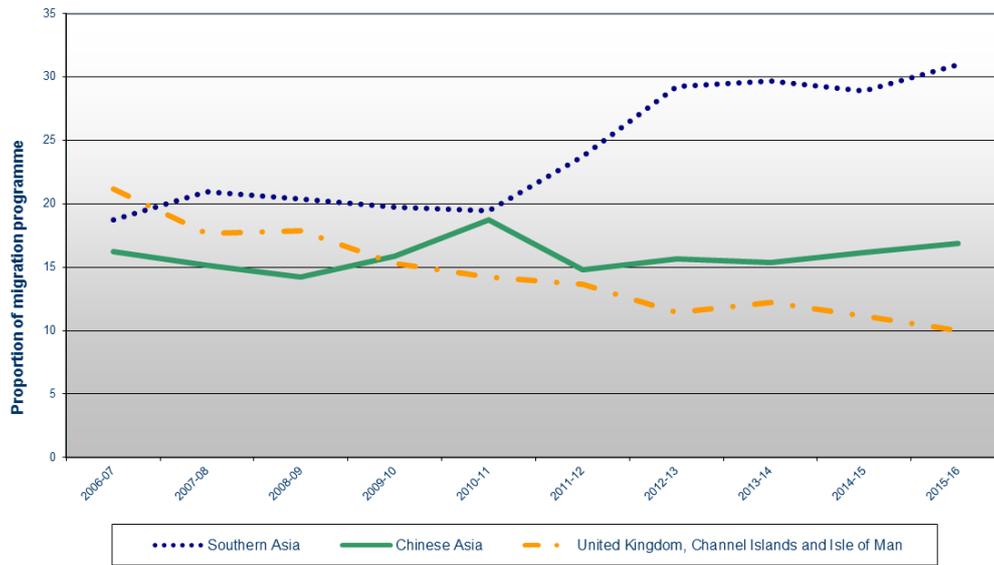


In terms of regions:

- Southern Asia (including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives) now provides 31.0 per cent of the migration programme (an increase from 28.9 per cent in 2014–15);
- Chinese Asia (including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and Mongolia) had an increase in its share of the programme from 16.1 per cent in 2014–15 to 16.9 per cent in 2015–16; and
- United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man has declined since 2006–07. Specifically, its share of the programme has declined from 11.1 per cent in 2014–15 to 10.0 per cent in 2015–16.

Figure 4 illustrates the recent changes in the proportion of migrants from Southern Asia, Chinese Asia and the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Figure 4 – Proportion of migration programme – major regions from 2006–07 to 2015–16

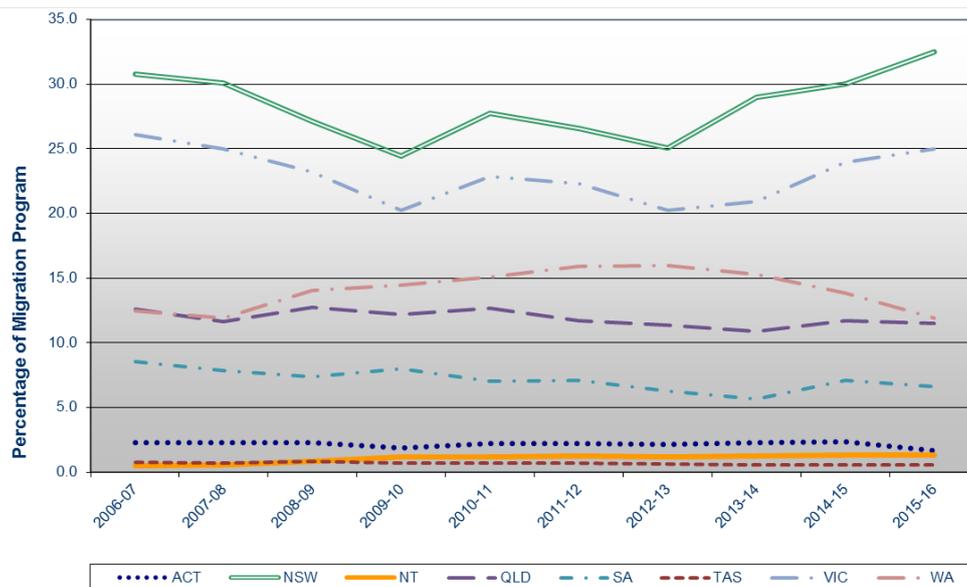


State of intended residence

New South Wales was the largest state of intended residence with an outcome of 32.5 per cent of the total 2015–16 migration programme. This is an increase compared to 30.0 per cent in 2014–15. Victoria was the second largest state of intended residence with an outcome of 25.0 per cent, Western Australia was the third largest with an outcome of 11.9 per cent and Queensland was the fourth largest with an outcome of 11.5 per cent of the total 2015–16 migration programme.

Figure 5 shows the state of intended residence over the last decade.

Figure 5 – State of intended residence – 2006–07 to 2015–16



The states that recorded the largest decreases in the state of intended residence as a proportion of the total migration programme over the last decade were:

- South Australia fell from 8.5 per cent in 2006–07 to 6.6 per cent in 2015–16;
- Queensland fell from 12.6 per cent in 2006–07 to 11.5 per cent in 2015–16;
- Victoria fell from 26.1 per cent in 2006–07 to 25.0 per cent in 2015–16;
- Western Australia fell from 12.5 per cent in 2006–07 to 11.9 per cent in 2015–16;
- The Australian Capital Territory fell from 2.3 per cent in 2006–07 to 1.7 per cent in 2015–16; and
- Tasmania fell from 0.8 per cent to 0.6 per cent.

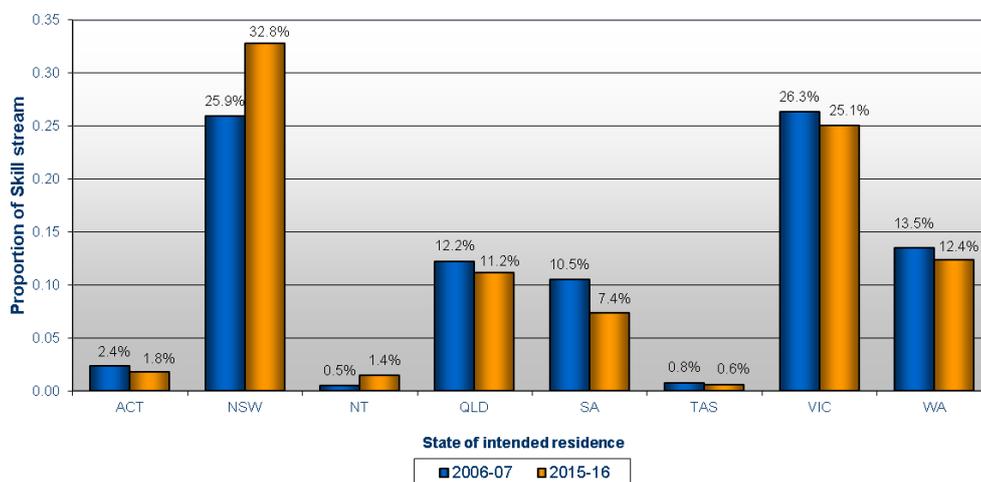
The states that recorded the largest increases in the state of intended residence as a proportion of the total migration programme over the last decade were:

- New South Wales recorded the largest increase from 30.7 per cent in 2006–07 to 32.5 per cent in 2015–16; and
- Northern Territory recorded the second largest increase from 0.5 per cent in 2006–07 to 1.3 per cent in 2015–16.

As shown in Figure 6, the states that recorded the largest increase/decrease in the state of intended residence as a proportion of the Skill stream outcome over the last decade were:

- New South Wales recorded the largest increase, from 25.9 per cent in 2006–07 to 32.8 per cent in 2015–16; and
- Victoria recorded the largest decrease, from 26.3 per cent in 2006–07 to 25.1 per cent in 2015–16.

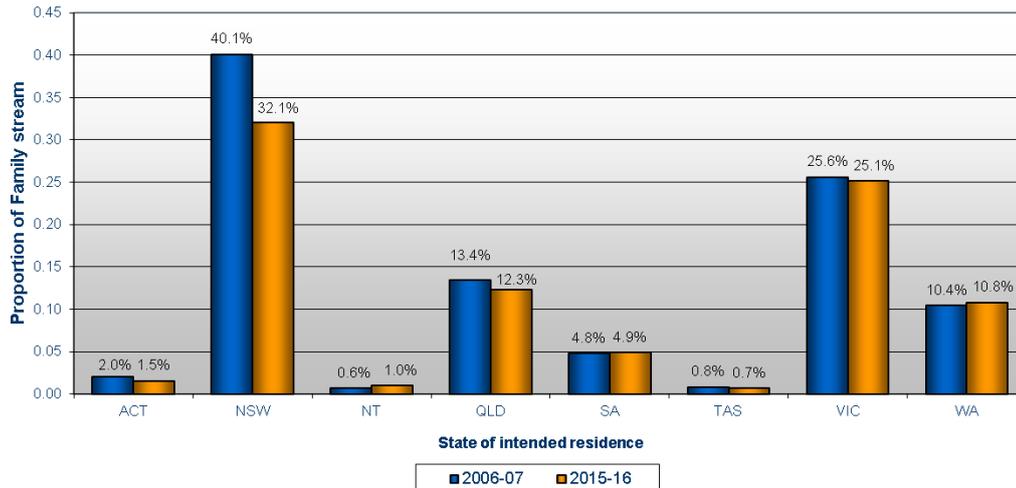
Figure 6 – State of intended residence in Skill stream – 2006–07 to 2015–16



As shown in Figure 7, the states that recorded the largest increase/decrease in the state of intended residence as a proportion of the Family stream and Child visa outcome over the last decade were:

- Western Australia recorded the largest increase, from 10.4 per cent in 2006–07 to 10.8 per cent in 2015–16; and
- New South Wales recorded the largest decrease, from 40.1 per cent in 2006–07 to 32.1 per cent in 2015–16.

Figure 7 – State of intended residence in Family stream and Child Visas – 2006–07 to 2015–16



Skill stream in detail

Australian industry benefited with the majority of the permanent migration visas (128,550 places) being granted to the Skill stream which equates to nearly 68.0 per cent of the total permanent migration programme. This outcome comprised 42.3 per cent places to clients outside Australia (54,424 places) and 57.7 per cent places to clients in Australia (74,126 places).

The Skill stream focused on migrants to help fill skill needs. The programme included the following:

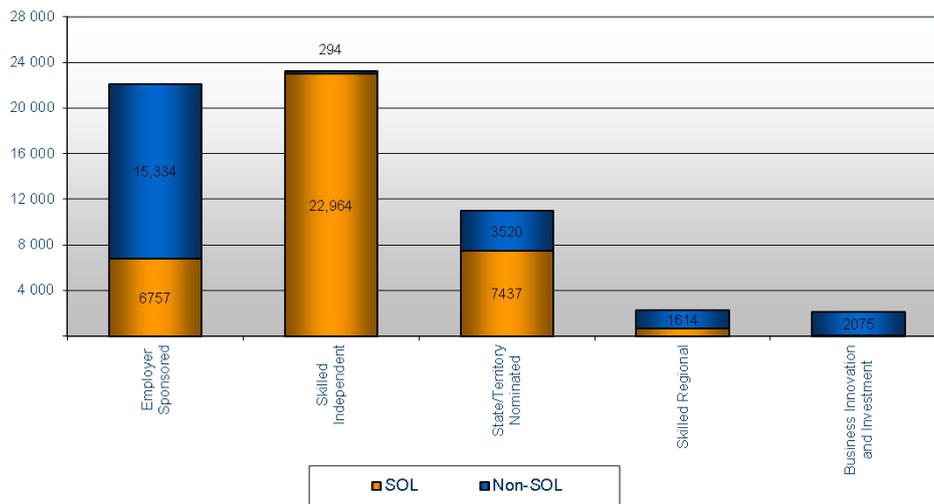
- Employer Sponsored category – 48,250 places, further broken down by:
 - Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) – 12,269 places; and
 - Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) – 35,981 places.
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) – 72,840 places, further broken down by:
 - Skilled Independent category – 43,994 places;
 - State and Territory Government Nominated category – 24,650 places; and
 - Skilled Regional category – 4196 places.
- Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) – 7260 places.
- Distinguished Talent – 200 places.

Outcome for Employer Sponsored visas (including RSMS and ENS) represented 37.5 per cent of the total Skill stream outcome in 2015–16.

In 2015–16, within General Skilled Migration 31,061 primary applicants had an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) (85.1 per cent of the primary visa holders within GSM).

Figure 8 presents the SOL versus non-SOL occupation breakdown by visa category for the 2015–16 programme year.

Figure 8 – 2015–16 Skill stream: SOL versus non-SOL occupation by visa category (primary visa holders only)



Demand for places in the Skill stream was lower in the 2015–16 programme year compared to 2014–15. There were 142,930 first stage applications received in the Skill stream in 2015–16 compared to 145,421 in 2014–15. As at 30 June 2016, 74,641 clients remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 17.1 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Employer Sponsored

The Employer Sponsored category outcome for 2015–16 was 48,250 places. The majority of the outcome (85.9 per cent) in 2015–16 was from applicants in Australia, slightly up from 85.7 per cent in the 2014–15 programme year.

The Employer Sponsored outcome is comprised of two components:

- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS), with an outcome of 12,269 places; and
- Employer Nomination Scheme and Labour Agreements (ENS), with an outcome of 35,981 places.

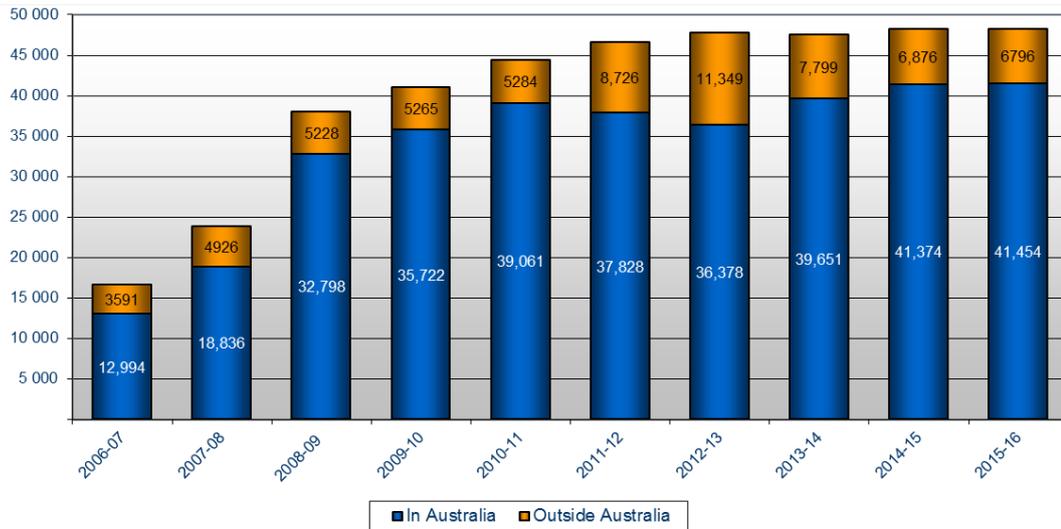
The 2015–16 Employer Sponsored outcome comprised 37.5 per cent of the total Skill stream.

Demand for places in the Employer Sponsored category in 2015–16 was lower compared to 2014–15. During 2015–16, 61,873 applications were received in this category compared to 63,257 applications in 2014–15 (2.2 per cent decrease).

As at 30 June 2016 there were 39,218 persons in the pipeline for visas in the Employer Sponsored category. This compares to 31,607 persons as at 30 June 2015.

Figure 9 presents the Employer Sponsored category outcome since 2006–07.

Figure 9 – Employer Sponsored outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16 by the location of the applicant when the application is lodged (in Australia versus outside Australia)



Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)

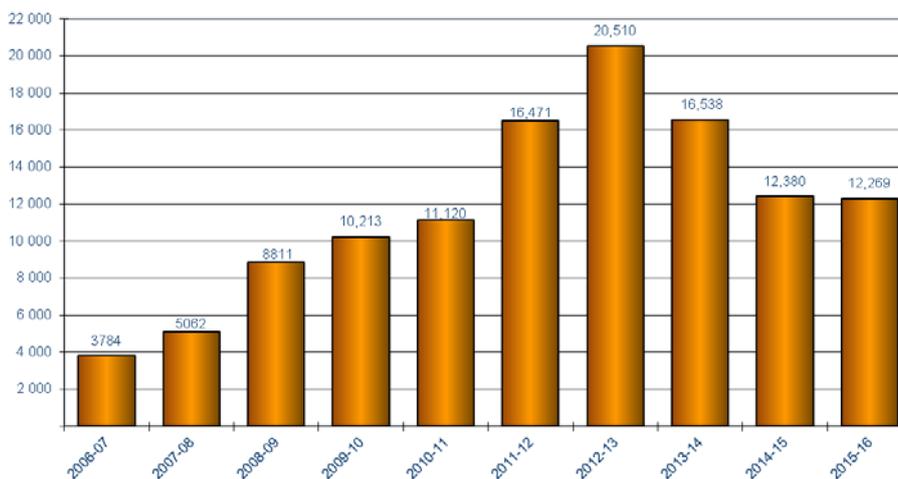
The Regional Skilled Migration Scheme (RSMS) outcome in 2015–16 was 12,269 places, a 0.9 per cent decrease on the 2014–15 outcome of 12,380 places.

The RSMS enables employers in regional and low population growth areas of Australia to sponsor skilled employees. The majority of persons granted an RSMS visa in 2015-16 indicated they would reside in either Western Australia or Queensland.

Demand for places in the RSMS category was higher in 2015–16 with 17,356 applications received compared to 16,551 applications in 2014–15. The RSMS pipeline was 11,972 persons as at 30 June 2016, an increase of 39.0 per cent (3360 persons) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Figure 10 presents the outcome of the RSMS component since the 2006–07 programme year.

Figure 10 – RSMS outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16

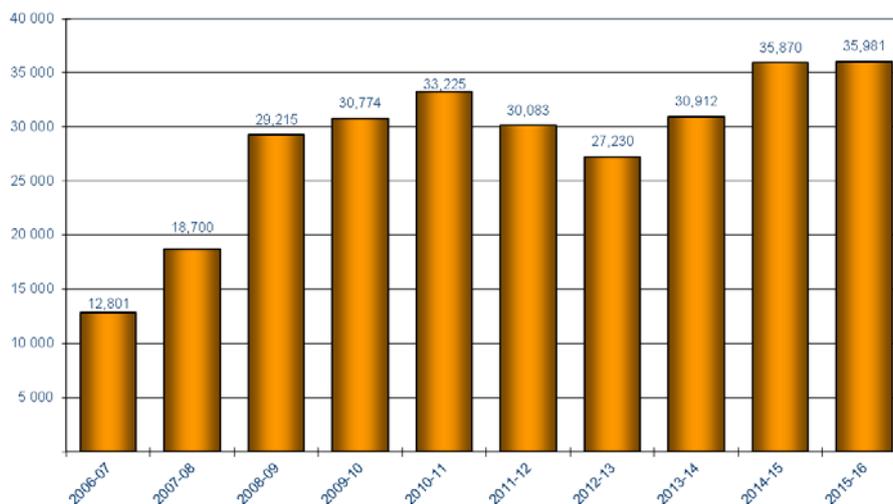


Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)

The outcome for the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) was 35,981 places in 2015–16, including grants made under Labour Agreements. The 2015–16 ENS outcome is 0.1 per cent (111 places) higher than the 2014–15 outcome of 35,870 places.

Demand for places in the ENS category in the 2015–16 programme year was 4.7 per cent (2189 places) lower with 44,517 applications lodged, compared to 46,706 applications lodged in the 2014–15 programme year. The ENS pipeline was 27,241 persons as at 30 June 2016, an increase of 22.1 per cent (4923 persons) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Figure 11 – ENS outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16



General Skilled Migration (GSM)

The General Skilled Migration (GSM) category outcome for 2015–16 was 72,840 places (56.7 per cent of the Skill stream). GSM is comprised of three categories:

- Skilled Independent, with an outcome of 43,994 places;
- State and Territory Nominated with an outcome of 24,650 places; and
- Skilled Regional with 4196 places.

The GSM pipeline at 30 June 2016 was 25,798 persons, a decrease of 45.9 per cent from 47,716 persons at 30 June 2015. A cap was set for a number of GSM visas to clients outside Australia, which took effect on 22 September 2015. The cap set the maximum number of places which could be granted in 2015-16 for the visa subclasses Skilled Independent (subclass 175), Skilled Sponsored (subclass 176) and Skilled Regional Sponsored (subclass 475). While some applications in these visa subclasses were finalised in 2015, those not finalised before 22 September 2015 were taken not to have been made and as such were removed from the GSM pipeline.

Skilled Independent

The Skilled Independent category outcome in 2015–16 was 43,994 places (34.2 per cent of the Skill stream). Applicants located outside Australia accounted for 55.0 per cent of the outcome for 2015–16.

In the Skilled Independent visa category there were 45,702 applications in 2015–16 compared to 42,317 applications in 2014–15. As at 30 June 2016, 14,082 clients remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 6.4 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

State and Territory Nominated

The State and Territory Nominated visa category delivered an outcome of 24,650 places (19.2 per cent of the Skill stream), a decrease of 5.4 per cent on the 2014–15 outcome of 26,050 places.

Demand for State and Territory Nominated places increased by 2.3 per cent from 24,075 applications in 2014–15 to 24,640 applications in 2015–16. The pipeline decreased over the 2015–16 programme year by 9.2 per cent (1107 persons) from 12,048 persons as at 30 June 2015 to 10,941 persons as at 30 June 2016.

Skilled Regional

Skilled Regional visas delivered an outcome of 4196 places, an increase of 49.9 per cent over the outcome for 2014–15 of 2800 places.

In 2015–16 there was a 54.4 per cent decrease in applications (1466 applications in 2015–16 compared to 3124 applications in 2014–15).

Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP)

The 2015–16 outcome for the Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) was 7260 places.

Demand for places in this category decreased by 26.8 per cent in 2015–16, with 8954 applications made compared to 12,225 applications made in 2014–15. The BIIP pipeline decreased over the 2015–16 programme year by 9.7 per cent (1018 persons) from 10,451 persons as at 30 June 2015 to 9433 persons as at 30 June 2016, following an increase in applications lodged in late 2014-15 prior to changes to the Significant Investor Visa (SIV) introduced on 1 July 2015.

State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM)

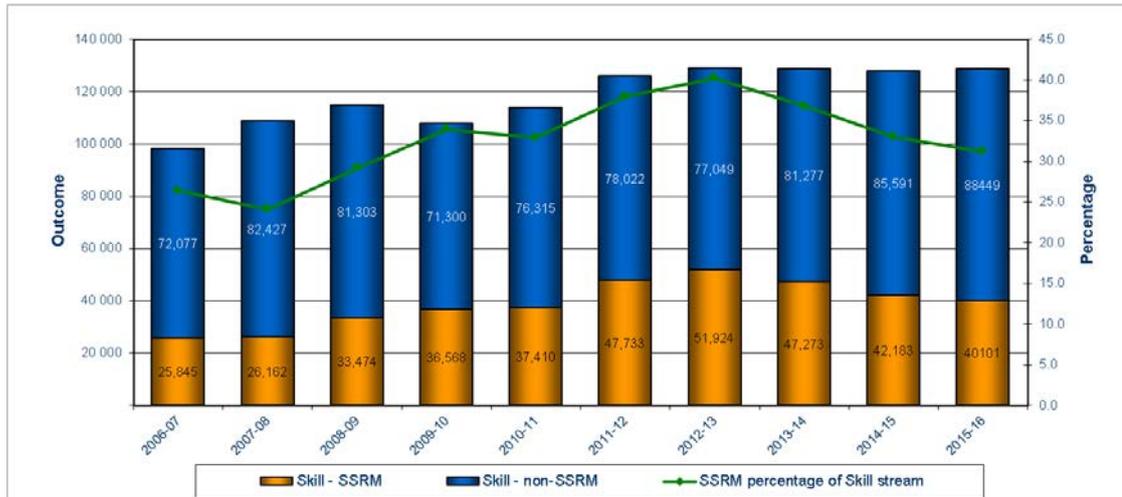
State-Specific and Regional Skilled Migration (SSRM) refers to those elements of the programmes described above with a particular state or regional focus. Specifically, the elements included are:

- State and Territory Nominated visas, with an outcome of 24,650 places;
- Regional Skilled Migration Scheme, with an outcome of 12,269 places;
- Business Innovation and Investment Programme – State and Territory Sponsored Business Skills, with an outcome of 696 places; and
- Skilled Regional visas with an outcome of 2486 places.

The total SSRM outcome for the 2015–16 migration programme was 40,101 places. This outcome represents 31.2 per cent of the Skill stream in 2015–16.

Figure 12 shows SSRM as a percentage of the Skill stream since 2006–07.

Figure 12 – SSRM outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16

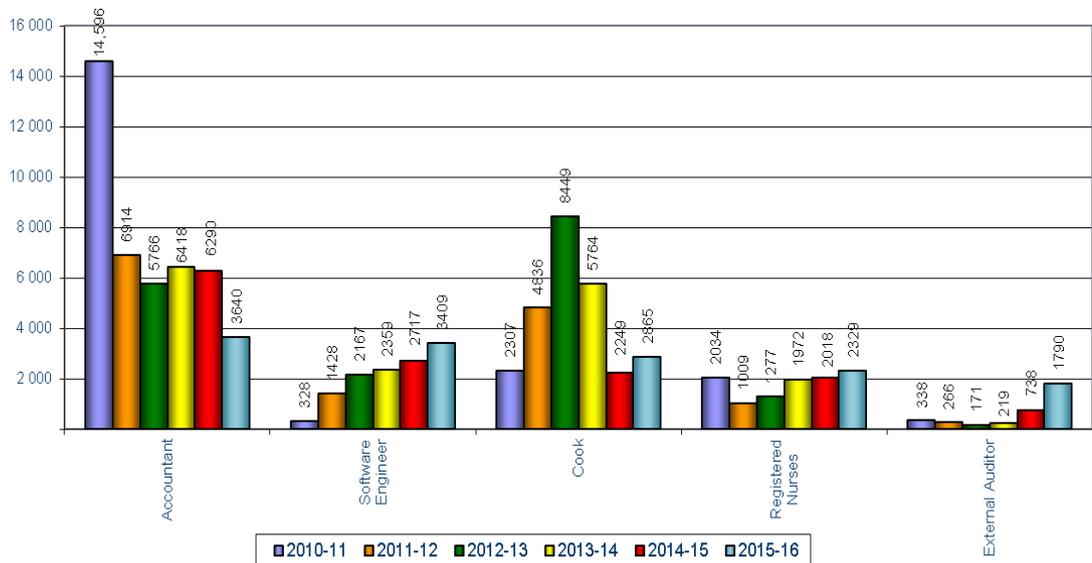


Occupations of primary applicants in the Skill stream

At the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) major group level, Professionals was the largest occupation group of primary applicants in the Skill stream with an outcome of 39,351 places (64.8 per cent), followed by Technicians and Trades Workers with 10,780 places (17.7 per cent) and Managers 6031 places (9.9 per cent).

Figure 13 shows the top five occupations in the Skill stream outcome in 2015–16, compared to outcome in previous years.

Figure 13 – Skill stream outcome – Top 5 Occupations in 2015–16



Family stream in detail

In the managed migration programme, Family stream migration has three main categories. They are:

- Partner - includes Prospective Marriage (fiancé) and Partner (provisional and permanent) visas.
- Parent - includes Contributory and Non-Contributory parent visas.
- Other Family - includes Carer, Remaining Relative, Aged Dependent Relative and Orphan Relative visas.

The Family stream outcome for 2015–16 was 57,400 places (30.2 per cent of the total migration programme outcome).

Demand for places in the Family stream in 2015–16 was 24.1 per cent lower than in 2014–15 (69,305 first stage applications in 2015–16 compared to 91,530 applications in 2014–15).

The pipeline as at 30 June 2016 was 160,874 clients, a decrease of 1.9 per cent compared to the pipeline of 163,964 clients as at 30 June 2015. The Partner and the Non-Contributory Parent categories accounted for 44.1 per cent and 31.4 per cent of the total Family stream pipeline, respectively.

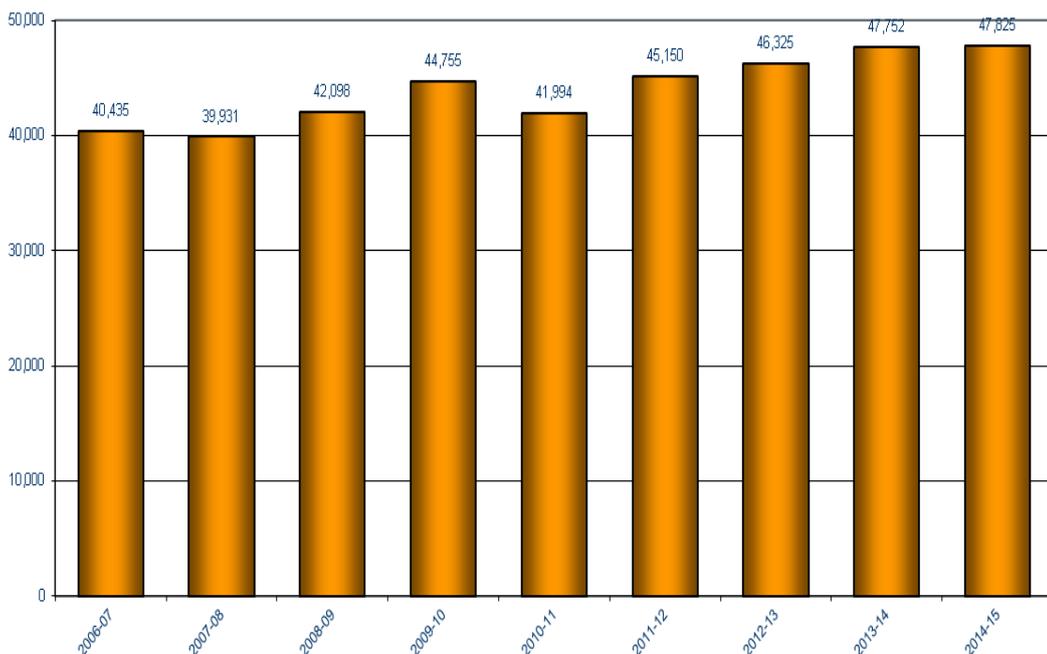
Partner

The 2015–16 outcome in the Partner category was 47,825 places. This outcome comprised 83.3 per cent of the total Family stream, comprising 43,181 Spouse and 4644 Fiancé visas.

Demand for places in the Partner category decreased by 18.7 per cent to 52,177 applications in 2015–16 from 64,169 applications in 2014–15. The pipeline as at 30 June 2016 was 70,964 clients, a decrease of 7.9 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Figure 14 shows the Partner category outcome for the period from 2006–07 to 2015–16.

Figure 14 – Partner outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16



Other Family

The Other Family category outcome for 2015–16 was 900 places. The Other Family comprises the Carer, Remaining Relative, Aged Dependent Relative visas and Orphan Relative visas. Carer, Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visas in this category were capped in 2015–16 and queuing arrangements applied.

Table 1 presents a detailed breakdown of the outcome for this category.

Table 1 – Other Family category outcome for 2015–16

Group	Outside Australia	In Australia	Total	Percentage of Other Family category
Remaining Relative	64	13	77	8.6
Carer	224	196	420	46.7
Aged Dependent Relative	<10	<10	<10	0.3
Orphan Relatives	392	8	400	44.4
Total	682	218	900	100.0

Demand for places in the Other Family category decreased between 2014–15 and 2015–16 by 27.0 per cent. The pipeline as at 30 June 2016 decreased by 3.0 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Parent

The Parent visa outcome is comprised of two categories:

- Non-Contributory Parent; and
- Contributory Parent.

Non-Contributory Parent

The Non-Contributory Parent category outcome for 2015–16 was 1500 places. Demand for places in the Non-Contributory Parent category decreased by 8962 applications (or 75.7 per cent) between 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016. As at 30 June 2016, 50,544 clients remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 1.6 per cent (or 816 applications) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Contributory Parent

The Contributory Parent category outcome for 2015–16 was 7175 places. Demand for places in the Contributory Parent category decreased by 567 applications (or 4.4 per cent) between 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016. As at 30 June 2016, 29,591 clients remain in the pipeline, an increase of 16.1 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Special Eligibility stream

The outcome for the Special Eligibility stream was 308 places. The majority of this outcome (292 places or 94.8 per cent) were for Ministerial Intervention grants under subclass 151 Former Resident visa.

Child visas

Child visas (excluding Orphan Relative) are no longer counted under the managed Migration Programme, but remain within the overall ceiling of permanent migration places. This is in response to the Government's commitment to reform and improve the processes relating to inter-country adoption.

In 2015-16, 3512 Child visas were granted, with 86.1 per cent of applicants located outside Australia.

Demand for Child visa places in 2015–16 decreased by 1.6 per cent to 3818 applications in 2015–16 from 3881 applications in 2014–15. As at 30 June 2016, 2274 clients were in the pipeline, a decrease of 11.3 per cent (or 289 applications) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2015.

Figure 15 shows the Child visa outcome for the period from 2006–07 to 2015–16.

Figure 15 – Child visas outcome from 2006–07 to 2015–16

