



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

# 2012–13 Migration Program Report

Program year to 30 June 2013



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## Executive Summary

The total migration program outcome for 2012-13 was 190 000 places, on target with its planning level of 190 000.

The major source countries in the migration program were India, China and the United Kingdom.

Within the overall program the breakdown by visa streams was:

- 128 973 places delivered in the skilled stream (3 places above the planning level);
- 60 185 places delivered in the family stream (on target with the planning level); and
- 842 places delivered in the special eligibility stream (3 places below the planning level).

The skill stream accounted for 67.9 per cent of the total 2012-13 migration program. At the major group level of the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), Professionals accounted for 58.6 per cent of the outcome in the skill stream. The most common occupations for visa grants were Professionals, Technicians and Trades Workers and Managers.

Within the skilled stream:

- the employer sponsored category had an outcome of 47 740 against a planning level of 47 656. It comprised 37.0 per cent of the 2012-13 skill stream, with 27 230 places granted under the ENS and 20 510 under RSMS;
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) had an outcome of 74 020 against a planning level of 74 097. GSM comprised 57.4 per cent of the skill stream in 2012-13;
- within GSM, some 66.2 per cent of primary applicants in the skill independent category had an occupation on the Skill Occupation List (SOL);
- outcomes in the business innovation and investment program and the distinguished talent category were 7010 and 200 places respectively; and
- some 51 924 places were granted across various visas targeted at state specific and regional migration (SSRM). These visas represented 40.3 per cent of the skill stream.

The family stream accounted for 31.7 per cent of the total 2012-13 migration program.

Within the family stream:

- some 77.0 per cent of the family stream outcome comprised partners (including spouses, fiancés or partners of Australian citizens and permanent residents);
- the outcome for the child category was 3850 places;
- the outcome for the other family category was 1285 places; and
- both the non-contributory parent and contributory parent categories met their planning levels of 2150 and 6575 places, respectively.

The special eligibility outcome of 842 places accounted for 0.4 per cent of the total 2012-13 migration program.

Within the overall 2012-13 migration program the largest state of intended residence was New South Wales with an outcome of 30.2 per cent of the total 2012-13 migration program, followed by Victoria (24.4 per cent) and Western Australia (19.3 per cent).

# Migration Program Summary

## Program Outcomes

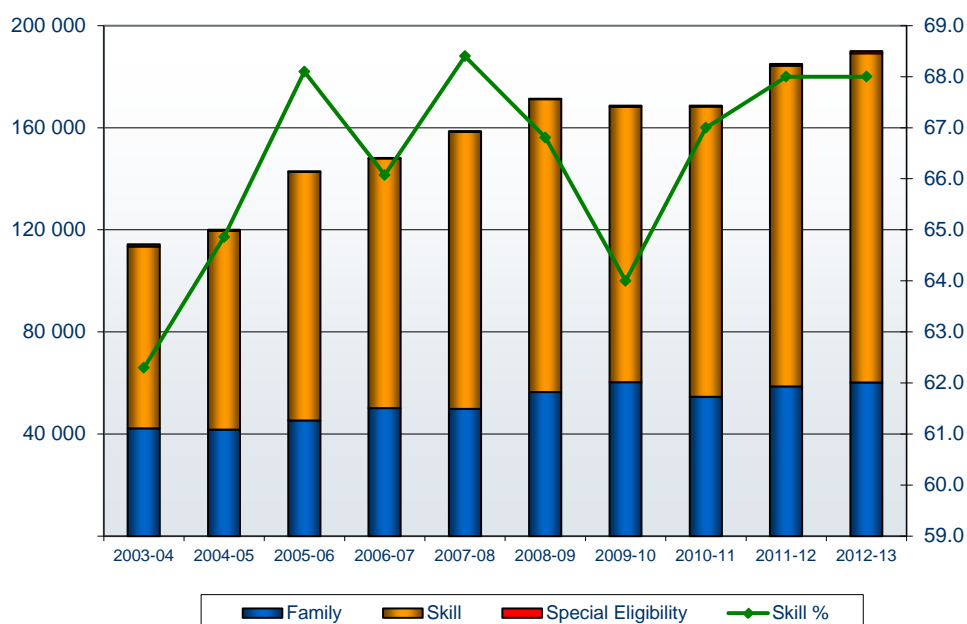
The outcomes for each visa stream against their respective planning level are set out in [Table 1](#). [Figure 1](#) compares the 2012-13 outcome to previous years. [Figure 2](#) shows the 2012-13 migration program outcomes by category and the breakdown of offshore and onshore grants. Details of the offshore and onshore outcome by category and performance against planning levels are at [Attachment A](#).

**Table 1: Visa stream outcome against planning level – 2012-13**

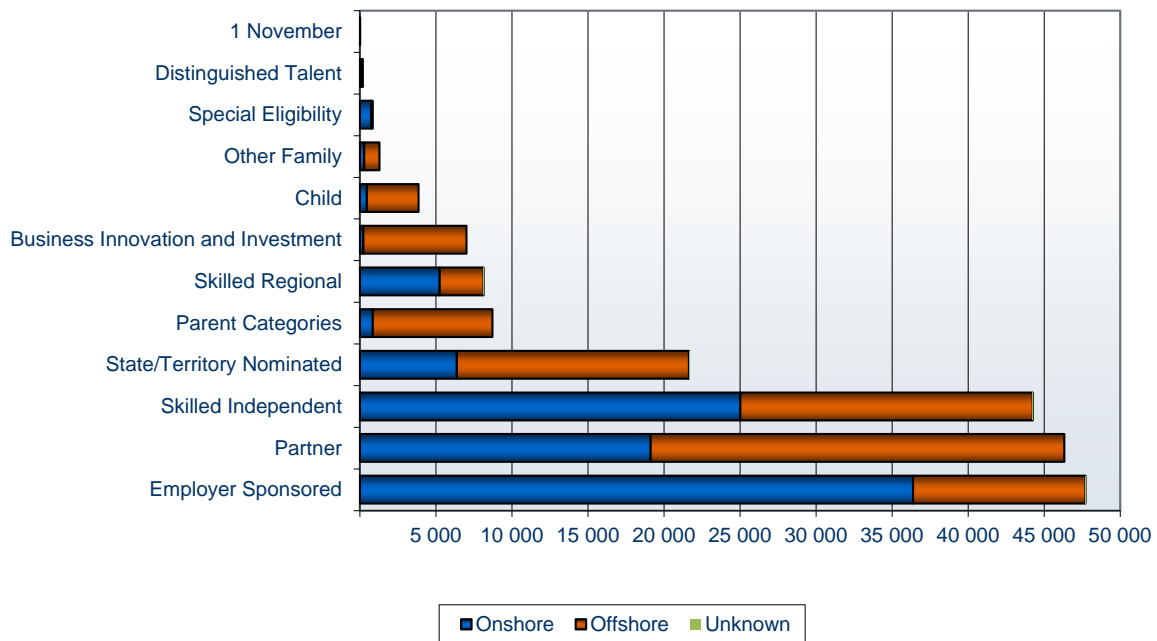
Stream				
	Family <sup>1</sup>	Skill <sup>2</sup>	Special Eligibility	Total
<b>Planning Level<sup>3</sup></b>	60 185	128 970	845	190 000
<b>Outcome<sup>4</sup></b>	60 185	128 973	842	190 000
<b>Variation</b>	0	3	-3	0

- Adjusted for netting out of refusals/withdrawals of spouse/fiancé/interdependent temporary visa holders.
- Adjusted for netting out of business innovation and investment visa cancellations.
- References to planning levels are to final planning level at 30 June 2013. Initial planning may have changed during the program year as a result of changes in demand and other factors.
- The 4000 Expert Panel Partner places are reported separately to the family stream.

**Figure 1: Migration program outcomes from 2003-04 to 2012-13**



**Figure 2: Skill and family visa category outcomes 2012-13 – onshore<sup>1</sup> versus offshore<sup>1</sup>**



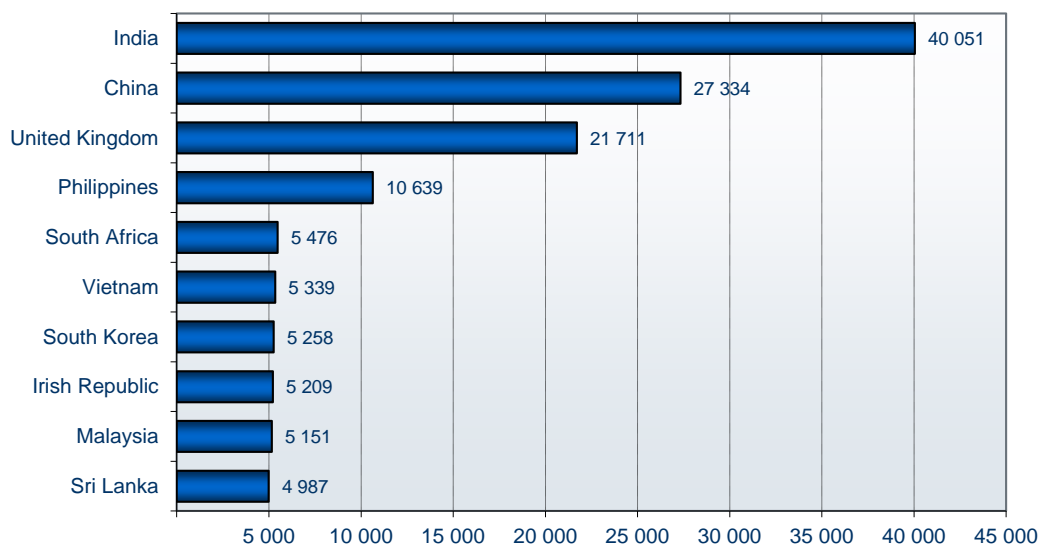
1. Offshore and onshore relates to the location of the applicant when the visa application is lodged.

## Source Countries

India was Australia's largest source country of migrants with an outcome of 40 051 places or 21.1 per cent of the total migration program, up from 29 018 in 2011-12. The second and third largest source countries were China (27 334 places) and the United Kingdom (21 711 places).

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

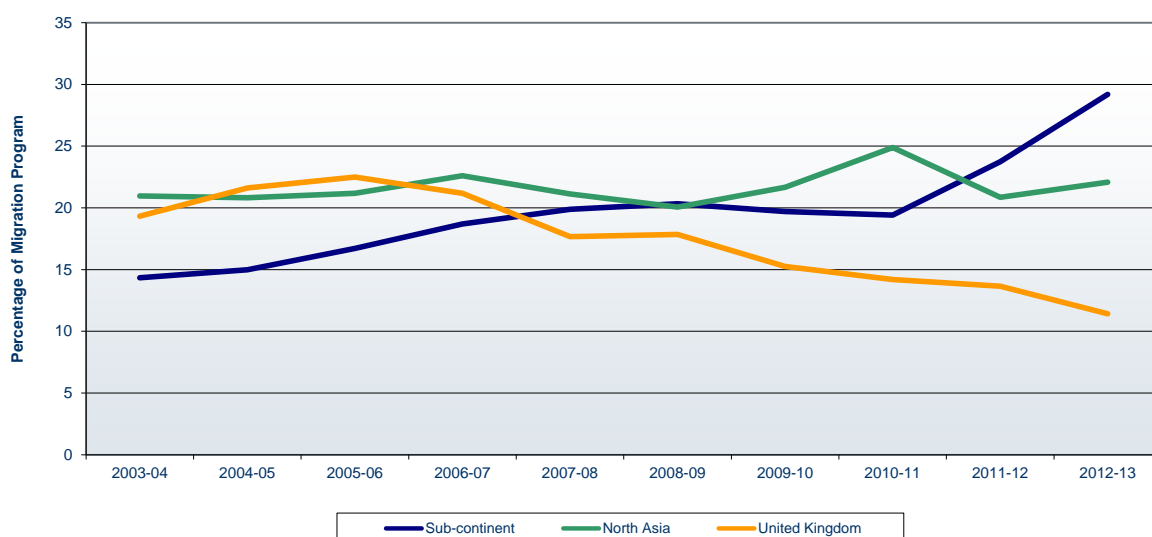
**Figure 3: Top ten source countries of migrants 2012-13**



The outcome for China increased by 7.2 per cent in 2012-13 from 25 509 to 27 334 places. The United Kingdom outcome decreased from 25 274 in 2011-12 to 21 711 in 2012-13 or 14.1 per cent.

In terms of regions, the Indian sub-continent (including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal) now provides 29.2 per cent of the migration program (an increase from 23.7 per cent in 2011-12), largely due to the increase of migrants from India. North Asia (including China, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan) had a increase in its share of the program from 20.9 per cent in 2011-12 to 22.1 per cent in 2012-13. The proportion of migrants from the United Kingdom has been declining steadily from a high of 22.5 per cent in 2005-06 to 11.4 per cent in 2012-13. [Figure 4](#) illustrates the recent growth in the proportion of migrants from the Indian sub-continent and the decrease from the United Kingdom.

**Figure 4: Proportion of migration program – major regions from 2003-04 to 2012-13**

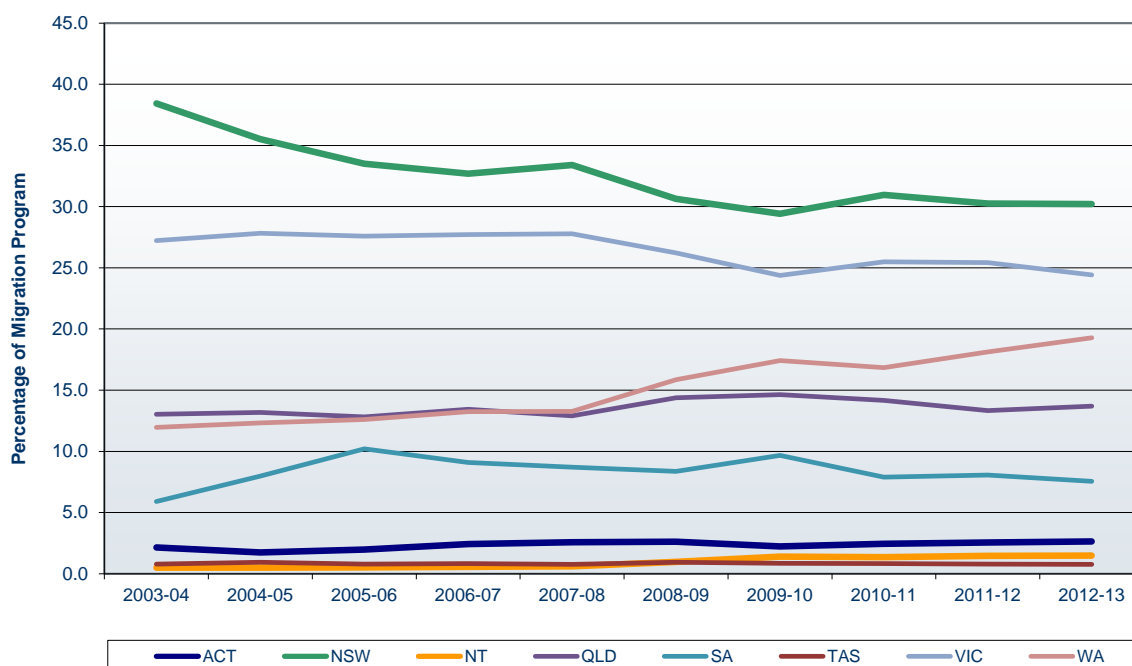


## State of intended residence

New South Wales was the largest state of intended residence with an outcome of 30.2 per cent of the total 2012-13 migration program, slightly down from 30.3 per cent in 2011-12. Victoria was the second largest state of intended residence with an outcome of 24.4 per cent of the total 2012-13 migration program and Western Australia was the third largest with an outcome of 19.3 per cent.

[Figure 5](#) shows the state of intended residence by migration program stream over the last decade. [Figure 6](#) shows the state of intended residence by skill stream from 2003-04 to 2012-13. [Figure 7](#) shows the state of intended residence by family stream from 2003-04 to 2012-13.

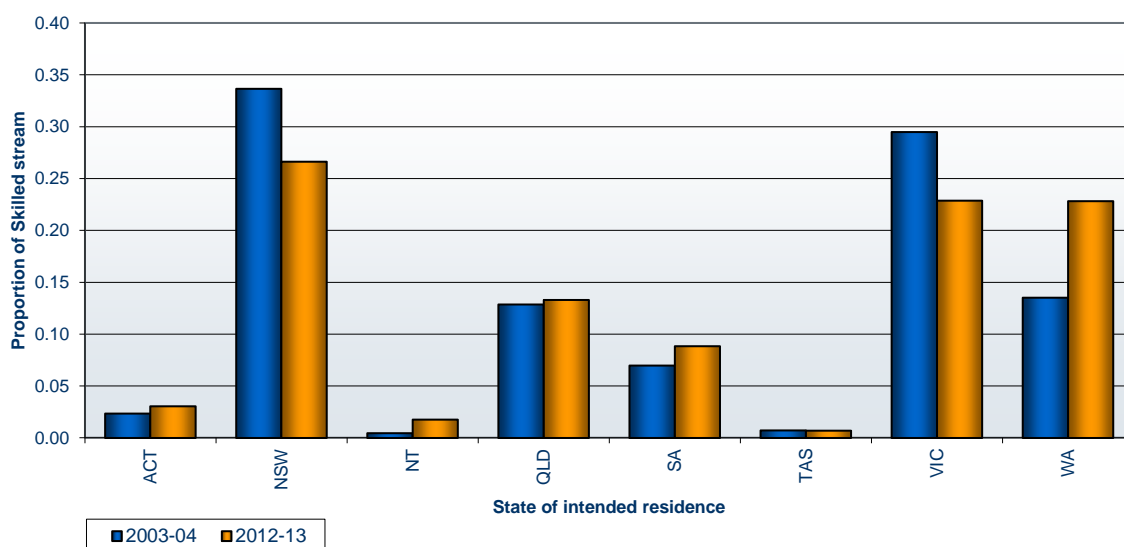
Figure 5: State of intended residence – 2003-04 to 2012-13



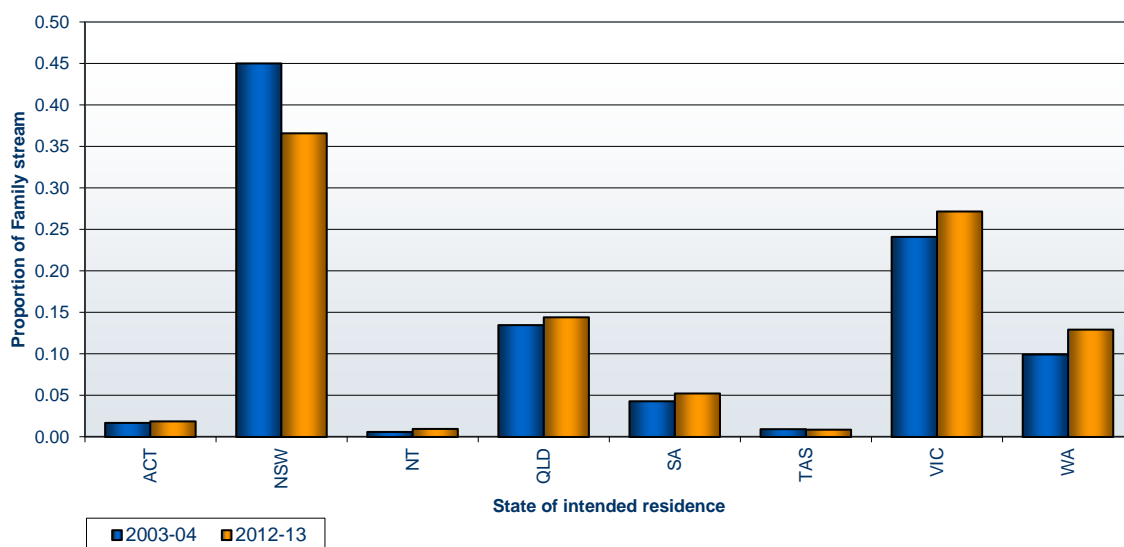
Over the past decade only New South Wales and Victoria recorded decreases in the state of intended residence proportion of the total migration program. New South Wales recorded the largest fall (by 8.2 per cent) from 38.4 per cent in 2003-04 to 30.2 per cent in 2012-13. Victoria recorded the second largest fall (by 2.8 per cent) from 27.2 per cent in 2003-04 to 24.4 per cent in 2012-13.

Western Australia recorded the largest increase over the past decade in the proportion of the migration program, rising 7.3 per cent from 12.0 per cent in 2003-04 to 19.3 per cent in 2012-13. South Australia recorded the second largest increase (by 1.6 per cent) from 5.9 per cent in 2003-04 to 7.5 per cent in 2012-13. The Northern Territory recorded a threefold increase in the proportion of the migration program rising from 0.5 per cent in 2003-04 to 1.5 per cent in 2012-13.

**Figure 6: State of intended residence in skill stream – 2003-04 and 2012-13**



**Figure 7: State of intended residence in family stream – 2003-04 and 2012-13**



New South Wales recorded large falls in the state of intended residence proportion for both the skill and family streams (falling by 7.0 percentage points and 8.4 percentage points, respectively).

Victoria recorded a fall in the state of intended residence proportion in the skilled stream (falling by 6.6 per cent), which was partly offset by a small rise in the proportion within the family stream (rising by 3.0 per cent points).

Western Australia recorded increases in the state of intended residence proportion for both the skill and family streams, rising by 9.3 per cent and 3.0 per cent, respectively.



## Skill Stream in Detail

The skill stream outcome for 2012-13 was 128 973 places against a planning level of 128 970. This outcome comprised 56.9 per cent offshore applicants (73 368 places) and 43.1 per cent onshore applicants (55 586 places).

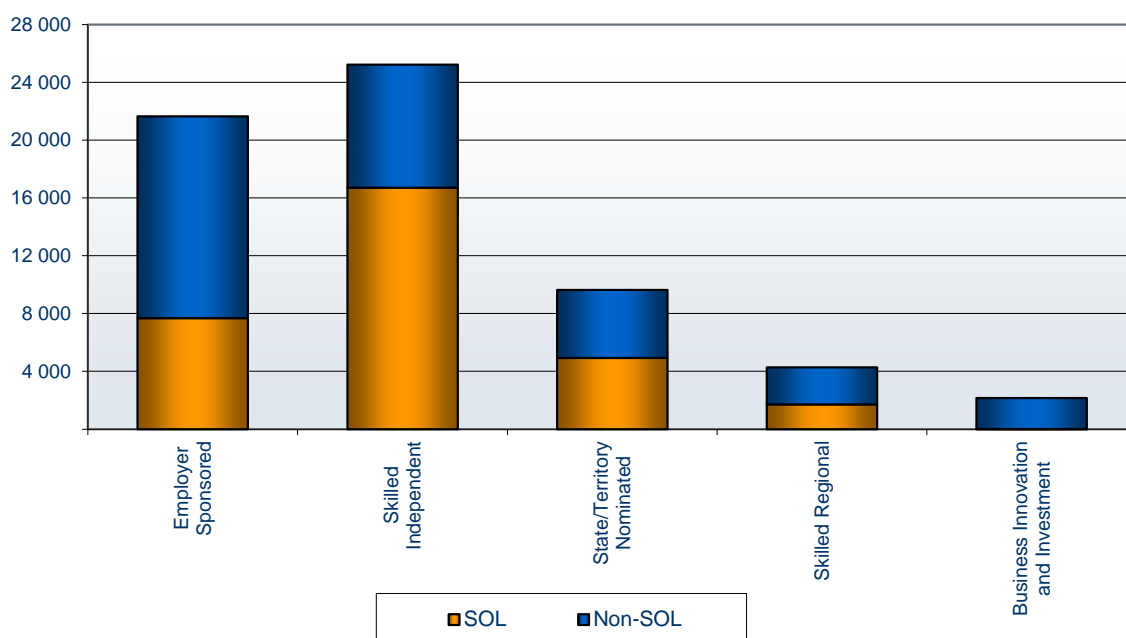
The 2012-13 skilled migration program focused on migrants to help fill critical skill needs, particularly in regional areas. The program targeted the following visa pathways:

- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) – 20 510 places;
- Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) – 27 230 places;
- State or territory government nominated category – 21 637 places;
- the skilled independent category – 44 251; and
- the skilled regional category – 8132.

Outcomes across employer sponsored visas represented 30.7 per cent of the skill stream outcome in 2012-13.

In 2012-13, 66.2 per cent of primary applicants in the skilled independent category had an occupation on the SOL. [Figure 8](#) displays the SOL versus non-SOL occupation breakdown by visa category.

**Figure 8: 2012-13 skill stream: SOL versus non-SOL occupation<sup>1</sup> by visa category**



1. Data for occupation applies to primary visa holders only.

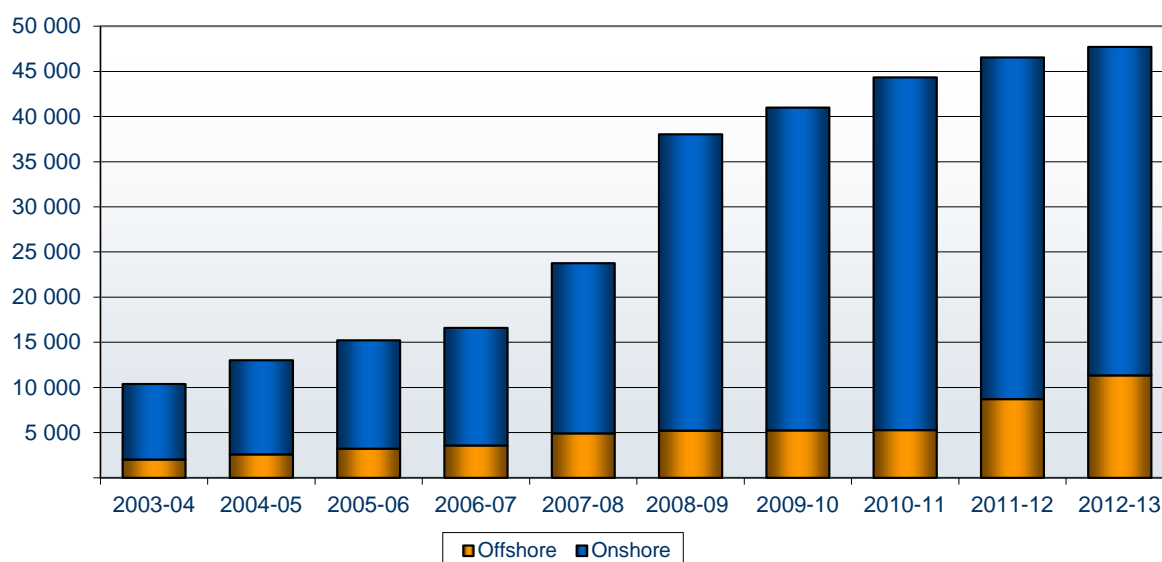
Demand in the skill stream was slightly lower over the 2012-13 program year compared to 2011-12. Some 112 201 applications were received in the skill stream in 2012-13 compared to 122 547 in 2011-12. Around 114 770 clients remain in the pipeline as at 30 June 2013, a decrease of 19.6 per cent over the 2012-13 program year.

## Employer Sponsored

The employer sponsored outcome for 2012-13 was 47 740 against a planning level of 47 656, an increase of 5.0 per cent (1186 places) over the 2011-12 outcome. The majority of the outcome (76.2 per cent) in 2012-13 was from onshore applicants.

Demand in the employer sponsored category in 2012-13 was lower compared to 2011-12. Some 43 874 applications were received in this category in 2012-13 compared to 65 572 in 2011-12. Growth in the employer sponsored category outcome is illustrated in [Figure 9](#).

**Figure 9: Employer sponsored outcome from 2003-04 to 2012-13**



1. Onshore and offshore categories refer to the location of the applicant(s) at the time the application was lodged.

The employer sponsored outcome is comprised of two components:

1. Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS), with an outcome of 20 510; and
2. Employer Nomination Scheme and Labour Agreements (ENS), with an outcome of 27 230.

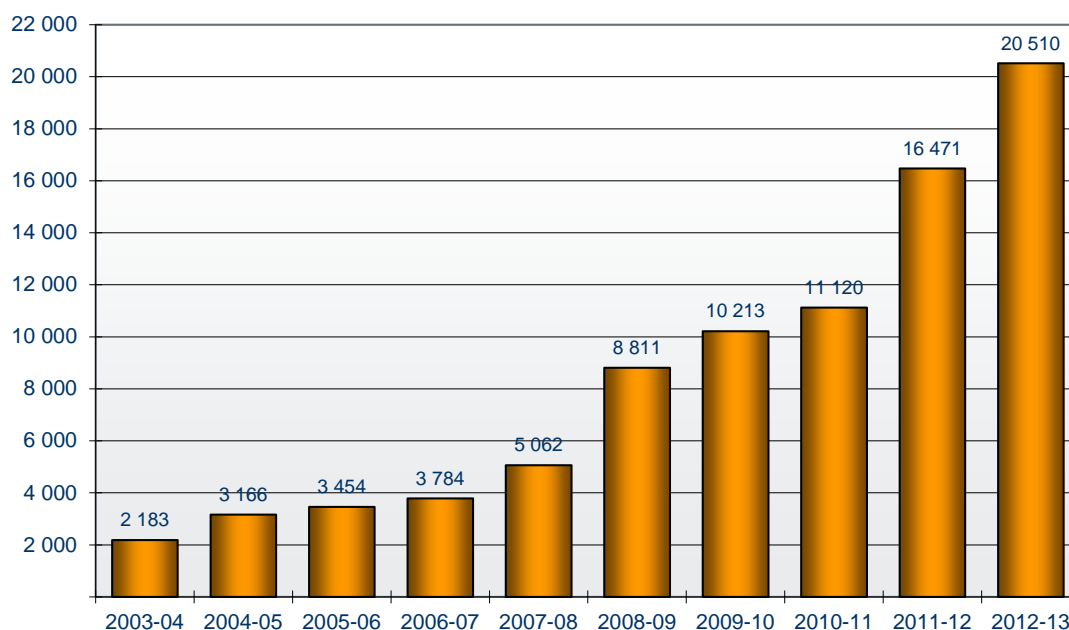
The 2012-13 employer sponsored outcome comprised 37.0 per cent of the skill stream. In 2012-13 RSMS was the highest priority followed by applications from people under ENS.

At 30 June 2013 there were 28 184 persons in the pipeline for visas in the employer sponsored category. This compares to 31 306 persons as at 30 June 2012.

## Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)

The RSMS outcome in 2012-13 was 20 510, a 24.5 per cent increase on the 2011-12 outcome. [Figure 10](#) displays the consistent growth in this category in recent years.

**Figure 10: RSMS outcome from 2003-04 to 2012-13**

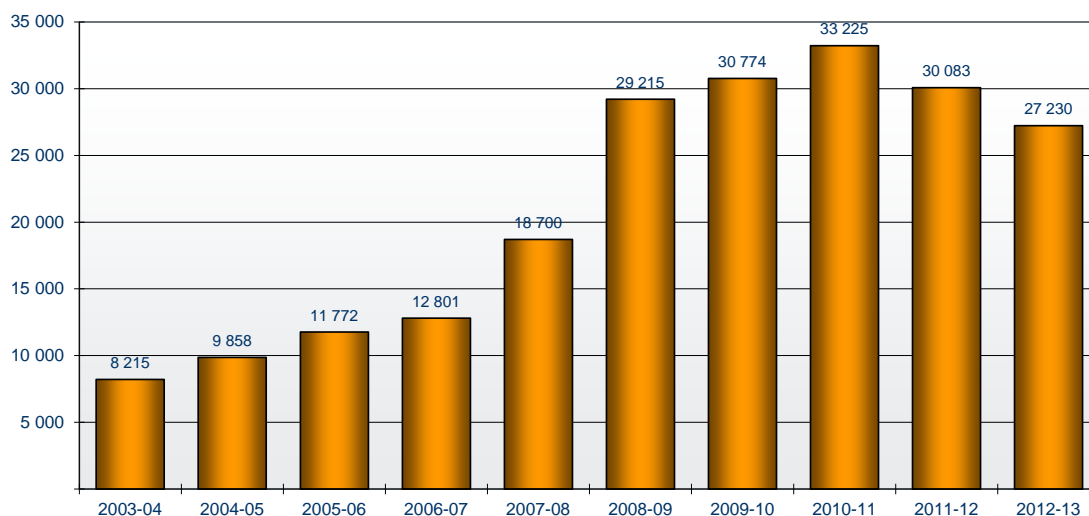


The RSMS enables employers in regional and low population growth areas of Australia to sponsor skilled employees. Western Australia comprised 32.6 per cent of the RSMS outcome. Perth was included as a regional city for RSMS from 2011-12. Demand in the RSMS category was lower in 2012-13 with 13 373 applications compared to 29 866 applications in 2011-12.

## Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)

The outcome for the ENS was 27 230 in 2012-13, including 1 266 grants made under Labour Agreements. This is slightly lower than the outcome of 30 083 in 2011-12. Applications in 2012-13 were also slightly lower at 30 501 compared to 35 706 in 2011-12.

**Figure 11: ENS outcomes from 2003-04 to 2012-13**



## General Skilled Migration (GSM)

The GSM category outcome for 2012-13 was 74 020, some 77 places below the planning level of 74 097. GSM is comprised of three categories:

- Skilled Independent, with an outcome of 44 251 places;
- State/Territory Nominated, with an outcome of 21 637 places; and
- Skilled Regional, with an outcome of 8132 places.

State and territory nominated applications received the highest level of priority processing within GSM followed by applications who have nominated an occupation on the SOL. Applications which have an occupation not included on the SOL have the lowest priority (priority 5). GSM comprised 57.4 per cent of the skill stream in 2012-13, compared to 57.1 per cent in 2011-12. The GSM pipeline was 74 551 persons at 30 June 2013, a decrease of 25.6 per cent over the 2012-13 program year.

### Skilled Independent

The skilled independent outcome in 2012-13 was 44 251, an increase (17.2 per cent) from the 2011-12 outcome of 37 772. Some 43.4 per cent of the outcome was from offshore applicants. Demand for the skilled independent visa was 34 099 applications in 2012-13 compared to 43 650 applications in 2011-12. Around 34 795 clients remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 33.6 per cent over the 2012-13 program year.

## State/Territory Nominated

State/Territory nominated visa classes had an outcome of 21 637 places, a decrease of 2.7 per cent on the 2011-12 outcome of 22 247. Demand for places in this category has increased from 12 678 in 2011-12 to 22 543 in 2012-13. The pipeline increased over 2012-13 by 2957 persons from 9363 to 12 320.

## Skilled Regional

Some 8132 visas were delivered in the skilled regional category, a decrease of 31.1 per cent over the 2011-12 outcome of 11 800. In 2012-13 there was a 35.5 per cent decrease in applications (3466 applications in 2012-13 compared to 5370 applications in 2011-12). The pipeline decreased over 2012-13 from 38 380 to 27 436 clients.

## State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM)

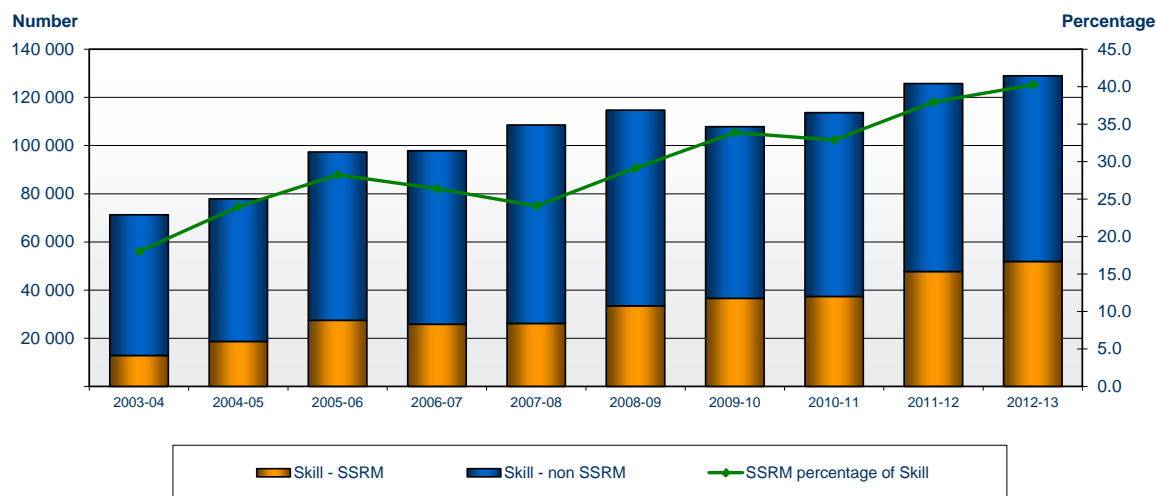
The SSRM outcome for the 2012-13 migration program was 51 924, an increase of 8.8 per cent on the 2011-12 outcome of 47 733. This outcome represents 40.3 per cent of the skill stream in 2012-13 compared to 38.0 per cent in 2011-12.

SSRM is comprised of four components within the skill stream:

- State/Territory Nominated, with an outcome of 21 637 places;
- RSMS, with an outcome of 20 510 places;
- Business Innovation and Investment – State/Territory sponsored business skills, with an outcome of 6596 places; and
- Skilled Regional – Provisional and Designated area sponsored, with a combined outcome of 3181 places.

Figure 12 shows SSRM as a percentage of the skill stream since 2003-04.

**Figure 12: SSRM as a percentage of the skill stream from 2003-04 to 2012-13**



## Business Innovation and Investment

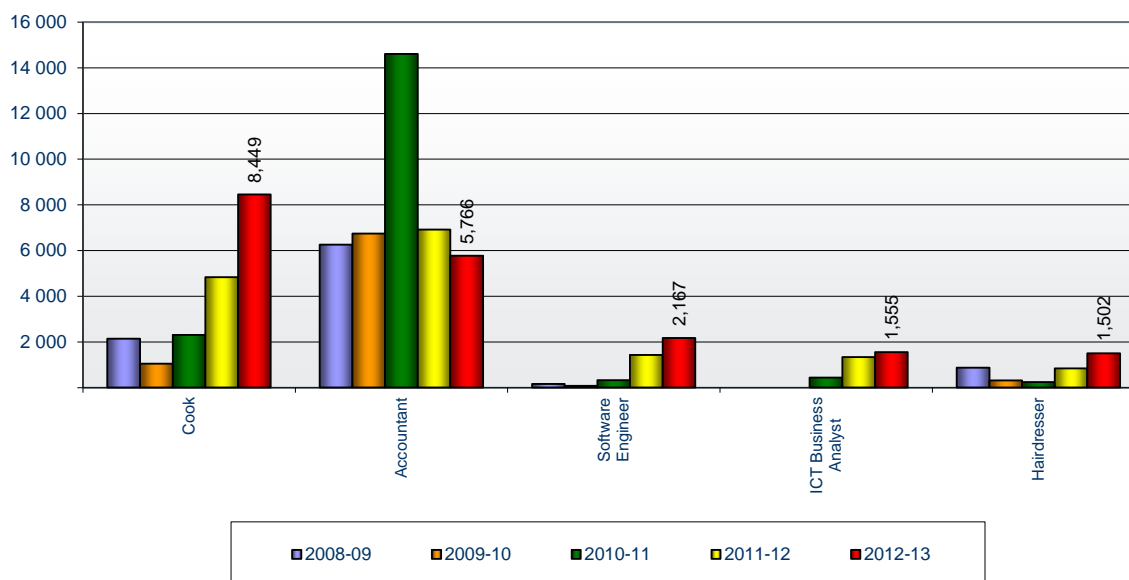
The outcome for the business innovation and investment visa classes was 7010, four places below the planning level of 7014 places. Demand in this category decreased by 37.3 per cent in 2012-13, with 8219 applications made. The 2011-12 outcome was driven by higher applications being received prior to regulatory and fee changes. Some 12 035 clients remain in the pipeline, an increase of 6.8 per cent over the 2012-13 program year.

## Occupations of Primary Applicants in the Skill Stream

At the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) major group level, Professionals formed the largest component of the skill stream with an outcome of 36 927 (58.6 per cent of the skill stream), followed by Tradespersons & Related Workers (17 911) and Managers (5080).

Figure 13 shows the top five occupation outcomes in the skill stream in 2012-13 compared to previous years.

**Figure 13: Skill stream outcome - Top 5 Occupations in 2012-13**



## Family Stream

The family stream outcome of 60 185 for 2012-13 was equal to the planning. Family places accounted for 31.7 per cent of the total migration program outcome. Demand in the family stream in 2012-13 (91 425 applications) was 13.3 per cent higher than 2011-12 (80 714 applications). Some 113 984 clients remain in the pipeline, an increase of 16.4 per cent over the program year. The non-contributory parent category accounts for 27.9 per cent of the family stream pipeline.

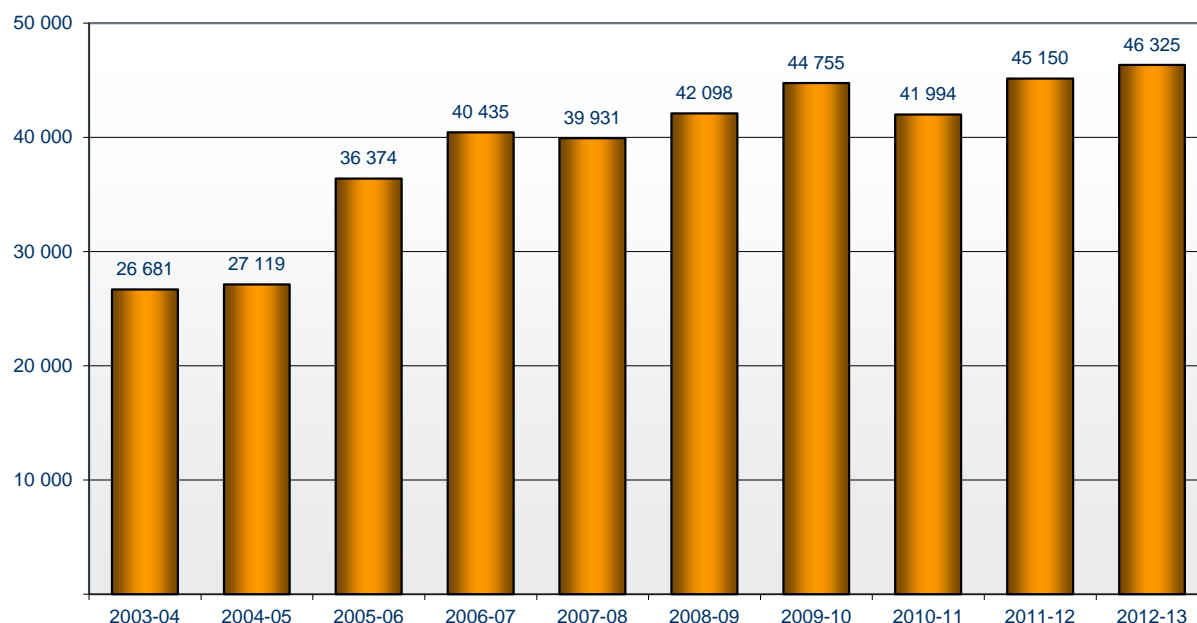
In October 2012 the recommendation of the Report of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers was adopted by Government to cater for applications for migration of former irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs). The Government agreed to a planning level of 4000 places for this cohort in 2012-13. The outcome in this Expert Panel Partner category was 1066 (26.7 per cent), with the remaining 2934 place filled by regular partner places.

## Partner

The outcome in the partner category of 46 325 places was equal to the planning level. This outcome comprised 77.0 per cent of the family stream. This outcome was comprised of 40 923 Spouse visas, 5415 Fiancé visas and -13 Interdependent visas<sup>1</sup>. [Figure 14](#) shows partner outcomes from 2003-04 to 2012-13.

<sup>1</sup> Some provisional visa holders do not subsequently obtain a permanent visa and these places are returned to the Partner category as nett outs. This category is also no longer available to new applicants.

**Figure 14: Partner outcome from 2003-04 to 2012-13**



Demand in the partner category increased by over 10 271 to 70 123 applications in 2012-13. Around 57 870 clients remain in the pipeline at 30 June 2013, an increase of 28.8 per cent over the program year.

## Expert Panel Partner

In October 2012 the Report of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers recommended 4000 places be dedicated to the family members of former IMA arrivals.

The outcome for 2012-13 for this category was 1066, mainly as a result of application rates below the planning levels and longer processing time compared to migration program partner category. The remaining 2934 places were filled by the applications from the migration program partner category pipeline. The breakdown by top three nationalities for IMA-sponsored partner grants was Afghanistan (625 places), Iran (173 places) and Iraq (163 places).

## Child

The child category outcome was 3850, meeting the 2012-13 planning level. Some 87.9 per cent of the outcome was in the offshore caseload. Demand in the child category in 2012-13 increased slightly compared to 2011-12 levels with over 5400 applications lodged. Around 4400 clients remain in the pipeline, an increase of 11.5 per cent over the 2012-13 program year.



## Other Family

The other family category outcome was 1285, also met the 2012-13 planning level. This category was capped in 2012-13 and queuing arrangements were applied. The other family comprises the career, remaining relative and aged dependent relative visas. [Table 2](#) presents a detailed breakdown of this caseload.

**Table 2: Other Family category outcomes for 2012-13**

Group	Offshore	Onshore	Total	Per cent
Carer	726	184	910	<b>70.8%</b>
Remaining Relative	237	62	299	<b>23.3%</b>
Aged Dependent Relative	30	46	76	<b>5.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Demand in the other family category decreased between 2011-12 and 2012-13 by 15.4 per cent. The pipeline also decreased by 9.2 per cent over the 2012-13 program year.

## Parent

### Non-Contributory Parent

The non-contributory parent category met its 2012-13 planning level of 2150 places. Demand in the non-contributory parent category increased between 2011-12 and 2012-13 by 52.1 per cent. Over 31 800 clients remain in the pipeline at 30 June 2013, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the program year. This category was capped in 2012-13.

### Contributory Parent

The contributory parent category outcome also met its 2012-13 planning level of 6575 places. Demand in the contributory parent category decreased by approximately 1524 applications between 2011-12 and 2012-13. Demand in 2011-12 was driven by high numbers of applications in May and June 2012. The number of applications in 2012-13 generally increased throughout the year reaching a high of 927 in April 2013, before falling substantially in May and June 2013. Over 12 500 clients remain in the pipeline at 30 June 2013, an increase of 4.8 per cent over the program year. This category was capped in 2012-13.

## *Special Eligibility Stream*

The outcome for the special eligibility stream was 842 places against the planning level of 845 places, three places below the planning level. Special eligibility comprised 0.4 per cent of the total migration program. The majority of the outcomes (92.5 per cent) in this category were for Ministerial Interventions grants under the subclass 151 Former Resident visa.

# Attachment A

## 2012-13 Migration Program outcome

2012-13 MIGRATION PROGRAM						
Outcome to 30 June 2013*						
Component	Outcome				Revised Planning Level <sup>(9)</sup>	% Variation from Pro Rata
	Onshore	Offshore	Unknown	Total		
Spouse <sup>(1)</sup>	21,808	19,115		40,923		
Interdependent <sup>(1)</sup>	-15	2		-13		
Fiance <sup>(1)</sup>	5,415			5,415		
<b>Sub Total Partner</b>	<b>27,208</b>	<b>19,117</b>		<b>46,325</b>	<b>46,325</b>	
Child <sup>(2)</sup>	3,384	466		3,850	3,850	
Other Family <sup>(3)</sup>	1,009	276		1,285	1,285	
Contributory Parent Parent <sup>(4)</sup>	6,266	309		6,575	6,575	
	1,610	540		2,150	2,150	
<b>Total Family</b>	<b>39,477</b>	<b>20,708</b>		<b>60,185</b>	<b>60,185</b>	
<b>Employer Sponsored<sup>(5)</sup></b>						
RSMS	7,246	13,262	2	20,510	20,500	0.0
ENS & LA	4,103	23,116	11	27,230	27,156	0.3
<b>Employer Sponsored - Total</b>	<b>11,349</b>	<b>36,378</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47,740</b>	<b>47,656</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>General Skilled Migration<sup>(6)</sup></b>						
Skilled Independent	19,217	25,031	3	44,251	44,145	0.2
State/Territory Sponsored Visa Classes	15,265	6,370	2	21,637	21,772	-0.6
Skilled Regional <sup>(7)</sup>	2,888	5,243	1	8,132	8,180	-0.6
<b>General Skilled Migration - Total</b>	<b>37,370</b>	<b>36,644</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>74,020</b>	<b>74,097</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Distinguished Talent	92	108		200	200	
<b>Business Innovation and Investment</b>						
Business Innovation and Investment <sup>(8)</sup> - SSRM	6,562	34		6,596		
Business Innovation and Investment <sup>(8)</sup> - Non SSRM	213	201		414		
<b>Business Innovation and Investment - Total</b>	<b>6,775</b>	<b>235</b>		<b>7,010</b>	<b>7,014</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
1 November Onshore		3		3	3	
<b>Total Skill</b>	<b>55,586</b>	<b>73,368</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>128,973</b>	<b>128,970</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Special Eligibility</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>743</b>		<b>842</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>95,162</b>	<b>94,819</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>190,000</b>	
Expert Panel Family <sup>10</sup>	1,066			1,066		
Expert Panel Family - Residual	2,934			2,934		
<b>Total Expert Panel Family</b>	<b>4,000</b>			<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	

\*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 dependant, carer and remaining relative.
- 4 Includes Designated and non-contributory Parents.
- 5 Includes Employer Nomination Scheme, Labour Agreement, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.
- 6 Includes State/Territory Nominated Independent Scheme and Skilled Independent Regional.
- 7 Includes brothers, sisters, nephews, non-dependant 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.
- 9 Throughout the program year planning levels may change as a result of changes in demand and other factors.
- 10 Family members sponsored by former IMA arrivals (Planning level adopted from the Report of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers).