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IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS TALKING POINTS

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4. Skilled Visas

4.1. Permanent and provisional Skilled visas summary

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- Skilled visa applications are processed according to Government policy priorities. The current ministerial direction (*Ministerial Direction 105*), which came into effect on 15 December 2023, recognises the need to support regional Australia.
 - The Ministerial Direction elevates applications for Employer Sponsored visas in relation to occupations to be carried out in regional Australia to the highest priority.
 - *Ministerial Direction 105* also prioritises applications for occupations in the healthcare and teaching sectors.
- In 2024-25, the Department received more than 167,000 Permanent Skilled visa applications.

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4.6. Skilled – Nominated

- The Skilled – Nominated (subclass 190) visa is a points-tested visa for migrants that have secured a nomination from an Australian State or Territory Government. State and territory governments set their own requirements for potential migrants to secure a nomination for this visa program.
- In 2024-25, the Department received more than 29,000 Skilled – Nominated visa applications, 44.9 per cent more than the year before.

- In 2024-25, the Department finalised more than 34,000 Skilled – Nominated visa applications, 7.6 per cent more than the year before
- As of 30 June 2025, there were fewer than 35,000 Skilled – Nominated visa applications on-hand.
- The Skilled – Nominated visa median processing time for June 2025 was 14 months.
 - New applications are being processed more quickly, especially those in critical sectors such as healthcare.

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**THE HON ANDREW GILES MP**

MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Ref No: MC23-034283

Ms Susan Templeman MP
Chair of Standing Committee on Petitions
Federal Member for Macquarie
petitions.committee.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Templeman

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 December 2023 enclosing Petition EN5466, with 11 signatures, concerning the processing of Skilled Nominated visas (subclass 190). I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to my attention, and I apologise for the delay in responding.

Reducing the number of on-hand visa applications, including in the subclass 190 caseload, has been a priority for the Australian Government. The Department of Home Affairs has been undertaking a range of measures to reduce the processing times for this type of application, and additional resources have been assigned to the caseload.

Under the current Ministerial Direction, for applications which are not employer sponsored and in relation to an occupation to be carried out in a designated regional area, the highest priority is being afforded to those visa applications made in relation to healthcare or teaching occupations. Subclass 190 visa applications that are not made in relation to these specific occupations are given lower priority, and these applications are generally processed in the order in which they were received.

Each application is unique, however, and each is required to meet the eligibility criteria contained in Australia's migration legislation, before a visa can be granted. The time taken to process an application varies depending on a range of circumstances, such as the complexity of the application or whether additional checks and further assessment is required. Some delays in processing are experienced due to character and security checks, along with verification of an applicant's claims. Some applications are also prioritised ahead of others, due to compelling or compassionate reasons.

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Thank you for bringing Petition EN5466 to my attention.

Yours sincerely

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ANDREW GILES

12/2/2024