

Suggested reforms to the Australian immigration system

Changes for all visa categories

- Only require IELTS if the applicant hasn't had an English language education
- When it comes to skills assessment create a list of tertiary education institutes subject to certain conditions (Priority Processing Institute list [PPIS]) in each country whose Alumni would receive priority processing
- Allow People to include parents as dependants on visa applications provided they show the capacity to support them
- Judge criminal records by what would be a crime under Australian law
- Replace Bridging visas with a grace period facility of 18 months that doesn't require employment or being enrolled as a student where the person needs to find a job within the stipulated period of time
- Expand healthcare benefits to include those with tax residency
- Issue cards for each visa holder (Student, Temporary and Permanent) as it would give pride on being resident in Australia

Temporary Visas

- Grant citizenship to children born in Australia to those on temporary work visas for those born after the enactment and before the enactment as this would make Australia a much more attractive place for workers
- Abolish all work visas and replace them with two categories that have their own streams which will simplify visa processing:
 - o Skill Shortage/ Temporary Employment
 - o Regional skill shortage

Permanent visas

- Combine all visa subcategories into one visa with the following streams
 - o Federal Skilled (Subclass 189 replacement)
 - Raise the maximum age to 60
 - Remove the 20 points cap on work experience

- Reduce the point qualifying
- Allot points for being trained in a shortage skill
- Allot extra points for graduating for an institute on the PPIS list
- Allot extra points for being in a speciality occupation in the currently defined standard
- Remove the NAATI category and instead place translators as a speciality occupation
- In the partner category merge the two categories in one:
 - Single, have an Australian partner
 - Skilled partner who meets English requirements
- Merge study in regional Australia and Australian study requirement into one category
- State skilled (Subclass 190 replacement)
 - Allow each individual state to determine their points test criteria and allot visas based on a quota allotted by the federal government
- Employer sponsored (Subclass 186 replacement)
- Australian experience (for onshore applicants who have had either work or work and study experience for a stipulated period of time similar to how ILR is granted in the UK)
 - Keep no age cap here along with no cap on the number that can be granted
- Investors
- Replace the Australian values statement with the 'Our common bond test' and remove that requirement for citizenship
- Make voting mandatory for Permanent residents
- Replace the travel facility with the requirement of having spent a certain amount of time within a given time period in Australia to retain permanent residency
- Remove the EOI stage and make the application a one step process. Give decisions at the end of every month and computerize the process as much as possible to reduce the need for case workers. This would also serve to eliminate backlogged applications and also make people a lot more motivated to apply as they could get a faster response.
- Introduction of a fee to have one's application given priority
- Include NZ permanent residents in the trans-tasman travel agreement

