



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

2017–18 Migration Program Report

Program year to 30 June 2018

Table of Contents

Executive summary	3
Skill stream	3
Family stream	4
Child Stream	4
Special eligibility	4
States and territories	4
Migration program summary	5
Source countries	6
State of intended residence	7
Skill stream in detail	10
Employer Sponsored	10
Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)	11
Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)	12
General Skilled Migration (GSM)	13
Skilled Independent	13
State and Territory Nominated	13
Skilled Regional	13
Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP)	13
State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM)	14
Occupations of primary applicants in the Skill stream	15
Family stream in detail	16
Partner	16
Other Family	17
Parent	17
Non-Contributory Parent	17
Contributory Parent	17
Special Eligibility stream	18
Child visas	18

Executive summary

The total permanent Migration Program outcome for 2017–18 was **162,417 places**.

The overall program includes a set of sub-programs managed within a ceiling, as well as the Child program, which is demand driven and does not have a ceiling.

- The breakdown for those sub-programs within the Migration Program, under the ceiling, was as follows:
 - 111,099 places were delivered in the Skill stream;
 - 47,732 places were delivered in the Family stream; and
 - 236 places were delivered in the Special Eligibility stream.
- The outcome of Child visas for the year was 3,350 places.

This outcome is within the planning ceiling of 190,000 places set through the Government's budget process. This figure is a ceiling, not a target.

Outcome levels vary due to a number of factors, with the Department of Home Affairs committed to delivering the best possible migration outcomes for the Australian community.

There is now a higher proportion of high-risk cases across our programs, with applications lodged by individuals with complex immigration histories, including extensive travel histories, unsuccessful visa applications and/or periods of being unlawful in Australia. These require increased scrutiny, including more character and bona fides checks to ensure that the Australian community is protected.

In this program year, the number of migration applications finalised were only marginally lower (reducing by only 0.7 per cent) when compared with the 2016–17 program year. Shifting risks and an increased focus on integrity did, however, result in the number of visa refusals and withdrawals increasing significantly in 2017–18. Total refusals increased by 46.2 per cent, while withdrawals increased by 17 per cent over the previous year.

Skill stream

The Skill stream accounted for 68.4 per cent of the total 2017–18 Migration Program outcome.

At the major group level of the *Australia and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)*, the top three major occupation groups for primary visa grants in the Skill stream were:

- Professionals (66.1 per cent),
- Technicians and Trades Workers (13.3 per cent)
- Managers (8.8 per cent).

Within the Skill stream:

- the Employer Sponsored category had an outcome of 35,528 places. It comprised 32.0 per cent of Skill stream outcomes, with 29,307 places (82.5 per cent) under the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) and 6221 places (17.5 per cent) under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS);
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) had an outcome of 68,111 places. GSM comprised 61.3 per cent of Skill stream outcomes;
- the Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) had an outcome of 7260 places (6.5 per cent); and
- the Distinguished Talent category had an outcome of 200 places (0.2 per cent).

Family stream

The Family stream (excluding Child) accounted for 29.4 per cent of the total 2017–18 Migration Program outcome. Within the Family stream:

- the Partner category had an outcome of 39,799 places. It comprised 83.4 per cent of 2017–18 Family stream outcomes;
- the outcome for Contributory Parent and Non-Contributory Parent categories were 6015 and 1356 places, respectively; and
- the outcome for the Other Family category was 562 places.

Child Stream

Child visas for the year was 3350 places (2.1 per cent of the total 2017–18 Migration Program outcome).

Special eligibility

The Special Eligibility stream outcome of 236 places accounted for 0.1 per cent of the total 2017–18 Migration Program outcome.

States and territories

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

- New South Wales with an outcome of 52,251 (32.2 per cent)
- Victoria with 41,005 (25.2 per cent)
- Queensland with 17,870 (11.0 per cent)
- Western Australia with 13,480 (8.3 per cent)

Smaller numbers of migrants were attracted by:

- South Australia with 12,017 (7.4 per cent)
- Australian Capital Territory with 3277 (2.0 per cent)
- Tasmania with 2775 (1.7 per cent)
- Northern Territory with 2483 (1.5 per cent)

There were 17,259 places where there was no state or territory intended residence indicated.

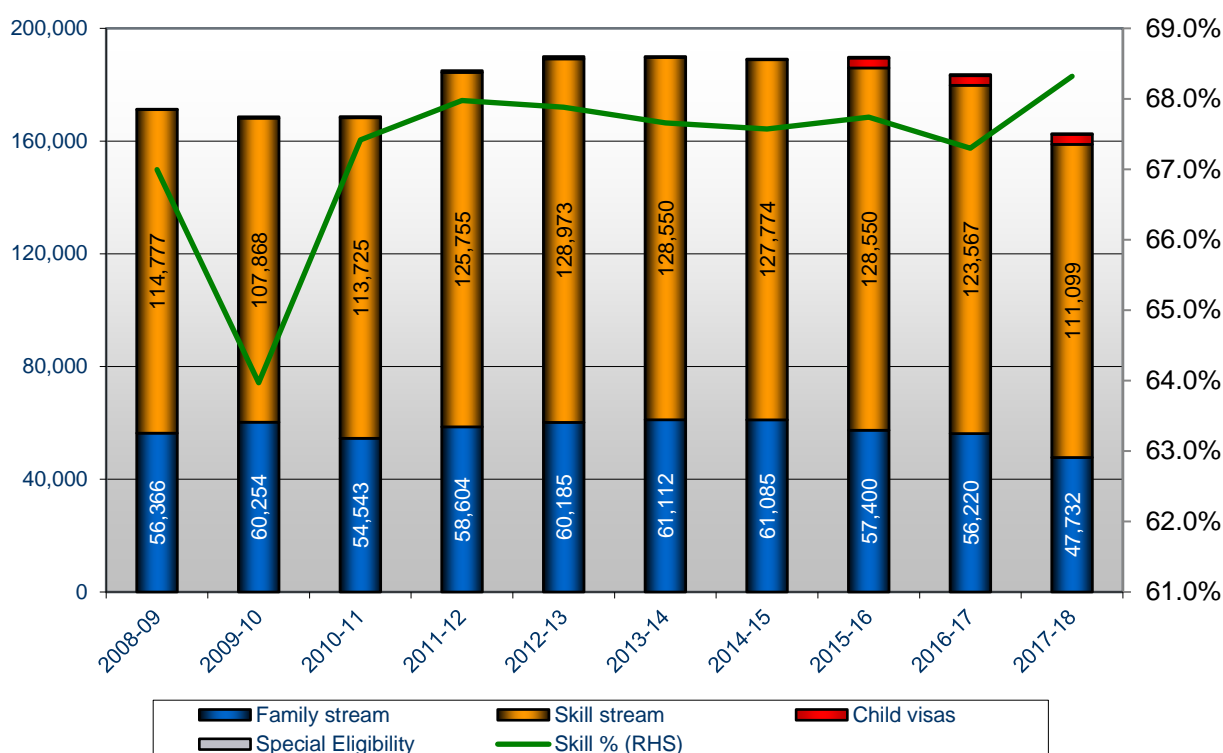
Migration program summary

The total permanent migration program outcome for 2017–18 was 162,417 places:

- Skill stream – 111,099 places;
- Family stream – 47,732 places;
- Special Eligibility stream - 236 places; and
- Child visas – 3,350 places.

Figure 1 presents total permanent Migration Program outcome by year from 2008–09 to 2017–18. It shows that the composition of the total permanent Migration Program has been relatively steady over the last five program years, with the Skill stream comprising on average 67.7 per cent of the total program.

Figure 1 – Migration Program outcome from 2008–09 to 2017-18



The visa categories with the largest component of places granted to persons outside Australia were:

- Skilled Independent with 24,095 places;
- Partner with 21,364 places; and
- State and Territory Nominated visas with 17,452 places.

The visa categories with the largest component of places granted to persons in Australia were:

- Employer Sponsored with 29,738 places;
- Partner with 18,435 places; and
- Skilled Independent with 15,042 places.

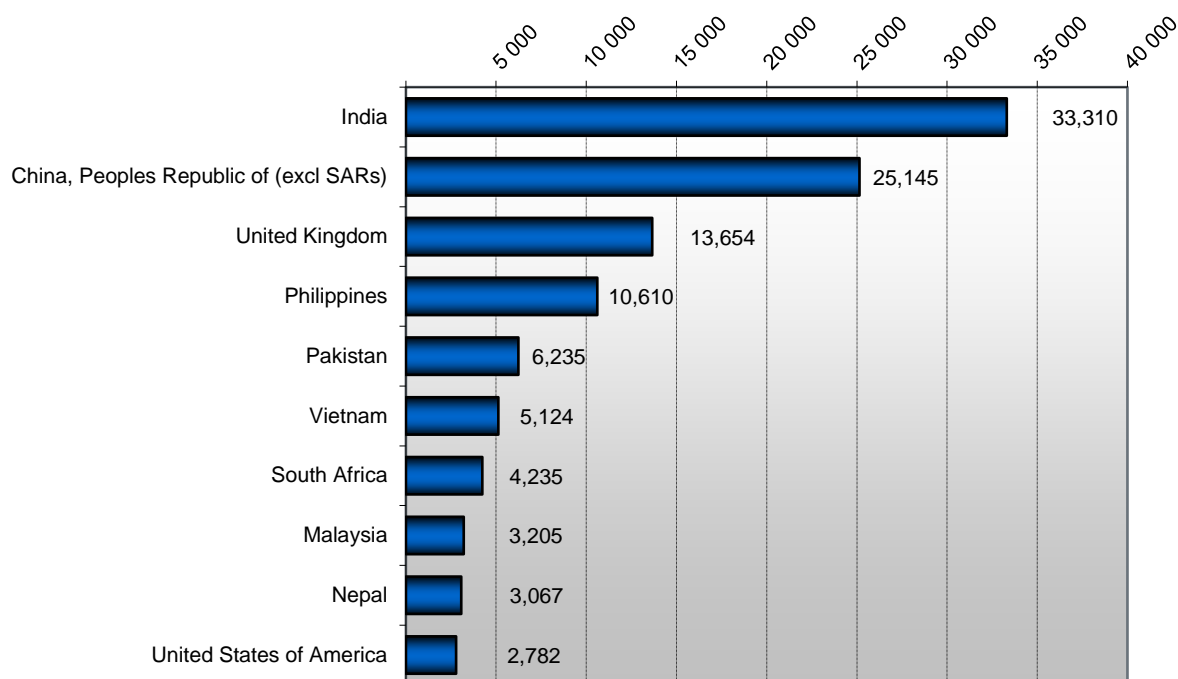
Source countries

The largest source countries of migrants for 2017–18 were:

- India with an outcome of 33,310 places (20.5 per cent), down from 38,854 places in 2016–17;
- China with 25,145 places (15.5 per cent), down from 28,293 places; and
- United Kingdom with 13,654 places (8.4 per cent), down from 17,038 places.

Figure 2 shows the top 10 citizenship countries of migrants, excluding New Zealand citizens.

Figure 2 – Top ten source countries of migrants 2017-18

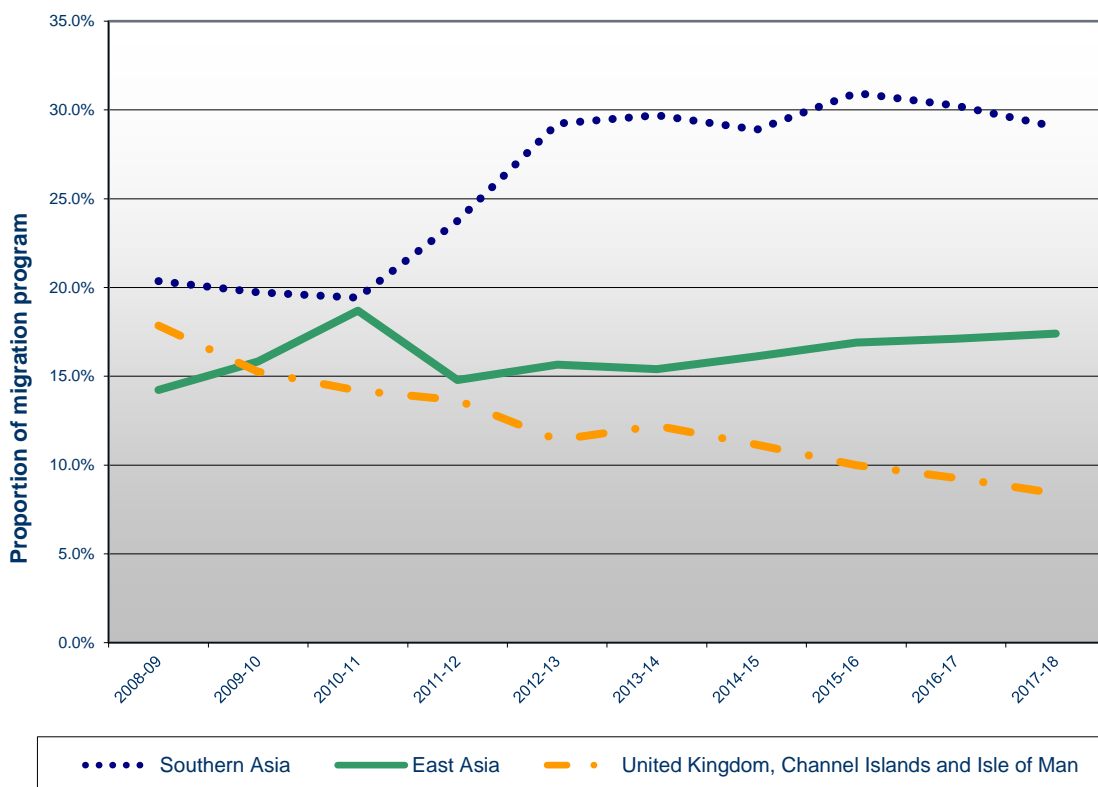


In terms of regions:

- Southern Asia (including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives) accounted for 29.0 per cent of the 2017-18 Migration Program (a slight decrease from 30.2 per cent in 2016–17).
- East Asia (including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and Mongolia) had an increase in its share of the program from 17.1 per cent in 2016-17 to 17.4 per cent in 2017-18.
- United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man share of the program has declined from 9.3 per cent in 2016–17 to 8.4 per cent in 2017–18.

Figure 3 illustrates changes in the proportion of migrants from Southern Asia, East Asia and the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Figure 3 – Proportion of migration program – regions from 2008–09 to 2017–18



State of intended residence

Table 1 below outlines the 2017-18 Migration Program outcomes by intended state of residence.

Table 1 – State of intended residence –2017-18

State of intended residence	Outcome numbers	% of the total program
New South Wales	52,251	32.2
Victoria	41,005	25.2
Queensland	17,870	11.0
Western Australia	13,480	8.3
South Australia	12,017	7.4
Australian Capital Territory	3277	2.0
Tasmania	2775	1.7
Northern Territory	2483	1.5
Not Specified	17,259	10.6

Figure 4 shows the state of intended residence over the last decade.

Figure 4 – State of intended residence – 2008-09 to 2017-18

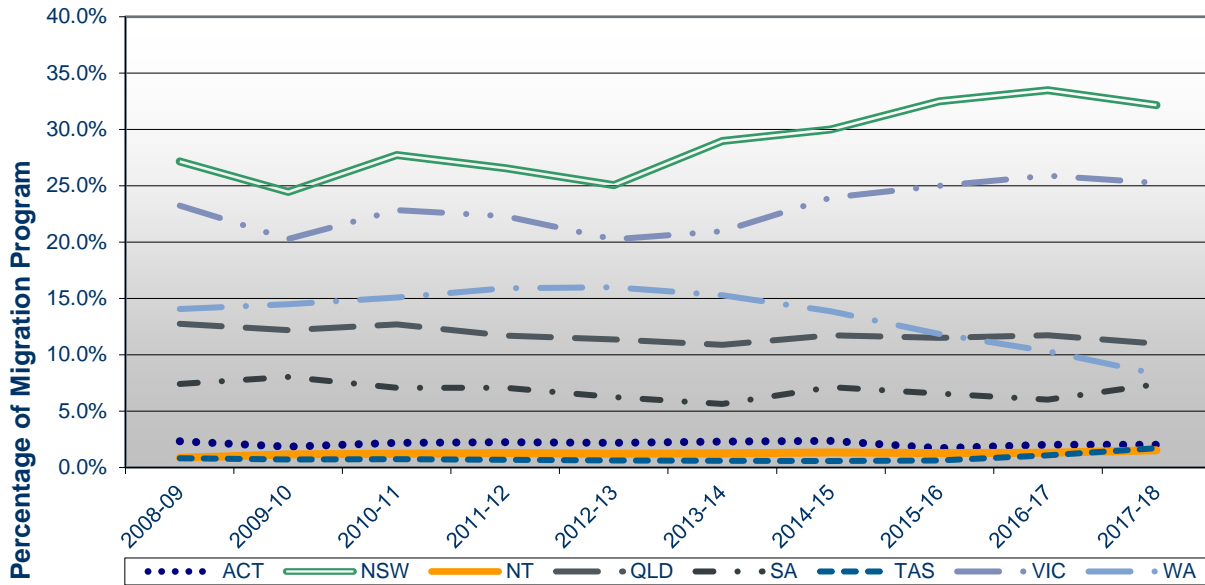


Figure 5 shows the state of intended residence for the 2017-18 program year compared with the previous program year.

Figure 5 – State of intended residence in Skill stream – comparison between 2016-17 and 2017-18

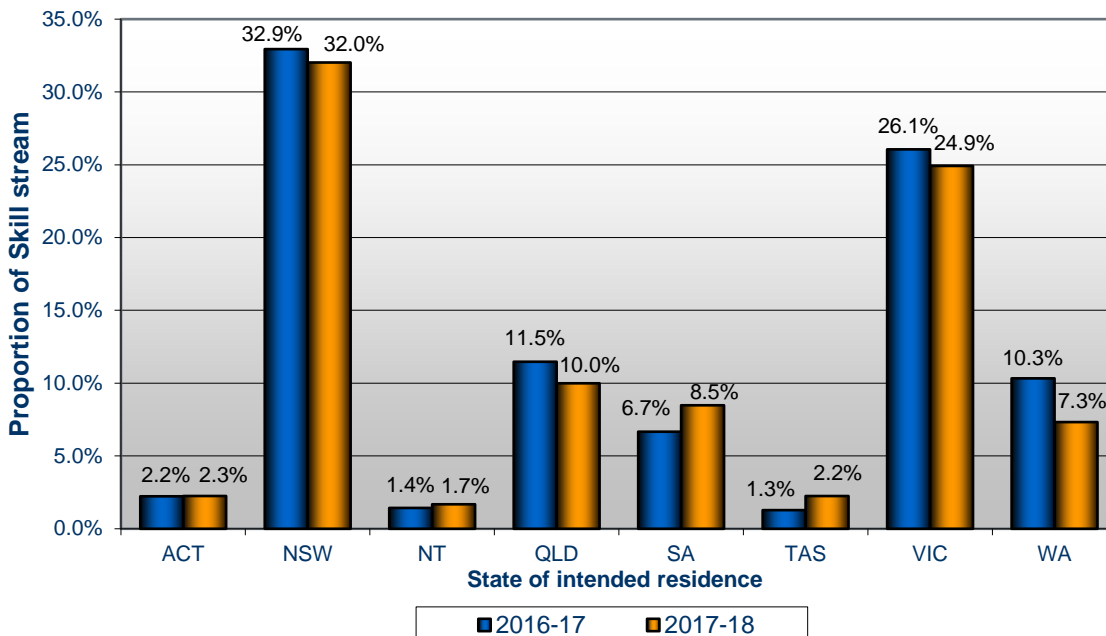


Figure 5 shows that for Skill stream migrants:

- South Australia recorded the largest increase in Skill stream migrants in the state of intended residence, from 6.7 per cent in 2016-17 up to 8.5 per cent in 2017-18.
- The most significant decline was in Western Australia (3 per cent decrease).

As shown in *Figure 6*, none of the states recorded a noticeable increase in Family stream migrants over the last decade. The largest decrease in the state of intended residence as a proportion of the Family stream and Child visa outcome over the last decade was recorded against NSW. NSW decreased from 34.8 per cent in 2016-17 to 32.6 per cent in 2017-18.

Figure 6 – State of intended residence in Family stream (including Child Visas) 2016-17 compared to 2017-18

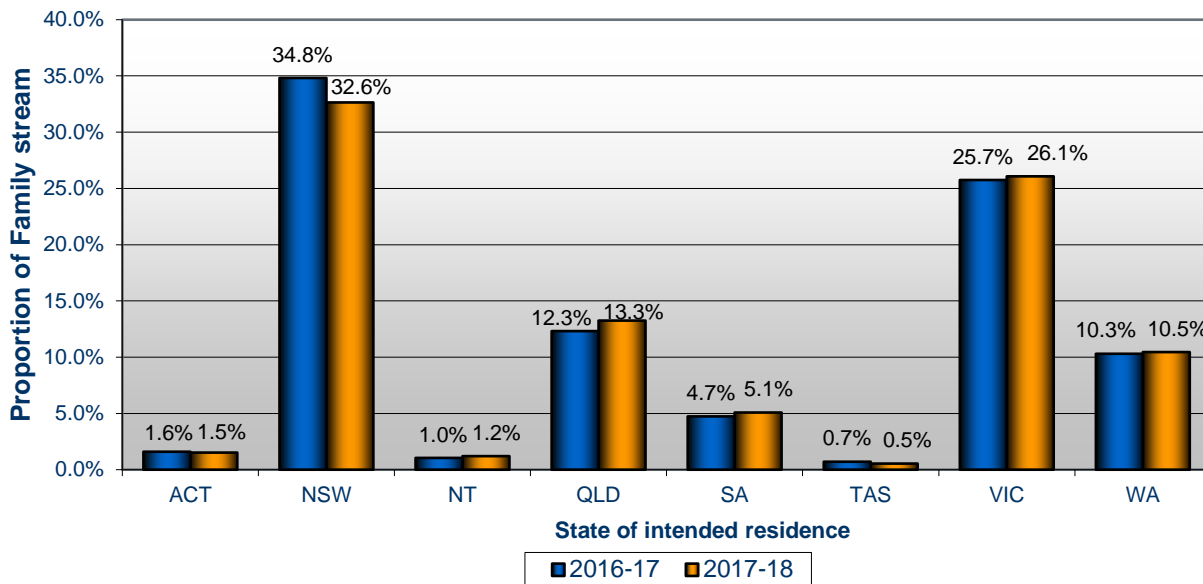
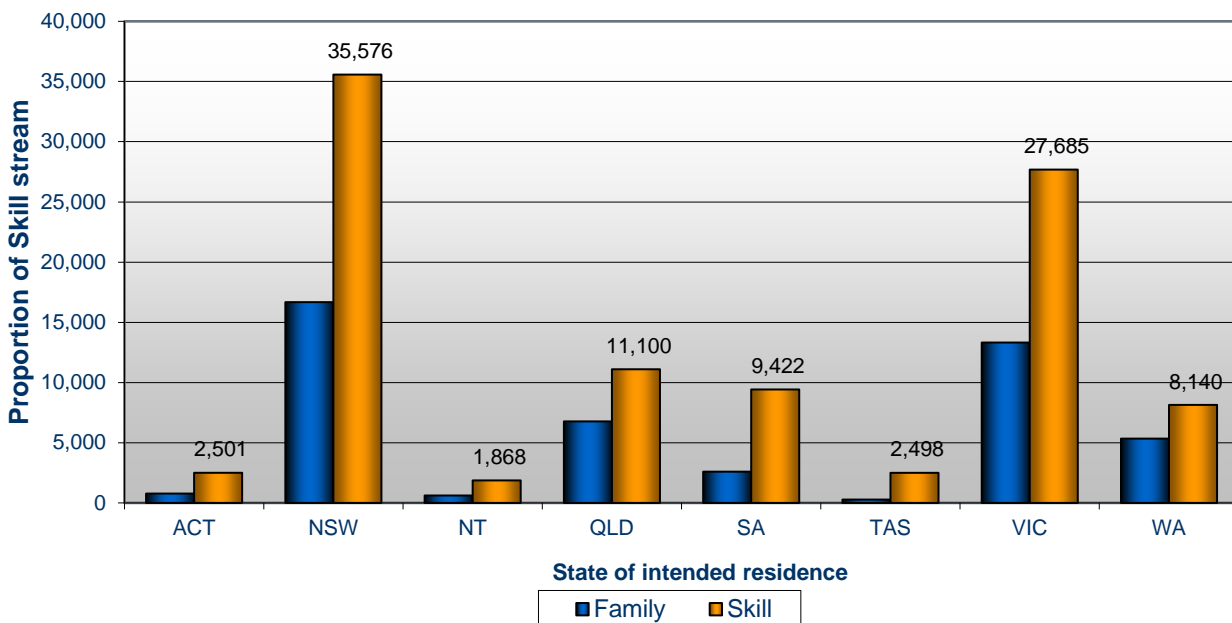


Figure 7 shows the number of places by state of intended residence for the Skill and Family streams respectively for the 2017-18 program year.

Figure 7 State of intended residence - skilled stream compared to family stream places for 2017-18



Skill stream in detail

The Skill Stream receives the majority of the permanent migration visas (111,099 places) which equates to 68.4 per cent of the total permanent Migration Program.

Of these, 49.7 per cent of places were for clients outside Australia (55,246 places) and 50.3 per cent of places for clients in Australia (55,853 places).

The Skill stream focuses on migrants to help fill skill needs. The program includes the following categories:

- Employer Sponsored category – 35,528 places
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) – 68,111 places
- Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) – 7260 places
- Distinguished Talent – 200 places.

A further breakdown of outcomes under the above skilled categories is provided below.

Demand for places in the Skill stream has decreased by 19.3 per cent in the 2017–18 program year compared to 2016–17. There were 133,856 first stage applications received in the Skill stream in 2017–18 compared to 165,940 in 2016–17. The decline was mainly attributed to the Employer Sponsored category.

As at 30 June 2018, there were 101,419 applicants in the pipeline, a decrease of 1.5 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

Employer Sponsored

The Employer Sponsored category outcome for 2017–18 was 35,528 places.

The majority of these places (83.7 per cent) were made up of applicants in Australia, slightly down from 86.3 per cent in the 2016–17 program year.

The 2017–18 Employer Sponsored outcome comprised 32.0 per cent of the total Skill stream, and is comprised of two components:

- RSMS, with an outcome of 6221 places; and
- ENS, with an outcome of 29,307 places.

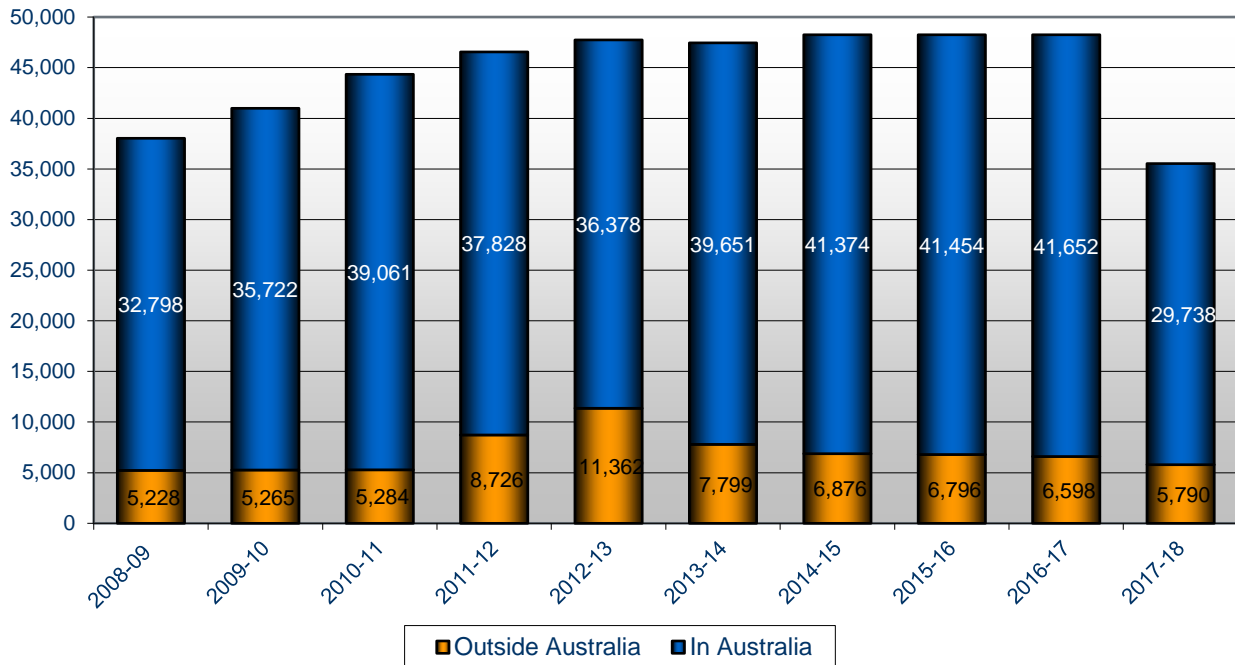
Demand for places in the Employer Sponsored category in 2017–18 decreased by 27.1 per cent compared to 2016–17.

During 2017–18, 51,969 applications were received in this category compared to 71,327 applications in 2016–17.

As at 30 June 2018, there were 52,503 applicants in the pipeline for visas in the Employer Sponsored category. This compares to 53,094 applicants as at 30 June 2017.

Figure 8 presents the Employer Sponsored category outcomes since 2008–09.

Figure 8 – Employer Sponsored outcomes from 2008–09 to 2017-18 by the location of the applicant when the application is lodged (in Australia versus outside Australia)



Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)

The RSMS outcome in 2017–18 was 6221 places, a 39.0 per cent decrease on the 2016–17 outcome of 10,198 places – with this visa program particularly impacted by the integrity issues outlined in the executive summary.

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 2017–18 indicated they would reside in:

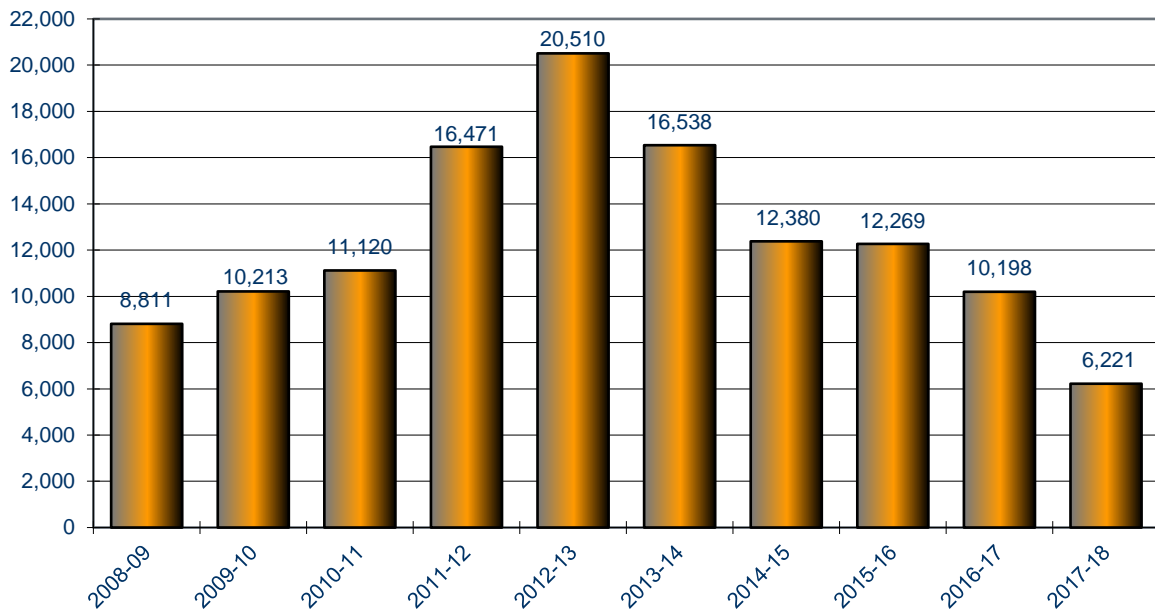
- Western Australia (31.5 per cent);
- Queensland (20.1 per cent); or
- Victoria (11.2 per cent).

Demand for places in the RSMS category decreased in 2017–18, with 17,003 applications received compared to 20,236 applications in 2016–17.

The RSMS pipeline was 22,661 applicants as at 30 June 2018, an increase of 21.2 per cent (3965 applicants) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

Figure 9 presents the RSMS category outcomes since 2008–09.

Figure 9 – RSMS outcomes from 2008–09 to 2017–18



Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)

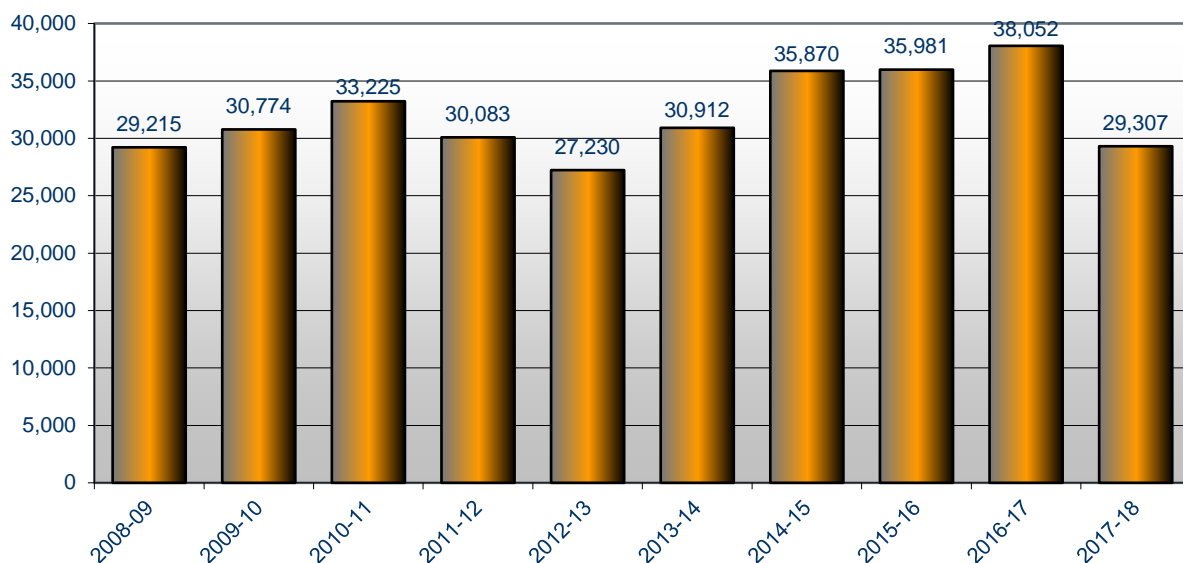
The outcome for ENS was 29,307 places in 2017–18, including grants made under Labour Agreements.

The 2017–18 ENS outcome is 23.0 per cent (8745 places) less than the 2016–17 outcome of 38,052 places.

Demand for places in the ENS category in the 2017–18 program year was 31.6 per cent lower (16,125 places) with 34,966 applications lodged, compared to 51,091 applications lodged in the 2016–17 program year. The ENS pipeline was 29,842 applicants as at 30 June 2018, a decrease of 13.2 per cent (4556 applicants) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

Figure 10 presents the ENS category outcomes since 2008–09.

Figure 10 – ENS outcomes from 2008–09 to 2017–18



General Skilled Migration (GSM)

The GSM category outcome for 2017–18 was 68,111 places (61.3 per cent of the Skill stream). GSM is comprised of three categories:

- Skilled Independent with an outcome of 39,137 places;
- State and Territory Nominated with an outcome of 27,400 places; and
- Skilled Regional with 1574 places.

The GSM pipeline at 30 June 2018 was 29,911 applicants, a decrease of 13.8 per cent from 34,697 applicants at 30 June 2017.

Skilled Independent

The Skilled Independent category outcome in 2017–18 was 39,137 places (35.2 per cent of the Skill stream).

Applicants located outside Australia accounted for 61.6 per cent of the outcome for 2017–18.

In the Skilled Independent visa category, there were 35,107 applications in 2017–18 compared to 49,613 applications in 2016–17. As at 30 June 2018, 13,430 applicants remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 31.5 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

State and Territory Nominated

The State and Territory Nominated visas within the State/Territory Nominated and Regional category delivered an outcome of 27,400 places (24.7 per cent of the Skill stream), an increase of 15.3 per cent on the 2016–17 outcome of 23,765 places.

Demand for State and Territory Nominated places increased by 12.0 per cent from 27,523 applications in 2016–17 to 30,816 applications in 2017–18. The pipeline increased over the 2017–18 program year by 12.6 per cent (1783 persons) from 14,146 applicants as at 30 June 2017 to 15,930 applicants as at 30 June 2018.

Skilled Regional

Skilled Regional visas delivered an outcome of 1574 places, a decrease of 5.7 per cent over the outcome for 2016–17 of 1670 places.

In 2017–18, there was a 36.7 per cent decrease in applications (1338 applications in 2017–18 compared to 2114 applications in 2016–17).

Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP)

The 2017–18 outcome for the BIIP was 7260 places.

Demand for places in this category increased by 5.8 per cent in 2017–18, with 16,816 applications made compared to 15,888 applications made in 2016–17.

The BIIP pipeline increased over the 2017–18 program year by 25.5 per cent (3800 applicants) from 14,882 applicants as at 30 June 2017 to 18,682 applicants as at 30 June 2018.

State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM)

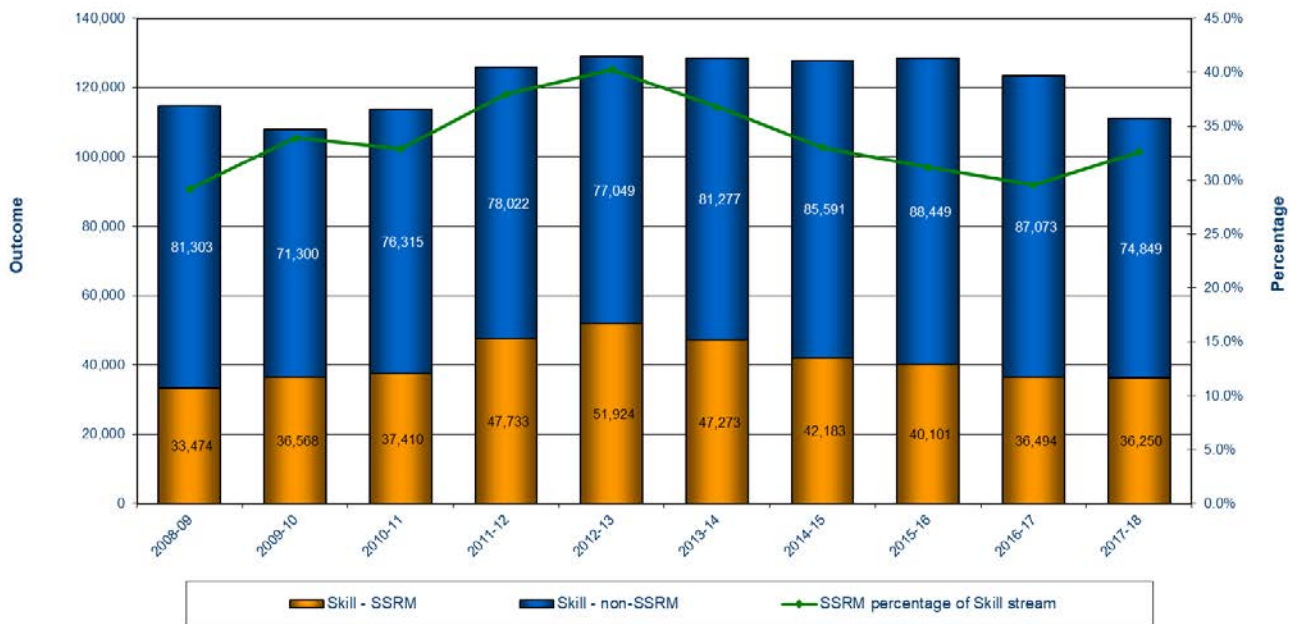
SSRM refers to those elements of the programs described above with a particular state or regional focus. Specifically, the elements included are:

- State and Territory Nominated visas, with an outcome of 27,400 places;
- RSMS, with an outcome of 6221 places;
- BIIP – State and Territory Sponsored Business Skills, with an outcome of 1055 places; and
- Skilled Regional visas with an outcome of 1574 places.

The total SSRM outcome was 36,250 places. This outcome represents 32.6 per cent of the Skill stream in 2017–18.

Figure 11 shows the SSRM outcomes since 2008-09.

Figure 11 – SSRM outcomes 2008–09 to 2017-18

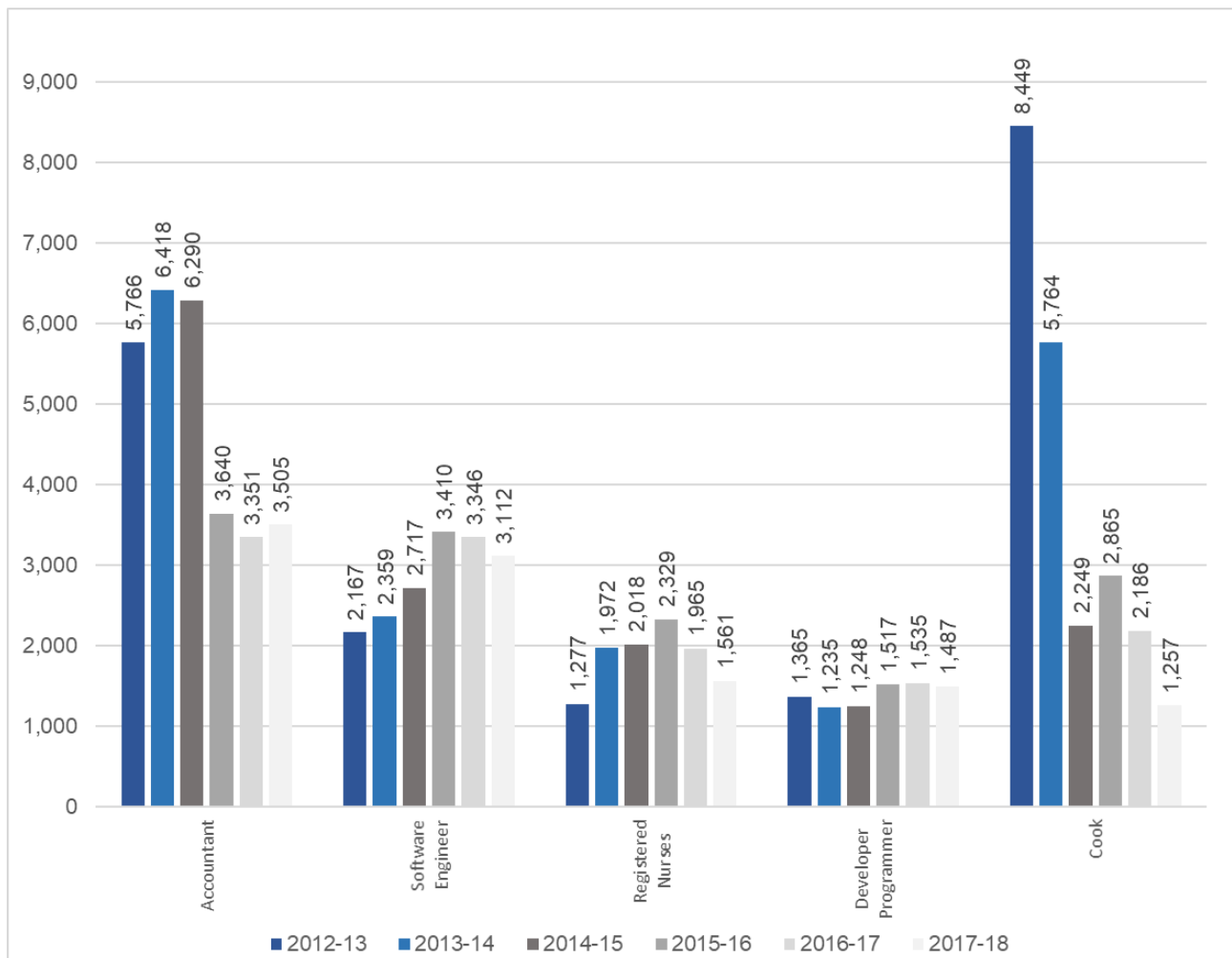


Occupations of primary applicants in the Skill stream

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 33,062 places (66.1 per cent), followed by Technicians and Trades Workers with 6638 places (13.3 per cent) and Managers 4428 places (8.8 per cent).

Figure 12 shows the top five occupations in the Skill stream since 2012-13.

Figure 12 - the top five occupations in the Skill stream outcome in 2017-18, compared to previous years.



Family stream in detail

In the Migration Program, Family stream migration has three main categories. They are:

- Partner - includes Prospective Marriage and Partner (provisional) 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 2017-18 was 47,732 places (29.4 per cent of the total Migration Program outcome).

Demand for places in the Family stream in 2017-18 was 17.6 per cent lower than in 2016-17 (84,531 first stage applications in 2016-17 compared to 69,678 applications in 2017-18).

The pipeline as at 30 June 2018 was 194,908 applicants, an increase of 1.6 per cent compared to the pipeline of 191,933 applicants as at 30 June 2017. The Partner and the Non-Contributory Parent categories accounted for 41.5 per cent and 26.0 per cent of the total Family stream pipeline, respectively.

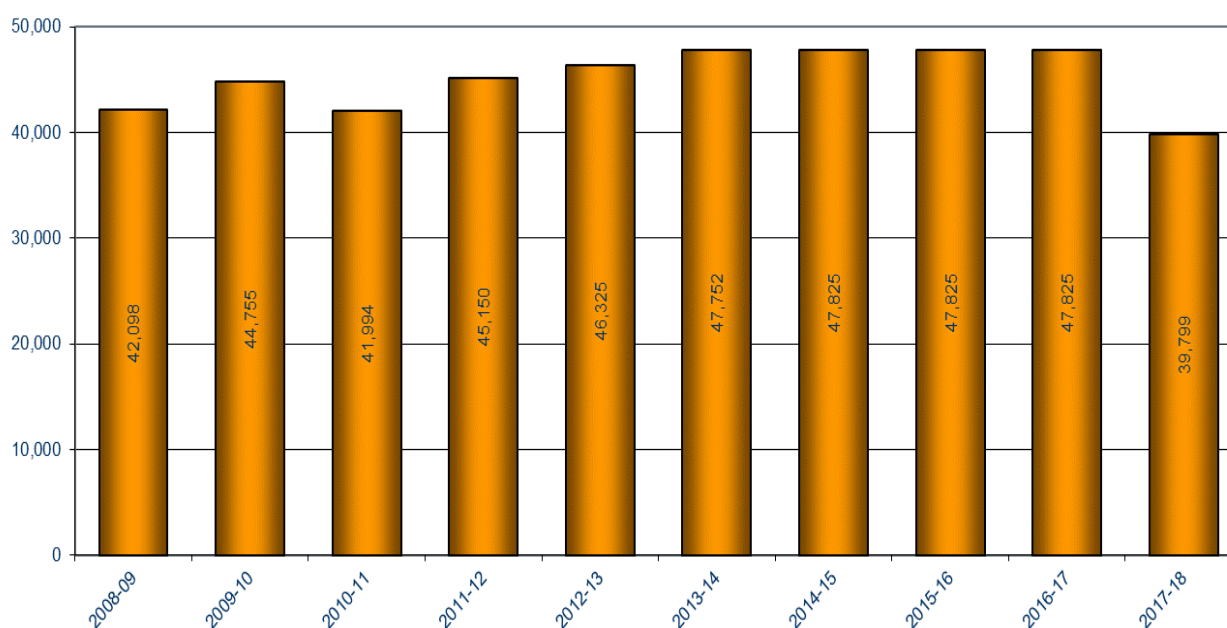
Partner

The 2017-18 outcome in the Partner category was 39,799 places. This outcome comprised 83.4 per cent of the total Family stream, comprising 36,767 Partner and 3032 Prospective Marriage visas.

Demand for places decreased by 5.4 per cent to 54,037 applications in 2017-18 from 57,138 applications in 2016-17. The pipeline as at 30 June 2018 was 80,539 applicants, an increase of 1.9 per cent compared to the pipeline of 79,027 applicants as at 30 June 2017.

Figure 13 shows annual Partner outcomes since 2008-09.

Figure 13 – Partner outcomes from 2008–09 to 2017-18



Other Family

The Other Family category outcome for 2017-18 was 562 places.

The Other Family category 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 2017–18, and queuing arrangements applied.

Table 2 presents a detailed breakdown of the outcome for this category.

Table 2 – Other Family category outcome for 2017-18

Group	Outside Australia	In Australia	Total	Percentage of Other Family category
Remaining Relative	52	<5	56	10.0
Carer	250	120	370	65.8
Aged Dependent Relative	<5	0	<5	0.5
Orphan Relative	127	6	133	23.7
Total	432	130	562	100.0

Demand for places in the Other Family category decreased between 2016-17 and 2017-18 by 14.3 per cent.

The pipeline as at 30 June 2018 increased by 0.9 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

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 2017-18 was 1356 places. Demand for places decreased by 1161 applications (or 37.1 per cent) between 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018.

As at 30 June 2018, 50,642 applicants remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 2.9 per cent (or 1531 applications) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

Contributory Parent

The Contributory Parent category outcome for 2017-18 was 6015 places. Demand for places decreased by 10,249 applications (or 46.9 per cent) between 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018.

As at 30 June 2018, 48,595 applicants remain in the pipeline, an increase of 8.3 per cent compared to the pipeline of 44,886 applicants as at 30 June 2017.

Special Eligibility stream

The outcome for the Special Eligibility stream was 236 places. This outcome is for Ministerial Intervention grants under the Former Resident (Subclass 151) visa.

Child visas

Since 2015–16, the Child program is demand driven but remains within the overall ceiling of permanent Migration Program places with an indicative planning level of 3485.

The Child program outcome was 3350 places, which accounted for 2.1 per cent of the permanent migration places. Of those grants, 81.3 per cent of applicants located outside Australia.

Demand for places in 2017-18 has decreased by 4.8 per cent to 4186 applications in 2017-18 from 4398 applications in 2016-17.

As at 30 June 2018, 3093 applicants were in the pipeline, an increase of 9.1 per cent (or 257 applications) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2018.

Figure 14 shows annual child visa outcomes since 2008-09.

Figure 14 – Child visas outcome from 2008 – 09 to 2017 - 18

