




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

# **2016–17 Migration Programme Report**

Programme year to 30 June 2017

## Contents

Executive summary .....	1
Skill stream .....	1
Family stream .....	1
Special eligibility .....	2
States and territories .....	2
Migration programme summary .....	3
Source countries .....	4
State of intended residence .....	5
Skill stream in detail .....	7
Employer Sponsored .....	7
Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) .....	8
Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) .....	9
General Skilled Migration (GSM) .....	10
Skilled Independent .....	10
State and Territory Nominated .....	10
Skilled Regional .....	10
Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) .....	10
State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM) .....	11
Occupations of primary applicants in the Skill stream .....	11
Family stream in detail .....	13
Partner .....	13
Other Family .....	14
Parent .....	14



Non-Contributory Parent .....	14
Contributory Parent .....	14
Special Eligibility stream .....	15
Child visas .....	15

## Executive summary

The total permanent migration programme outcome for 2016–17 was 183,608 places within the planning level of 190,000.

The major source countries in the migration programme were India (21.2 per cent), China (15.4 per cent) and the United Kingdom (9.3 per cent).

Within the managed migration programme the breakdown was:

- 123,567 places were delivered in the Skill stream;
- 56,220 places were delivered in the Family stream; and
- 421 places were delivered in the Special Eligibility stream.

From 2015–16 the Child programme has sat outside the managed migration programme, but remains within the overall ceiling of permanent migration places. The outcome of Child visas for the year was 3400 places.

### Skill stream

The Skill stream accounted for 67.3 per cent of the total 2016–17 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 (63.9 per cent), Technicians and Trades Workers (17.1 per cent) and Managers (10.4 per cent).

Within the Skill stream:

- the Employer Sponsored category had an outcome of 48,250 places. It comprised 39.0 per cent of the Skill stream outcome, with 38,052 places (78.9 per cent) granted under the Employer Nomination Scheme and 10,198 places (21.1 per cent) granted under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme;
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) had an outcome of 67,857 places. GSM comprised 54.9 per cent of the Skill stream outcome;
- the Business Innovation and Investment Programme had an outcome of 7260 places; and
- the Distinguished Talent category had an outcome of 200 places.

State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM) had an outcome of 36,494 (29.5 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 30.6 per cent of the total 2016–17 migration programme outcome.

Within the Family stream:

- the Partner category had an outcome of 47,825 places. It comprised 85.1 per cent of the 2016–17 Family stream outcome;
- the outcome for Contributory Parent and Non-Contributory Parent categories were 6218 and 1345 places, respectively; and
- the outcome for the Other Family category was 832 places.



## Special eligibility

The Special Eligibility stream outcome of 421 places accounted for 0.2 per cent of the total 2016–17 Migration Programme outcome.

## States and territories

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

- New South Wales with an outcome of 61,470 (33.5 per cent);
- Victoria with 47,549 (25.9 per cent);
- Queensland with 21,519 (11.7 per cent), and
- Western Australia with 18,908 (10.3 per cent).

# Migration programme summary

The total permanent migration programme outcome for 2016–17 was 183,608 places:

- Skill stream – 123,567 places;
- Family stream – 56,220 places;
- Special Eligibility stream - 421 places; and
- Child visas - 3400 places.

Figure 1 presents total permanent migration programme outcome by year from 2007–08 to 2016–17. 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 67.6 per cent of the total programme.

**Figure 1 – Migration programme outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17**

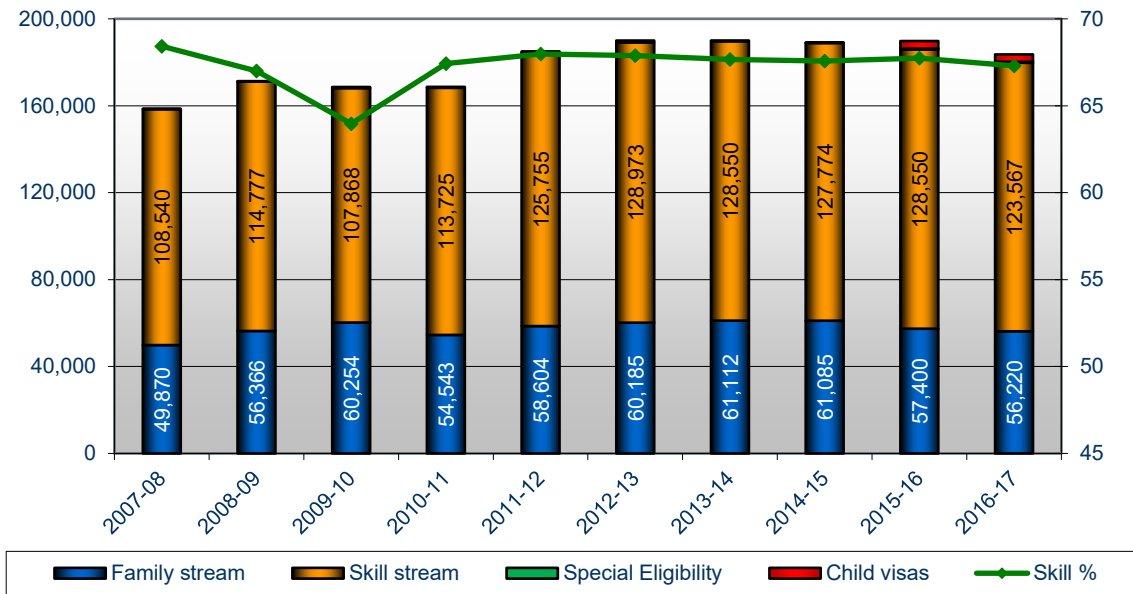
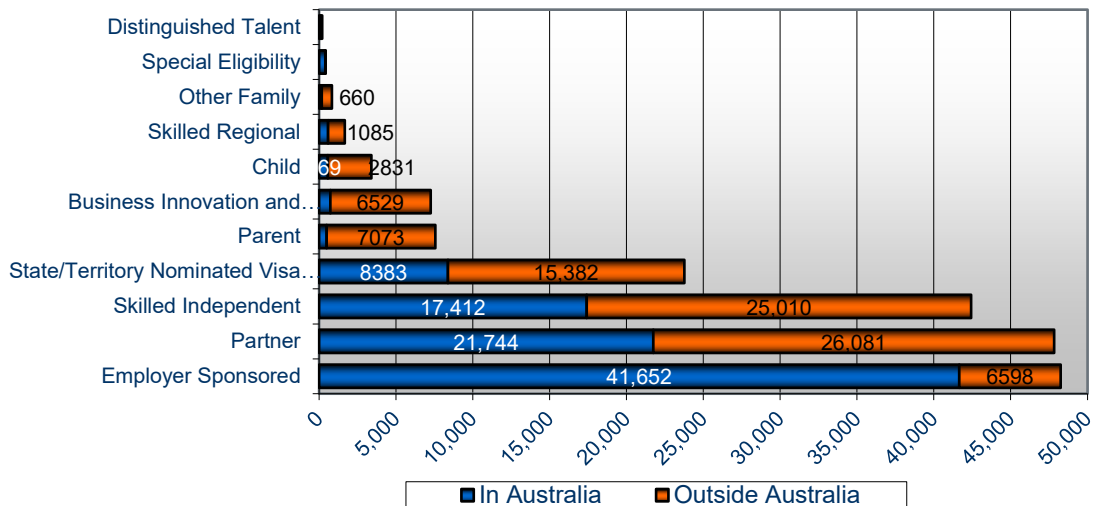


Figure 2 presents outcome of Skill and Family stream categories and Child visas split by applicant location (in Australia or outside Australia).

**Figure 2 – Skill, Family and Child visa outcome 2016–17 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 were:

- Partner with 26,081 places;
- Skilled Independent with 25,010 places; and
- State and Territory Nominated visas with 15,382 places.

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

- Employer Sponsored with 41,652 places;
- Partner with 21,744 places; and
- Skilled Independent with 17,412 places.

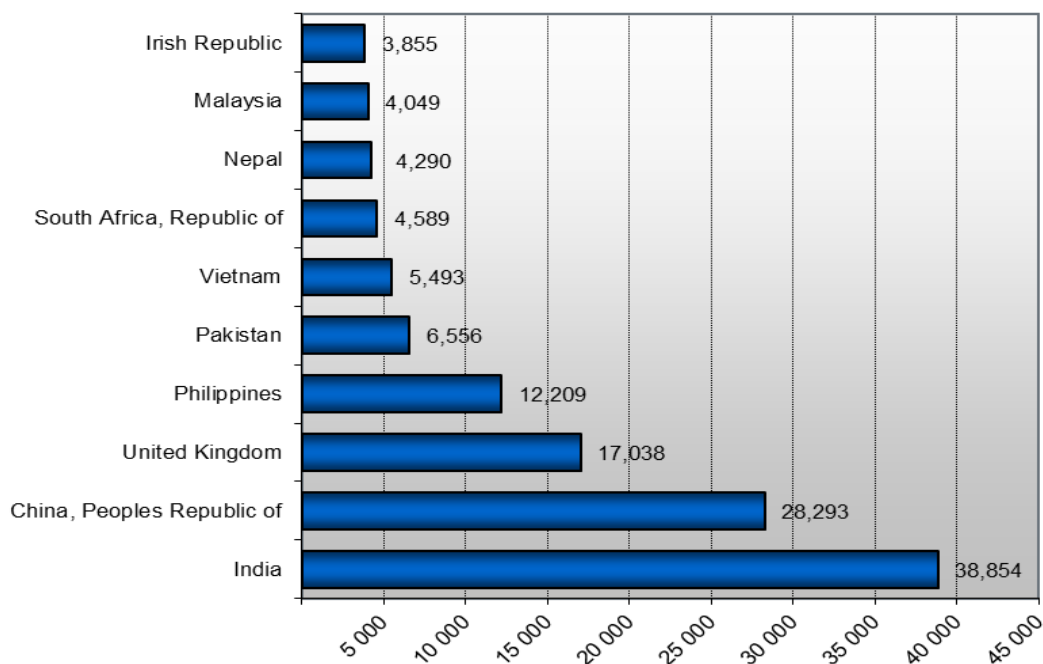
## Source countries

The largest source countries of migrants for 2016–17 were:

- India with an outcome of 38,854 places (21.2 per cent of outcome), down from 40,145 for 2015–16;
- China with 28,293 places (15.4 per cent), down from 29,008; and
- United Kingdom with 17,038 places (9.3 per cent), down from 18,950.

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

**Figure 3 – Top ten source countries of migrants 2016–17**



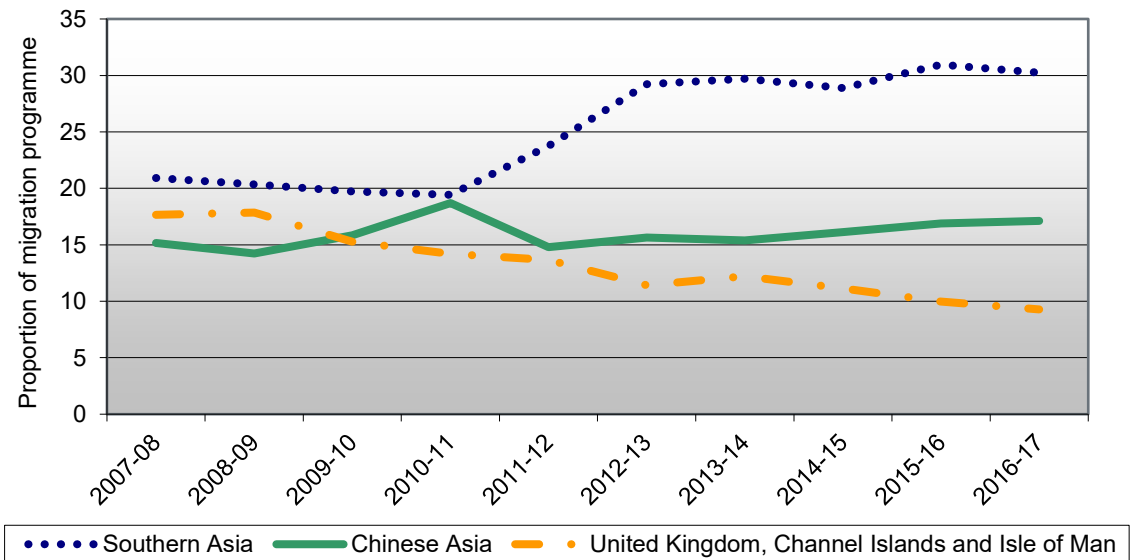
In terms of regions:

- Southern Asia (including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives) now provides 30.2 per cent of the migration programme (a slight decrease from 30.9 per cent in 2015–16);
- Chinese Asia (including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and Mongolia) had an increase in its share of the programme from 16.9 per cent in 2015–16 to 17.1 per cent in 2016–17; and

- United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man has declined since 2006–07. Specifically, its share of the programme has declined from 10.0 per cent in 2015–16 to 9.3 per cent in 2016–17.

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 2007–08 to 2016–17**



## State of intended residence

New South Wales was the largest state of intended residence with an outcome of 33.5 per cent of the total 2016–17 migration programme. Victoria was the second largest state of intended residence with an outcome of 25.9 per cent, Queensland was the third largest with an outcome of 11.7 per cent and Western Australia was the fourth largest with an outcome of 10.3 per cent of the total 2016–17 migration programme.

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

**Figure 5 – State of intended residence – 2007–08 to 2016–17**

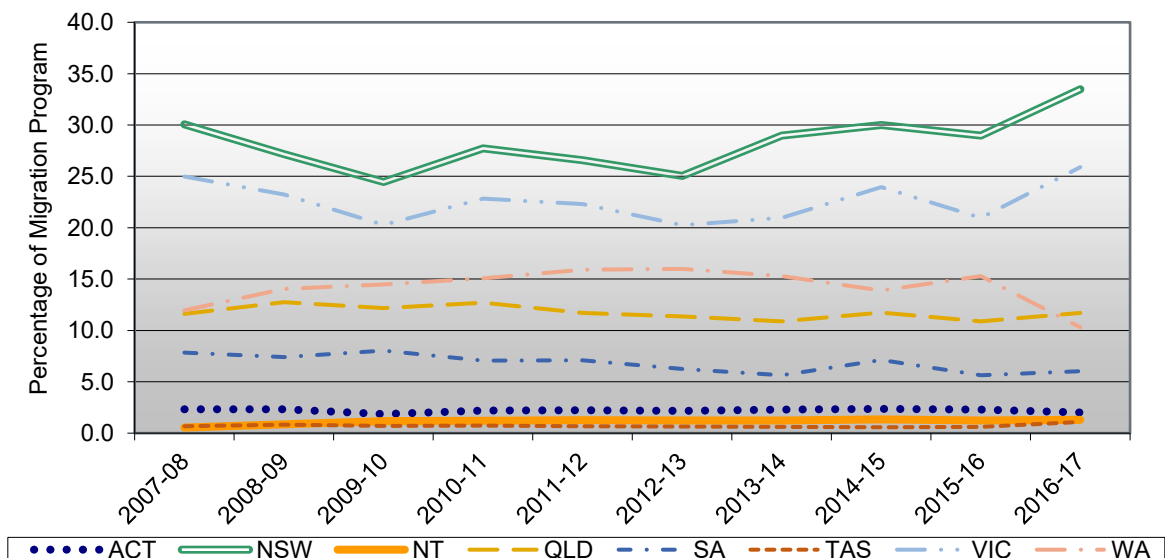




Figure 6 – State of intended residence in Skill stream –2016–17 compared to 2007–08

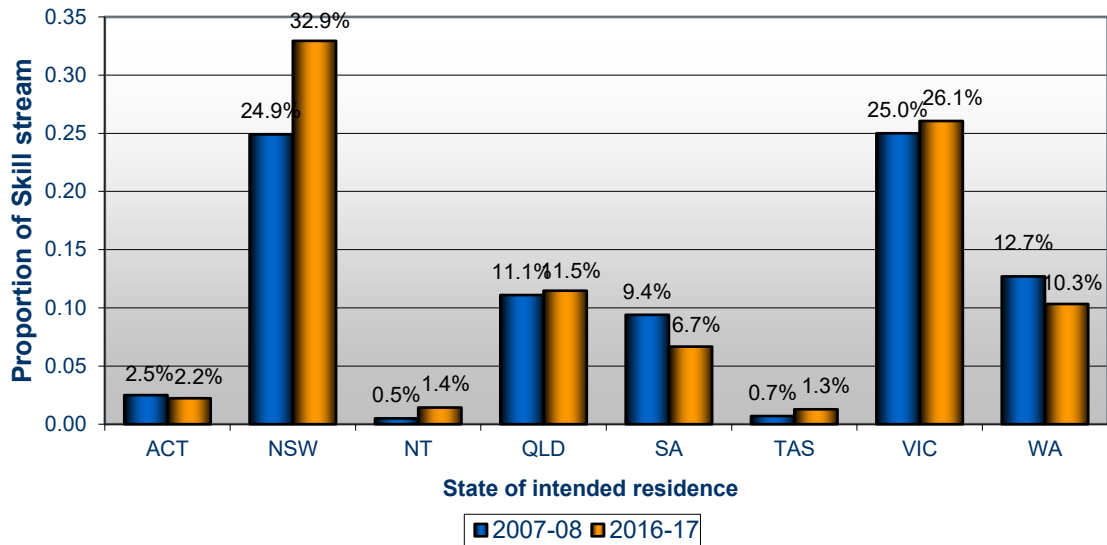
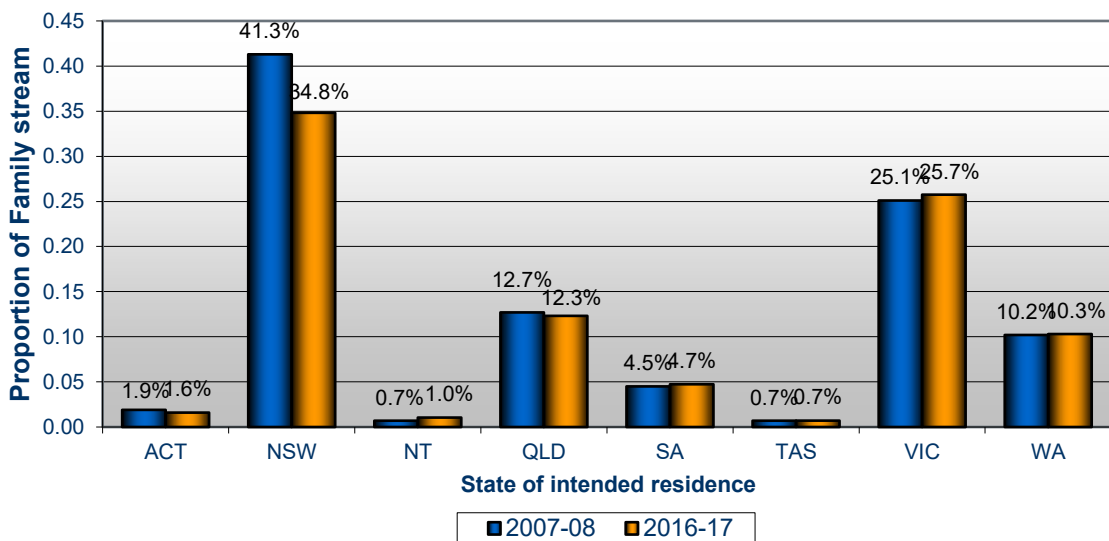


Figure 6 shows NSW recorded the largest increase of Skill stream migrants in the state of intended residence from 24.9 per cent in 2007-08 to 32.9 per cent in 2016-17. South Australia and Western Australia recorded 2.7 and 2.4 per cent decrease over the last decade in this cohort.

As shown in Figure 7, none of the states recorded a noticeable increase of 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 New South Wales (NSW). NSW recorded the largest decrease, from 41.3 per cent in 2007-08 to 34.8 per cent in 2016-17.

Figure 7 – State of intended residence in Family stream (incl. Child Visas) –2016–17 compared to 2007–08



## Skill stream in detail

Australian industry benefited with the majority of the permanent migration visas (123,567 places) being granted to the Skill stream which equates to 67.3 per cent of the total permanent migration programme. This outcome comprised 44.3 per cent of places to clients outside Australia (54,698 places) and 55.7 per cent of places to clients in Australia (68,869 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) – 10,198 places; and
  - Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) – 38,052 places.
- General Skilled Migration (GSM) – 67,857 places, further broken down by:
  - Skilled Independent category – 42,422 places;
  - State and Territory Government Nominated category – 23,765 places; and
  - Skilled Regional category – 1670 places.
- Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) – 7260 places.
- Distinguished Talent – 200 places.

Outcome for Employer Sponsored visas (including RSMS and ENS) represented 39.0 per cent of the total Skill stream outcome in 2016–17.

Demand for places in the Skill stream has increased by 14.4 per cent in the 2016–17 programme year compared to 2015–16. There were 165,126 first stage applications received in the Skill stream in 2016–17 compared to 144,319 in 2015–16. As at 30 June 2017, 101,197 clients (first stage) remain in the pipeline, an increase of 32.7 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

### Employer Sponsored

The Employer Sponsored category outcome for 2016–17 was 48,250 places. The majority of the outcome (86.3 per cent) was from applicants in Australia, slightly down from 85.9 per cent in the 2015–16 programme year.

The Employer Sponsored outcome is comprised of two components:

- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS), with an outcome of 10,198 places; and
- Employer Nomination Scheme and Labour Agreements (ENS), with an outcome of 38,052 places.

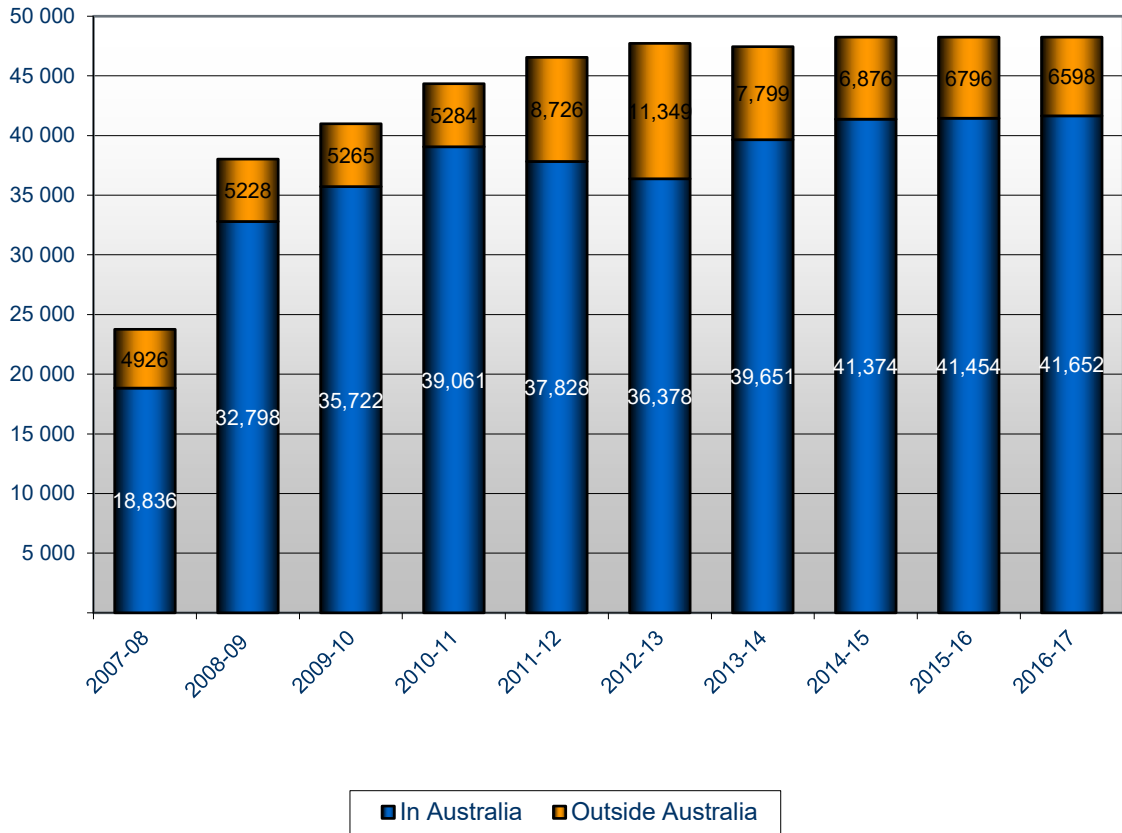
The 2016–17 Employer Sponsored outcome comprised 39.0 per cent of the total Skill stream.

Demand for places in the Employer Sponsored category in 2016–17 had an increase by 12.6 per cent compared to 2015–16. During 2016–17, 70,466 applications were received in this category compared to 62,557 applications in 2015–16.

As at 30 June 2017 there were 52,082 persons in the pipeline for visas in the Employer Sponsored category. This compares to 39,874 persons as at 30 June 2016.

Figure 8 presents the Employer Sponsored category outcome since 2007–08.

**Figure 8 – Employer Sponsored outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17 by the location of the applicant when the application is lodged (in Australia versus outside Australia)**



## Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)

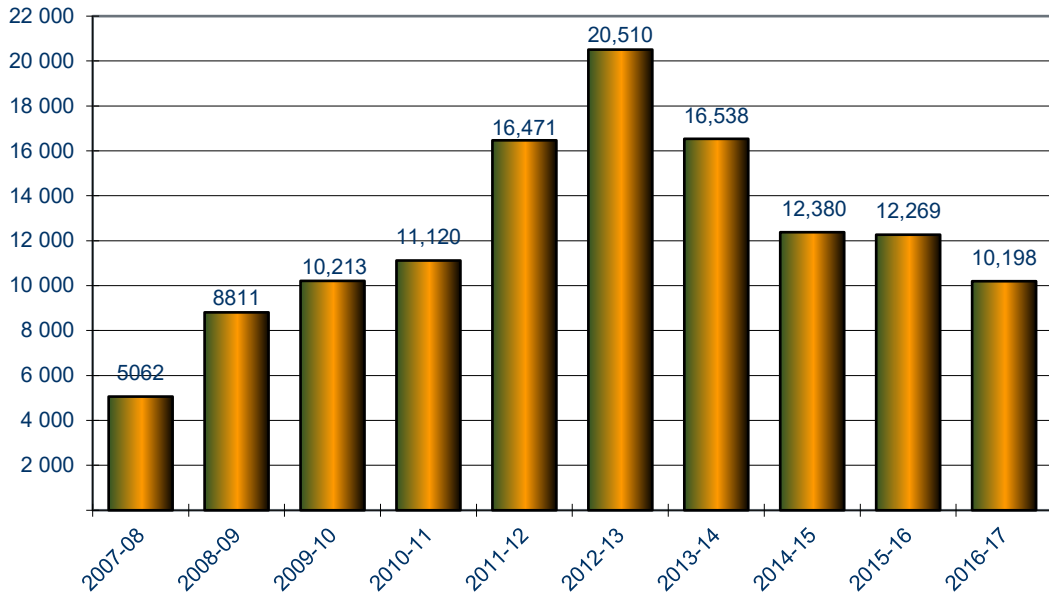
The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) outcome in 2016–17 was 10,198 places, a 16.9 per cent decrease on the 2015–16 outcome of 12,269 places.

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 2016-17 indicated they would reside in either Western Australia (37.1 per cent), Queensland (20.9 per cent) or South Australia (10.7 per cent).

Demand for places in the RSMS category was higher in 2016–17 with 19,926 applications received compared to 17,533 applications in 2015–16. The RSMS pipeline was 18,341 persons as at 30 June 2017, an increase of 53.2 per cent (6369 persons) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

Figure 9 presents the outcome of the RSMS component since the 2007–08 programme year.

Figure 9 – RSMS outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17

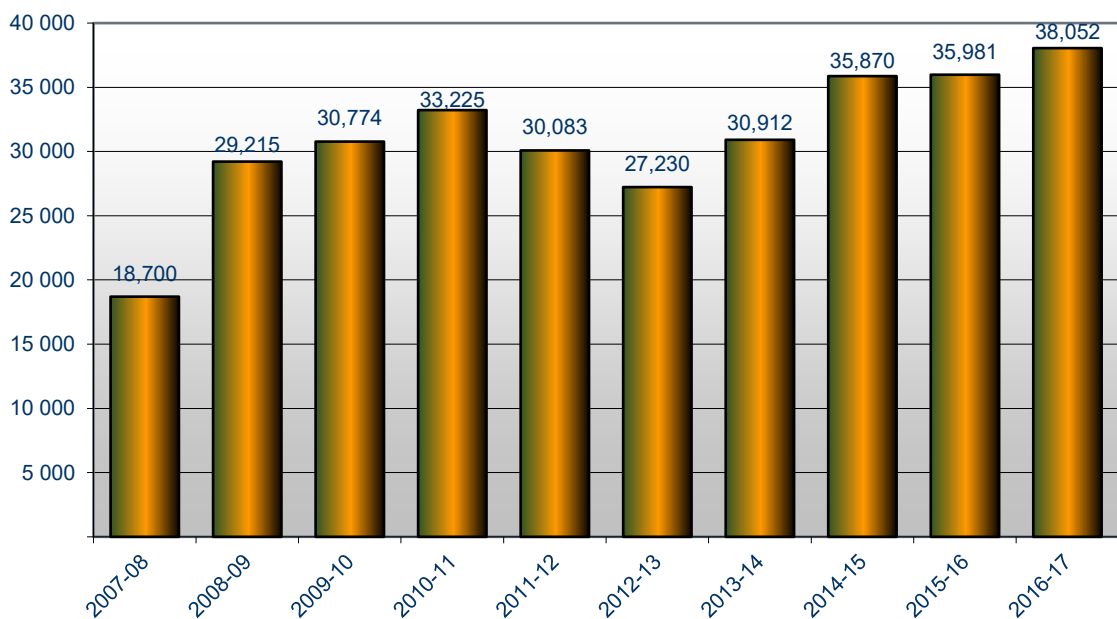


## Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS)

The outcome for the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) was 38,052 places in 2016–17, including grants made under Labour Agreements. The 2016–17 ENS outcome is 5.8 per cent (2071 places) higher than the 2015–16 outcome of 35,981 places.

Demand for places in the ENS category in the 2016–17 programme year was 12.3 per cent (5516 places) higher with 50,540 applications lodged, compared to 45,024 applications lodged in the 2015–16 programme year. The ENS pipeline was 33,741 persons as at 30 June 2017, an increase of 23.8 per cent (6495 persons) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

Figure 10 – ENS outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17



## General Skilled Migration (GSM)

The General Skilled Migration (GSM) category outcome for 2016–17 was 67,857 places (54.9 per cent of the Skill stream). GSM is comprised of three categories:

- Skilled Independent with an outcome of 42,422 places;
- State and Territory Nominated with an outcome of 23,765 places; and
- Skilled Regional with 1670 places.

The GSM pipeline at 30 June 2017 was 33,762 persons, an increase of 26.8 per cent from 26,633 persons at 30 June 2016.

### Skilled Independent

The Skilled Independent category outcome in 2016–17 was 42,422 places (34.3 per cent of the Skill stream). Applicants located outside Australia accounted for 59.0 per cent of the outcome for 2016–17.

In the Skilled Independent visa category there were 49,244 applications in 2016–17 compared to 46,056 applications in 2015–16. As at 30 June 2017, 19,150 clients remain in the pipeline, an increase of 32.4 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

### State and Territory Nominated

The State and Territory Nominated visas within the State/Territory Nominated and Regional category delivered an outcome of 23,765 places (19.2 per cent of the Skill stream), a decrease of 3.6 per cent on the 2015–16 outcome of 24,650 places.

Demand for State and Territory Nominated places increased by 9.6 per cent from 24,871 applications in 2015–16 to 27,252 applications in 2016–17. The pipeline increased over the 2016–17 programme year by 21.9 per cent (2464 persons) from 11,276 persons as at 30 June 2016 to 13,740 persons as at 30 June 2017.

### Skilled Regional

Skilled Regional visas delivered an outcome of 1670 places, a decrease of 60.2 per cent over the outcome for 2015–16 of 4196 places.

In 2016–17 there was a 41.3 per cent increase in applications (2100 applications in 2016–17 compared to 1486 applications in 2015–16).

## Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP)

The 2016–17 outcome for the Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) was 7260 places.

Demand for places in this category increased by 74.4 per cent in 2016–17, with 15,781 applications made compared to 9051 applications made in 2015–16. The BIIP pipeline increased over the 2016–17 programme year by 57.7 per cent (5521 persons) from 9575 persons as at 30 June 2016 to 15,096 persons as at 30 June 2017.

## State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM)

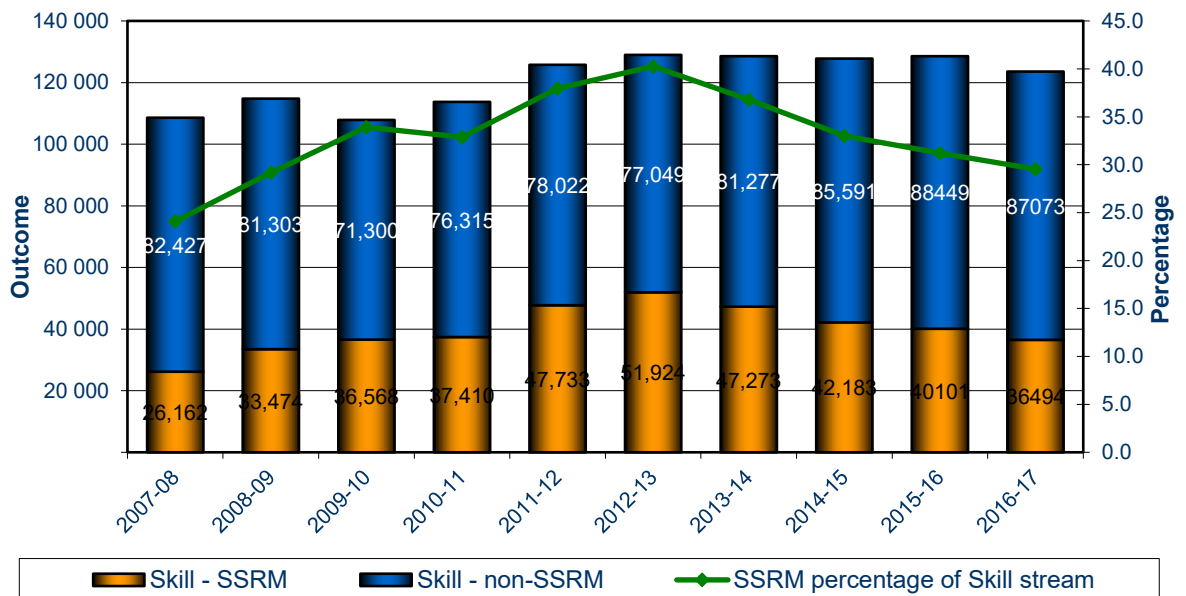
State-Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM) refers to those elements of the programmes described above with a particular state or regional focus. Specifically, the elements included are:

- State and Territory Nominated visas, with an outcome of 23,765 places;
- Regional Skilled Migration Scheme, with an outcome of 10,198 places;
- Business Innovation and Investment Programme – State and Territory Sponsored Business Skills, with an outcome of 943 places; and
- Skilled Regional visas with an outcome of 1588 places.

The total SSRM outcome for the 2016–17 migration programme was 36,494 places. This outcome represents 29.5 per cent of the Skill stream in 2016–17.

Figure 11 shows SSRM as a percentage of the Skill stream since 2007–08.

**Figure 11 – SSRM outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17**

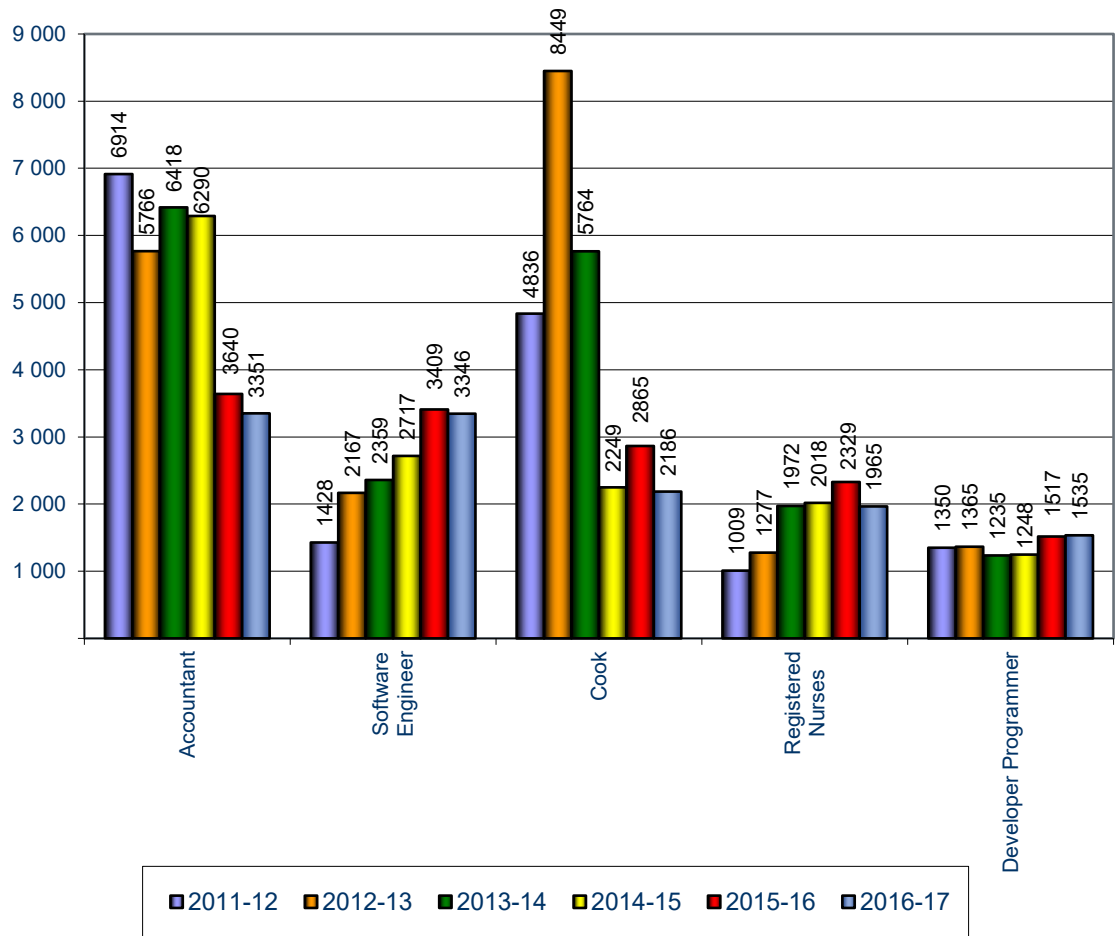


## Occupations of primary applicants in the Skill stream

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 36,322 places (63.9 per cent), followed by Technicians and Trades Workers with 9694 places (17.1 per cent) and Managers 5881 places (10.4 per cent).

Figure 12 shows the top five occupations in the Skill stream outcome in 2016–17, compared to outcome in previous years.

Figure 12 – Skill stream outcome of top 5 Occupations in 2016–17, compared to last five years



## 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 2016–17 was 56,220 places (30.6 per cent of the total migration programme outcome).

Demand for places in the Family stream in 2016–17 was 9.5 per cent higher than in 2015–16 (76,648 first stage applications in 2016–17 compared to 69,980 applications in 2015–16).

The pipeline as at 30 June 2017 was 169,519 clients, an increase of 4.6 per cent compared to the pipeline of 162,101 clients as at 30 June 2016. The Partner and the Non-Contributory Parent categories accounted for 42.2 per cent and 29.3 per cent of the total Family stream pipeline, respectively.

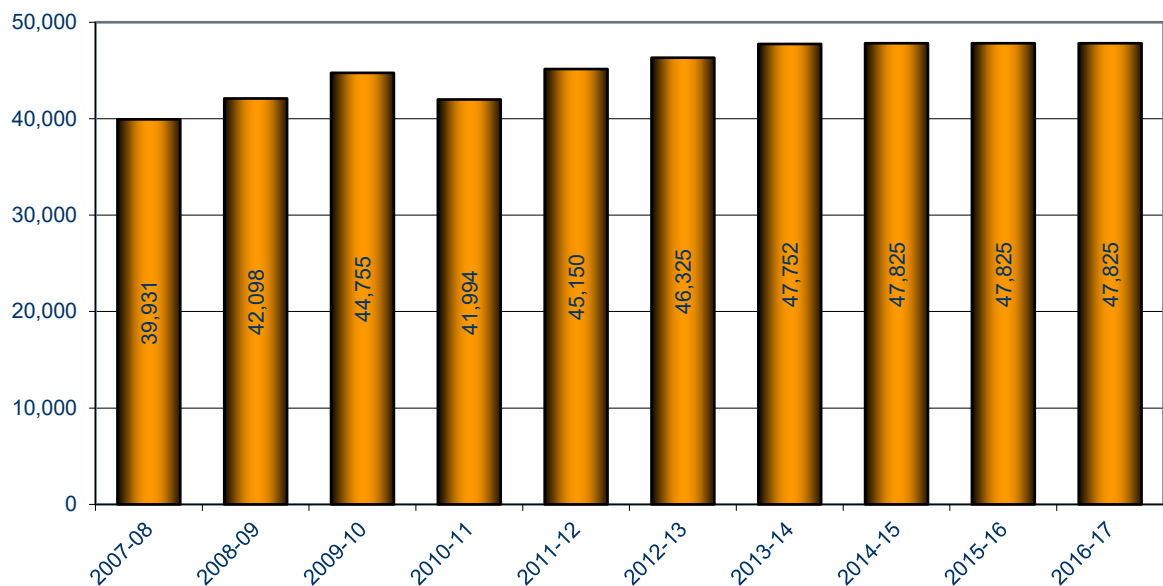
### Partner

The 2016–17 outcome in the Partner category was 47,825 places. This outcome comprised 85.1 per cent of the total Family stream, comprising 43,896 Spouse and 3929 Fiancé visas.

Demand for places in the Partner category increased by 7.1 per cent to 56,333 applications in 2016–17 from 52,603 applications in 2015–16. The pipeline as at 30 June 2017 was 71,523 clients, a decrease of 0.7 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

Figure 13 shows the Partner category outcome for the period from 2007–08 to 2016–17.

**Figure 13 – Partner outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17**





## Other Family

The Other Family category outcome for 2016–17 was 832 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 2016–17 and queuing arrangements applied.

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

**Table 1 – Other Family category outcome for 2016–17**

Group	Outside Australia	In Australia	Total	Percentage of Other Family category
Remaining Relative	77	<5	79	9.5
Carer	244	158	402	48.3
Aged Dependent Relative	0	<5	<5	0.2
Orphan Relatives	339	10	349	41.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Demand for places in the Other Family category decreased between 2015–16 and 2016–17 by 5.0 per cent. The pipeline as at 30 June 2017 decreased by 1.2 per cent compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

## 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 2016–17 was 1345 places. Demand for places in the Non-Contributory Parent category decreased by 280 applications (or 9.7 per cent) between 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2017. As at 30 June 2017, 49,735 clients remain in the pipeline, a decrease of 1.1 per cent (or 557 applications) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2016.

### Contributory Parent

The Contributory Parent category outcome for 2016–17 was 6218 places. Demand for places in the Contributory Parent category increased by 3312 applications (or 26.3 per cent) between 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2017. As at 30 June 2017, 38,508 clients remain in the pipeline, an increase of 28.9 per cent compared to the pipeline of 29,884 clients as at 30 June 2016.

## Special Eligibility stream

The outcome for the Special Eligibility stream was 421 places. The majority of this outcome (406 places or 96.4 per cent) were for Ministerial Intervention grants under subclass 151 Former Resident visa.

## Child visas

Since 2015–16 the Child programme has sat outside the managed migration programme, but remains within the overall ceiling of permanent migration places with an indicative planning level of 3,485, and will be demand-driven from 1 July 2019.

In 2016-17, 3400 Child visas were granted, which accounted for 1.9 per cent of the permanent migration places. Of those grants 83.3 per cent of applicants located outside Australia.

Demand for Child visa places in 2016–17 has gone up by 12.0 per cent to 4284 applications in 2016–17 from 3826 applications in 2015–16. As at 30 June 2017, 2590 clients were in the pipeline, an increase of 12.0 per cent (or 278 applications) compared to the pipeline as at 30 June 2017.

Figure 14 shows the Child visa outcome for the period from 2007–08 to 2016–17.

**Figure 14 – Child visas outcome from 2007–08 to 2016–17**

