



Skilled Migration

i

Skilled migrants make an important contribution to the economy. Skilled migrants bring a variety of individual abilities and experiences to their new home, and are an invaluable resource of knowledge of business practices, protocols, networks and cultures in overseas markets.

The skilled stream of Australia's migration program targets people who are highly skilled or have an outstanding talent, and who will quickly make a contribution to the economy. In 2007-08, over 65,400 or 44% of permanent settlers entered Australia under the skilled stream. Of these skilled migrants, almost 27% stated an intention to settle in New South Wales.

The number of skilled migrants sponsored by the New South Wales Government increased by 39% between 2007 and 2008. The New South Wales Government's Drive for Talent program aims to attract highly skilled migrants in the finance, ICT, bioscience and pharmaceuticals industries to New South Wales. Furthermore, skilled migrants can be sponsored to settle in regional areas where their skills are in high demand.

Settler arrivals in the skilled category by state or territory of intended residence, 2007-08 ⁽¹⁾

State/Territory ⁽²⁾	Skilled stream ^(3,4)	% of Australia
Victoria	17,394	26.6
New South Wales	17,317	26.5
Western Australia	12,542	19.2
Queensland	10,132	15.5
South Australia	6,608	10.1
Australian Capital Territory	677	1.0
Tasmania	395	0.6
Northern Territory	338	0.5
Australia	65,404	100.0

Footnotes:

1: Settler, or permanent, arrivals comprise persons arriving in Australia who hold permanent visas, regardless of stated intended period of stay; holders of temporary (provisional) visas where there is a clear intention to settle; New Zealand citizens who indicate an intention to settle; and those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas-born children of Australian citizens). Settler arrivals do not represent a net increase in resident population, as they do not take account of permanent departures over the corresponding period. Settler arrivals data are based on the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS) and supplemented by Incoming Passenger Card information completed by persons arriving in Australia.

2: Based on stated intention at time of arrival only. There is no guarantee that the settler actually settled in the state indicated.

3: Categories of the Skill Stream component of the migration program include: – Skilled-Australian Linked: allows Australian citizens or residents to sponsor their parents, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and non-dependent children. Applicants must meet a points test which takes into account their age and work skills as well as various sponsor attributes. – Skilled Designated Area Sponsored: allows sponsorship of skilled relatives to designated areas of Australia. Both applicants and sponsors must satisfy certain criteria; – Employer Nomination: for highly skilled people nominated by employers in Australia who have been unable to find or train skilled workers in Australia for the position. Includes people who are nominated by an employer or organisation under a Labour Agreement, Regional Headquarters Agreement or the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, and who have the skills, qualifications and experience required; – Business Skills: for successful business persons with established skills in business who have a genuine commitment to owning and managing a business in Australia; – Distinguished Talent: for people who have outstanding records of achievement in a profession, occupation, the arts or sport; – Independent for unsponsored applicants whose education, skills, English language ability and ready employability will contribute to the Australian economy. – State/Territory Nominated Independent: for persons who are interested in settling in states and territories where their skills are in demand and who

have a sound chance of gaining employment in that state or territory soon after their arrival. Skill Matching has been included under this category. – Skilled – Independent Regional (Provisional): for skilled persons who are unable to meet the passmark for a permanent visa and wish to live and work in a regional or low population growth metropolitan area in Australia.

4: Includes New Zealand citizens and children born to Australian citizens overseas.

Source: Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Settler Arrivals, 2007-2008