



2022-23 Migration Program FAQ

1. How was the 2022-23 Migration Program developed?

- The Migration Program is set annually as part of the Federal Budget process. The 2022-23 program year will run from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.
- When planning Australia's Migration Program, the Government aims to balance economic, social and demographic objectives and priorities.
- To inform the development of the 2022-23 Migration Program, the Department of Home Affairs consulted widely with State and Territory Government representatives, academia, unions, and industry stakeholders and community organisations between November and December 2021.
 - The Department of Home Affairs also published a discussion paper and a call for public submissions on its webpage. See: [Australia's 2022-23 Migration Program](#)
- The 2022-23 Migration Program has been designed to boost Australia's economic recovery and drive positive social cohesion outcomes in the post-pandemic environment.

2. What is the overall size and composition of the Migration Program?

- The 2022-23 Migration program will have an overall planning level of 160,000 places. This is appropriate in the context of the safe reopening of the international border and will ensure that Australians have the first opportunity to take advantage of the changing dynamics of the labour market without adding to infrastructure pressures.
- A key principle of the Migration Program is safeguarding the jobs of Australian workers.
 - The Migration Program aims to complement and not replace our domestic labour force or take away re-skilling/upskilling opportunities for Australians.
- With the reopening of the international border, return of temporary migrants will help fill workforce shortages in the short term, including those in lower skilled sectors.
- Targeted and well managed migration is central to Australia's economic and social prosperity, as migrants not only fill skills and labour gaps but contribute to the three sources of Australia's economic growth – participation, productivity and population.

3. What will change in the 2022-23 Migration Program?

- In 2022-23, the Migration Program will return to a pre-pandemic composition of two thirds Skill stream and one third Family stream, to help ease critical workforce shortages and support our economic recovery from COVID-19.
- The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs will retain authority to recalibrate the composition of the Skill stream within the Migration Program to respond to changing economic conditions.

4. How will 2022-23 Migration Program settings benefit Australians?

- Migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy. A well planned and managed immigration system contributes to the skills and capability of Australia's workforce; facilitates the transfer of knowledge and expertise to boost business and entrepreneurship; supports sustainable population planning; bolsters economic growth; and is key to securing social cohesion outcomes.
- Australia's Migration Program has been, and continues to be, well managed with planning levels set annually as part of the Government's budget process.
- In planning the 2022-23 Migration Program, Australia's economic, labour, and demographic needs have been considered, including the long-term population impacts on state and territory planning and infrastructure, including in our regions.

5. Which skilled visa categories will be prioritised in the 2022-23 Migration Program?

- The 2022-23 Migration Program will return to a pre-pandemic composition of roughly two thirds/one third across the Skill and Family streams. Within the Skill stream:
 - Regional visa places will be more than doubled from 2021-22 planning levels to incentivise migrants to settle outside the major capitals, reflecting that our regions have the capacity for growth.
 - Places for State and Territory nominated visa categories will be significantly increased from 2021-22 planning levels to allow jurisdictions added flexibility to respond to their unique labour market needs.
 - There will be a renewed emphasis on Skilled Independent visas, signalling to prospective migrants that Australia remains an attractive destination for those who are highly skilled.

6. What will change for the Family stream in the 2022-23 Migration Program?

- While there is a focus on skilled migration in the 2022-23 Migration Program to support economic recovery, the Government is committed to family reunification.
- From 2022-23, Partner visas will be granted on a demand driven basis. This will operate like the current Child visa category and not be subject to a ceiling.
- The demand-driven arrangement will support Australia's population growth and social cohesion outcomes by facilitating Australian citizens and permanent residents to reunite with their partners.
- Granting partner visas on a demand driven basis will also provide the flexibility adjust the programme in line with expected demand. This will help to reduce the Partner visa pipeline and processing times for many applicants.
- For planning purposes, it is estimated that 40,500 Partner visas will be granted in 2022-23, noting that this estimate is not subject to a ceiling.

7. Will the 2022-23 Migration Program settings affect my existing visa application?

- No. Visa applications that have already been lodged will continue to be processed according to visa processing timeframes.