Skills Shortages

Student Visa Annual Report 2007-2008

Objective

This component aims to develop and administer visa arrangements that will assist growth of the education and tourism industries through the entry to Australia of genuine full-time students.

Description

The student visa program contains a range of visa categories that broadly reflect the different education sectors. Students must study in a course registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students.

The Student Guardian (subclass 580) visa is available for individuals travelling to care for minors studying in Australia. The AusAID and Defence Sector (subclass 576) visa also exists for students sponsored by those Australian Government agencies.

Student applications are assessed according to the immigration risk demonstrated by each education sector and country. The risk level is determined on the basis of factors such as fraud and visa non-compliance. It is represented by the assessment level that applies to each sector and country. Assessment Level 1 represents the lowest immigration risk, while Assessment Level 5 represents the highest risk. A lower assessment level means fewer requirements to be granted a student visa.

Table 25 and Figure 11 show the top ten countries for student visa grants in 2007–08. Table 26 shows total student visas by subclass.

Performance

Key indicators of the effectiveness of the student visa program include:

• high visa approval rates
• processing times that meet service standards
• high levels of compliance with visa requirements
• improvements to client service, including an increase in the use of eVisa.

Table 23: Total student visa grants (onshore and offshore)

Skills Shortages

Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (Annual Report 2007-2008)

Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Annual Report 2007–08

Table 1: Snapshot of activity in 2007–08 [1]

Migration and temporary entry	
Total permanent and temporary visas granted	4 637 259
Total visitor visas granted offshore[2]	3 609 928
Electronic Travel Authority grants	2 776 386
Working Holiday and Work and Holiday visas granted	157 574
Student visas granted	278 184
Temporary residents (other) visas granted	39 686

Temporary Skilled Migration visas granted	110 570
Family Stream outcome	49 870
Skill Stream outcome	108 452
State/Territory or Employer Sponsored visas granted	31 290
Total Migration Program outcome	158 630
Refugee and humanitarian entry	
Humanitarian Program visas granted	13 014
Border security	
Passenger and crew arrivals and departures	25 700 000
Immigration clearances refused at airports	1 189
Immigration clearances refused at seaports	424
Unauthorised boat arrivals (people)	25
Compliance	
Percentage of temporary entrants and permanent visa holders who complied with their visa conditions	99%
Unlawful non-citizens located	10 722
Notices issued to employers of illegal workers	750
Removals and departures	8 404
Detention	
Illegal foreign fishers taken into detention	1 232
Visa overstayers taken into detention	1 283
Total number of people taken into detention	4 514
Total number of people released or removed from detention	4 601
Illegal foreign fishers in detention as at 30 June 2008	26
Visa overstayers or people who breached visa conditions in detention as at 30 June 2008	323
Total number of people in detention as at 30 June 2008	402
Settlement	
Refugees who arrived and received help through the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy	9 556
Migrant community service grants managed through the Settlement Grants Program and Community Settlement Services Scheme	332
Citizenship	
Number of people conferred Australian citizenship at ceremonies	121 221
People approved as Australian citizens by conferral, descent and resumption	107 662
Calls to Citizenship Information Line	612 218
Multicultural affairs	
Event registrations for Harmony Day	388
Living in Harmony website hits	202 370
People participating in Living in Harmony partnership activities	163 000
Client contact	

Calls to Sydney and Melbourne contact centres	1 731 995
Telephone interpreting calls	615 477
Litigation	
Matters resolved in courts and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal	4 302
Percentage in favour of minister (that proceeded to defended hearing in court)	95%
Staff	
National Office (Canberra)	2 978
New South Wales	1 386
Victoria	974
Queensland	437
South Australia	466
Western Australia	406
Tasmania	142
Northern Territory	59
Australian Capital Territory and region	103
Overseas (Australia-based employees)	137
Airline Liaison Officers	18
Total number of Australia-based staff	7 106
Overseas (locally engaged employees)	1 000
Total staff as at 30 June 2008	8 106

1. Rounded numbers may differ from numbers appearing elsewhere in the report.
2. This is inclusive of Electronic Travel Authority grants.