



# INTERSTAFF

## AUSTRALIAN MIGRATION STATISTICS 2017/18

Statistics for 2017/18 show only 162,417 permanent residence visas were granted, which was the lowest intake in a decade and significantly below the planning level of 190,000. Government visa processing times and the rate of visa refusals have also increased in the past year.

### VISA REFUSALS



Visa refusals increased by 46% in FY 2017/18, indicating the level of scrutiny being applied to visa assessments.

### VISA WITHDRAWALS

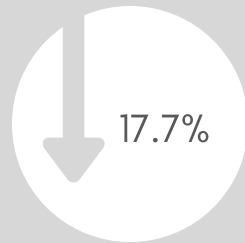


Visa withdrawals increased by 17%, demonstrating the increased focus on the integrity of applications.

### SKILLED VISAS

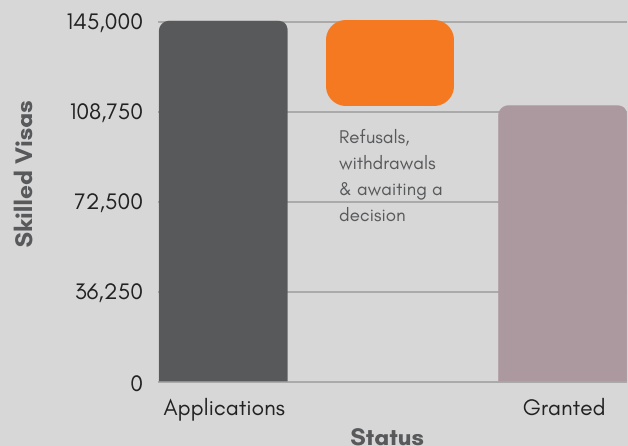
Employers and skilled visa applicants are reportedly feeling the impact of recent migration changes.

#### Skilled Visa applications received FY 2017/18



The number of skilled visa applications dropped by 17.7%, which may be a result of tightened eligibility restrictions. It may also be due to the reduced number of invitations being issued for the General Skilled Migration program.

#### Skilled Visa Applications, Grants and Refusals FY 2017/18



Only 111,000 skilled visas were granted out of 145,000 applications, showing the number of employers who could be missing out on securing workers needed from overseas.

#### Skilled Visa Processing Times

- Subclass **400** Visa: 2 to 3 weeks
- Subclass **457** Visa: 13 to 14 months
- Subclass **482** Visa: 2 to 3 months
- Subclass **189** Visa: 8 to 10 months
- Subclass **190** Visa: 6 to 7 months
- Subclass **186** Visa: 12 to 18 months
- Subclass **187** Visa: 14 to 24 months

We advise businesses to seek professional advice on becoming an Accredited Sponsor, which can reduce processing times from months to weeks.



### INSIGHTS & STRATEGY

With the increase in visa refusals and costs to sponsor visa holders, employers need to be aware of the level of rigour the Department of Home Affairs is applying to visa assessments.

We encourage you to seek professional advice before proceeding with an application and engage an experienced migration agent who can advise on your various options.