

Answers to Questions on Notice from the Public Hearing on 17 February 2021¹

1. ***But we've always had a distinguished talent visa... Could you advise if there are any guidelines provided to the decision-makers on how the key requirements of this visa are assessed, including the potential salary and the international standing. How do you assess international standing? What level of credence do you need?***

Answer:

Please see [Attachment 8.3a](#) (Excerpt of Procedural Instructions provided to decision makers on key visa requirements for the Subclass 858 (Distinguished Talent) visa) updated on 20 January 2021 and published on 26 February 2021. This procedural instruction will be updated in the coming weeks to reflect changes made on 27 February 2021, including the name change from Distinguished Talent visa (subclass 858) to Global Talent visa, and the introduction of a pathway for persons endorsed by the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Global Business and Talent Attraction.

2. ***Have you had a decrease in applications for offshore skilled visas since COVID, or more skilled visas?***

Answer:

The table below shows the number of applications (primary and secondary) received from offshore applicants:

Visa	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 to 31/12/20
Distinguished Talent (subclass 124)*	133	126	121	166	112
Business Talent (subclass 132)	2,258	2,582	2,793	2,464	591
Business Innovation And Investment (provisional) (subclass 188)	11,343	9,811	9,956	11,064	2,457
Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)	9,903	5,467	3,668	3,389	1,628
Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187)	4,951	3,944	806	1,236	128
Skilled – Independent (subclass 189)	28,534	13,927	15,433	1,517	478
Skilled – Nominated (subclass 190)	14,265	11,352	9,526	6,877	655
Skilled – Regional (subclass 887)**					109
Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482)***		8,985	42,634	35,202	6,712
Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (provisional) (subclass 494)****				137	144
Skilled Work Regional (provisional) (subclass 491)****				3,793	2,177
Temporary Work (skilled) (subclass 457)***	53,691	32,012			

*This visa closed to new applications in November 2020. Individuals who might have qualified for this visa can apply for a Global Talent (subclass 858) visa.

**This visa is the second step of a provisional to permanent visa pathway and the Department had not received applications from offshore applicants before the current program year.

***The 457 visa closed to new applications and was replaced by the TSS visa from March 2018.

****These visas were introduced in November 2019.

¹ These are in addition to the responses provided as part of the Department's first submission.