

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 73)

TODAY'S NEWS STORIES



## Today's Newspaper Story Concerning International Students

18<sup>th</sup> February 2008

- 1) Skilled Migration Intake is increased another 6000 places as reported in the SMH this morning. This is good news for students as the more increases in the skilled migration quota, the better.

This year IMMIGRATION NEWS will try and extract the interesting newspaper articles in Sydney that will be of direct relevance to international students. We know many students don't have the time to read the paper everyday so this way it will be easier for you to keep in touch with what's been talked about in the media.

If any student has an interesting article to report from other cities around Australia please send us an e-mail.

## **Demand for workers lifts migrant intake**

February 18, 2008, Page 6, Sydney Morning Herald

AUSTRALIA is to lift its skilled migrant intake to 108,500 as the overall number of foreigners arriving for work climbs to more than 300,000 a year.

The Immigration Minister, Chris Evans, yesterday said an expert panel would examine the sensitive migrant worker arrangements as he revealed another 6000 places would be added to the permanent skilled migration program.

Demand for workers has generated a big increase in the controversial 457 temporary work visas, which have more than doubled in the past four years and are expected to top 100,000 this financial year. Working holiday visas have surged by nearly 50 per cent since 2002 to 126,600 last financial year.

Senator Evans said the latest increase in permanent places had the potential to provide thousands of extra workers, especially for mining and construction. The Government is also expanding the working-holiday visa scheme to help the construction industry by allowing people who do at least three months in the construction sector in regional areas to extend their 12-month visa by another year.

Senator Evans said a panel of industry experts, chaired by the past chairman of Minerals

Council of Australia, Peter Coates, would examine how skilled migration measures could ease labour shortages. The announcement of the panel comes as the Government is under pressure over union concerns 457 visas could undermine wages and conditions.

The Opposition spokesman on immigration, Christopher Ellison, dismissed the additional 6000 skilled migration places as "a drop in the ocean".

**Mark Metherell**

**Link:** [www.smh.com.au/news/national/demand-for-workers-lifts-migrant-intake/2008/02/17/1203190654000.html](http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/demand-for-workers-lifts-migrant-intake/2008/02/17/1203190654000.html)

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