



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2018-0351

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Published
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	N/A
6. Processing time (in working days)	11
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
9. Decision made by ACAT	N/A
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMTEDD.FOI](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI APPLICATION TO ACCESS CMTEDD DOCUMENTS
Date: Thursday, 6 December 2018 9:10:49 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hereby wish to apply under the Freedom of Information Act (the FOI Act) for access to information held by the ACT Government in relation to the following issues:

- *the number of **Subclass 190 visa** applications received by the ACT Government where the ACT Government was the nominating State/Territory*
- *the number of **Subclass 190 visa** applications refused by the ACT Government where the ACT Government was the nominating State/Territory*
- *the number of **Subclass 190 visa** applications received by the ACT Government where the the ACT Government was the nominating State/Territory and where the ACT Government had subsequently withdrawn its nomination*

We note this request is in relation to information held by the ACT Government whether this is in the form of statistical information in a database controlled by or accessible by ACT Government, information contained in documents, statistical publications, or any other material on which there is writing, including emails and other electronic records, any report or recommendations, that would contain the requested information.

In addition to the above and in order to ensure transparency in the ACT Government decisions, we further wish to request access to the ACT Government information, whether in the form of information contained in documents, emails, statistical publications, or any other material on which there is writing, including electronic records, any report or recommendations, minutes of any meeting where the decision was discussed in detail in relation to the closure of the ACT Migration Program to off-shore applicants in August 2017, September 2016 and March 2016. Where no forewarning was provided by the ACT Government, nor was there any information provided on the reasons for the decisions or for how long this policy will be in effect. Or if not available, informal notes taken by participants of such meetings; and emails sent by officers or executives involved in these decisions making process that are directly relevant to the above issue.

We further wish to request statistical information about:

- *student enrolments in Canberra for all classes and kinds of student visa for 2016, 2017, and 2018*
- *the amount of money the ACT Government estimated was drawn into Canberra as a result of international student enrolments in 2017 and 2018.*
- *And the breakdown by sector of the estimated revenue the ACT Government Treasury calculated the ACT Government might benefit from the ACT Migration Program.*
- *-*

Yours sincerely,





ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Our ref: CMTEDDFOI2018-0351



via email: 

Dear 

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 6 December 2018, in which you sought access to various statistics and documents in relation to the Subclass 190 Visa program.

Specifically, you are seeking:

1. *"The number of Subclass 190 visa applications received by the ACT Government where the ACT Government was the nominating State/Territory;*
2. *The number of Subclass 190 visa applications refused by the ACT Government where the ACT Government was the nominating State/Territory;*
3. *The number of Subclass 190 visa applications received by the ACT Government where the ACT Government was the nominating State/Territory and where the ACT Government had subsequently withdrawn its nomination.*
4. *In addition to the above and in order to ensure transparency in the ACT Government decisions, we further wish to request access to the ACT Government information, whether in the form of information contained in documents, emails, statistical publications, or any other material on which there is writing, including electronic records, any report or recommendations, minutes of any meeting where the decision was discussed in detail in relation to the closure of the ACT Migration Program to off-shore applicants in August 2017, September 2016 and March 2016. Where no forewarning was provided by the ACT Government, nor was there any information provided on the reasons for the decisions or for how long this policy will be in effect. Or if not available, informal notes taken by participants of such meetings; and emails sent by officers or executives involved in these decisions making process that are directly relevant to the above issue.*

5. *Student enrolments in Canberra for all classes and kinds of student visa for 2016, 2017, and 2018.*
6. *The amount of money the ACT Government estimated was drawn into Canberra as a result of international student enrolments in 2017 and 2018; and*
7. *The breakdown by sector of the estimated revenue the ACT Government Treasury calculated the ACT Government might benefit from the ACT Migration Program.”*

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of CMTEEDD under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application by 8 January 2019.

Decision on access

A search of documents was conducted and resulted in 12 documents being identified that fall within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant full access to 8 documents and partial access to the remaining 4 documents, noting that 1 of the documents is already publically available. The information redacted in the documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest to release under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

I have included as Attachment A to this letter the schedule of relevant documents. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents. The documents to be released to you are provided as Attachment B to this letter.

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decision is below.

Statement of Reasons

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act; and
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request.

Exemption claimed

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the identified documents and components of these documents are as follows:

Public Interest

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interests lies. As part of this process I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when 'used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from "the subject matter and the scope and purpose" of the enactment in which it appears'. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure (Schedule 2 section 2.1)

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors in favour of disclosure are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest':

- (a) *disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
 - (i) *promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability;*
 - (ii) *contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;*
 - (viii) *reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision;*

Having considered the factors identified as relevant in this matter, I consider that release of the information within the scope of the request may contribute to positive and informed debate on a matter of public interest and enhance the government's accountability. The documents identified contain information relating to the decision to close the skilled migration program to overseas applicants. There are a number of email communications and briefing documents that detail the need to change the management of the program, and how the change would occur. I consider the release of the information identified could inform the community of the considerations of the Directorate and provide contextual and background information relating to the decision to close the skilled migration program. As a result, the release of the documents identified could enhance the Directorate's accountability and contribute to positive and informed debate on matters relating to subclass 190 visas. I am satisfied that the public interest in increasing transparency and accountability of the Directorate carries significant weight.

Factors favouring non-disclosure (Schedule 2 section 2.2)

As required in the public interest test set out in section 17 of the Act, I have also identified the following public interest factors in favour of non-disclosure that I believe is relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest':

- (a) *disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
 - (ii) *prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004; and*
 - (x) *prejudice intergovernmental relations.*

When considering the documents and factors in favour of non-disclosure, I have considered the personal information of staff members contained in the documents. I am satisfied that the names and contact information of ACT Government employees should be released as these individuals were acting in their official capacity and the personal information being released is done so in relation to these individuals exercising their delegations in a work related capacity. I do not consider the release of this information is unreasonable or could prejudice their right to privacy.

I have also considered the impact that the release of some of the documents could have on the intergovernmental relations between the ACT Government employees. The identified documents contain emails which include candid conversations between employees discussing the closure of the skilled migration program. I note that the emails were exchanged in confidence, and if released may prejudice intergovernmental relations, and impede good working relations between the ACT Government staff and Directorates. I am satisfied that the release of the documents could prejudice intergovernmental relations and the Directorate's ability to obtain confidential information by impairing the future flow of information within the ACT Government and its staff. I am satisfied that the factors favouring non-disclosure carry very significant weight.

Having applied the test outlined in section 17 of the Act, I have decided to partially exempt from release parts of all documents which contain candid, and thus 'out of scope' information, as the factors favouring non-disclosure outweigh the factors favouring disclosure.

Additional Information

I note in your request information has been sought regarding '*student enrolments in Canberra for all classes and kinds of student visa for 2016, 2017, and 2018*'. This information is not held by CMTEDD, and it is advised that the information be requested Department of Immigration.

In point 6, *'the amount of money the ACT Government estimated was drawn into Canberra as a result of international student enrolments in 2017 and 2018'* has been requested. I have been advised that the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates the amount of money contributed to the ACT economy by international students for each financial year in its publication 'International Trade in Services Catalogue number 5368.0.55.003'. ACT Treasury reproduces these estimates in a publicly available Brief. This Brief has been provided to you as a courtesy. The document can also be accessed on the ACT Treasury website: <https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/snapshot>.

Further, in point 7, you request *'the breakdown by sector of the estimated revenue the ACT Government Treasury calculated the ACT Government might benefit from the ACT Migration Program'*, however, this figure is not calculated by ACT Treasury.

Charges

Pursuant to Freedom of Information (Fees) Determination 2017 (No 2) processing charges are not applicable for this request because the total number folio's to be released to you is below the charging threshold of 50 pages.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, my decision and documents in response to your access application will be published in the CMTEDD disclosure log after 3 days after publication. Your personal contact details will not be published. You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at: <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in CMTEDD disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

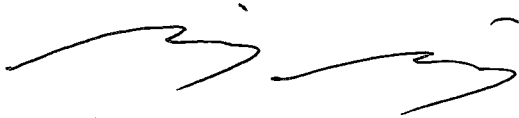
ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Riley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Riley
Information Officer
Information Access Team
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

21 December 2018



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	Reference NO.
[REDACTED]	Request for subclass 190 visa numbers, information contained in documents, emails, statistical publications, or any other material on which there is writing, including electronic records, any report or recommendations, minutes of any meeting where the decision was discussed in detail in relation to the closure of the ACT Migration Program to off-shore applicants in August 2017, September 2016 and March 2016. Where no forewarning was provided by the ACT Government, nor was there any information provided on the reasons for the decisions or for how long this policy will be in effect, student enrolment numbers and the estimated revenue the ACT Government Treasury calculated the ACT Government might benefit from the ACT Migration program.	CMTEDDFOI2018-0351

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1	ACT Skilled Migration Procedure Advice Manual: Page 7	Undated	Full	N/A	Yes
2	2	Request Summary Report	01/07/12 – 06/12/18	Full	N/A	Yes
3	3	Email: Closure of Program to Overseas Applicants	17/03/16	Partial	Out of Scope	Yes
4	4	Email: Status Update	18/08/17	Partial	Out of Scope	Yes
5	5	Email: Closure – ACT Migration Program	21/08/17	Partial	Out of Scope	Yes
6	6	Email: Closure – ACT Migration Program	21/08/17	Full	N/A	Yes
7	7	Email: Urgent – Closure of ACT Migration Program – Effectively Immediately	22/08/17	Full	N/A	Yes
8	8-9	Email: Urgent –ACT Migration Program is Closed to Overseas Applicants	22/08/17	Full	N/A	Yes
9	10-11	Email: Urgent –ACT Migration Program is Closed to Overseas Applicants	22/08/17	Partial	Out of Scope	Yes
10	12	Email: Important Message CCYF Website	22/08/17	Full	N/A	Yes
11	13	Email: Important Message CCYF Website	22/08/17	Full	N/A	Yes

12	14-16	Economic Indicator Brief – International Trade In Services 2016-17	04/01/18	Full	N/A	Yes
Total No of Docs						
12						

Management of ACT Migration Program

Target

Under the terms of the Territory Migration Agreement with the Australian Government, the 2017/18 ACT target for subclass 190 nominations is set at 750. Once the DIBP target is met, the ACT is unable to confirm further Expressions of Interest on DIBP Skill Select.

Priority for Canberra residents

Skills Canberra ensures that Canberra residents are given priority by reserving at least 50% of the Program target for Canberra based temporary residents/international students.

Program closure

The ACT Migration Program is temporarily closed to overseas applicants once 50% of the Program target is met. The program may reopen at any time if there is sufficient capacity within the target to nominate overseas applicants. Capacity will depend on the quality of applications and the refusal rate when the nomination criteria is not met.

The Program is closed to all applications when the DIBP target for the financial year is met.

The Program will reopen once the targets are reset as the new financial year.

This paragraph is taken from page 7 of the ACT Skilled Migration Procedure Advice manual.

Request Summary Report – 01/07/2012 to 06/12/2018

Program	Visa Subclass	Approved	Refused	Nomination Withdrawn
Skilled Migration - Australian Resident	Skilled-Nominated – 190	2398	186	2
Skilled Migration - Overseas Applicant	Skilled-Nominated – 190	2170	651	0
Totals		4568	837	2

From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Hartley, Laura](#)
Cc: [Dunne, Patricia](#); [Luis, Michele](#)
Subject: closure of program to overseas applicants
Date: Thursday, 17 March 2016 11:03:43 AM

Hi Laura

I would like to recommend that we close the Skilled Migration program to overseas applicants effective today.

To date, 292 applications have been approved and 185 applications are pending – total 487. By closing the program to overseas applicants, we restrict the program to Canberra residents which will allow us to closely manage our output within target.

Out of Scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Regards

Julianne

Julianne OBrien | Client Manager | Skilled and Business Migration

Phone 02 6207 1957 | Fax 02 6207 0123

Small Business and Skills | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Nara Centre, 1 Constitution Ave Canberra 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |

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Email version-EDS_33449_ACT_GOV_CBR_Black_CMYK1



From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Bayer, Chris](#)
Cc: [Miller, David](#); [Luis, Michele](#); [Dunne, Patricia](#)
Subject: RE: Status update [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 18 August 2017 9:57:28 AM

Dear Chris

I would like to close the ACT Migration Program to overseas applicants effective immediately
The Program target for 2017/2018 is 350 overseas applicants

There are currently 290 overseas applications in the queue. We are receiving on average 20 application a week from offshore. We have an average 15% refusal rate

If we close the program now, there is still capacity in the 350 target to accept applications from close family members living and PhD graduates living overseas. We can reassess the situation in March next year and reopen the program if we need to increase the intake from overseas in order to meet the 350 target.

Regards

Julianne O'Brien

Phone: 02 6207 1957 | Email: julianne.obrien@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

ACT Government | Nara Centre, 1 Constitution Ave Canberra 2601

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

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From: Luis, Michele

Sent: Friday, 18 August 2017 8:59 AM

To: OBrien, Julianne

Cc: Bayer, Chris

Subject: Status update [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi 

Status update

We have 259 SM applications lodged, and 70 in progress, 19 case officer assigned so in total over 400 SM applicationsActually 447 in all active, but some of the in progress might not lodge.

SM Decision made in August so far 37 . Total decision made in July only 15 

ES 34 30

Delegate decision pending

71 SM applications – oldest from 6 July 2017 (oldest 5 from 6 and 7 July all Canberra residents).

32 ES applications – oldest received on 25 June 2017 (13 from June)

Total applications at delegate decision pending= 103

Kind Regards

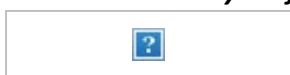
Michele Luis | Case Officer - Skills Canberra

Innovate Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate |

Phone 02 6207 8160 | E: michele.luis@act.gov.au.

Nara Centre 1 Constitution Ave Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [Bayer, Chris](#)
To: [Miller, DavidJ](#)
Cc: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
Subject: RE: Closure - ACT migration Program [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 21 August 2017 11:08:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dave

Out of Scope

I agree that we should close the program to general overseas applicants.

We have received a lot of applications and if we close it now, it gives us flexibility to still accept the o/s PhD and family connection applications that Julianne has outlined below.

If we have places remaining later in the financial year, we can reopen it to fill those places.

Out of Scope

Thanks,

Chris Bayer | Manager - National Data Collections, Reporting and Skilled Migration

Phone: 02 6205 9134 | Email: chris.bayer@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 5 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.cmtedd.act.gov.au

Signature



From: OBrien, Julianne

Sent: Monday, 21 August 2017 10:54 AM

To: Miller, DavidJ

Cc: Bayer, Chris

Subject: Closure - ACT migration Program [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

The ACT Migration Program will close to overseas applicants on Wednesday 23 August 2017. After reopening the Program to overseas applicants on 5 July 17 (after closing in September 2016 due to similar high demand), over 300 applications have been received, representing 85% of the 350 target for 2017/18. It is expected that there will be a high refusal rate as nomination criteria will be strictly enforced. The Program will remain open to Canberra temporary residents / international students, their close family members living overseas and PhD applicants. There is the ability to reopen the Program to overseas applicants in 2018 if required.

From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Miller, DavidJ](#)
Cc: [Bayer, Chris](#)
Subject: Closure - ACT migration Program [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 21 August 2017 10:53:59 AM

The ACT Migration Program will close to overseas applicants on Wednesday 23 August 2017. After reopening the Program to overseas applicants on 5 July 17 (after closing in September 2016 due to similar high demand), over 300 applications have been received, representing 85% of the 350 target for 2017/18. It is expected that there will be a high refusal rate as nomination criteria will be strictly enforced. The Program will remain open to Canberra temporary residents / international students, their close family members living overseas and PhD applicants. There is the ability to reopen the Program to overseas applicants in 2018 if required.

From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Bayer, Chris](#)
Subject: URGENT - CLOSURE OF ACT MIGRATION PROGRAM - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 3:09:49 PM

Email to clients

CLOSURE OF ACT MIGRATION PROGRAM - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Due to the high demand for ACT nomination of a subclass 190 visa, the ACT Migration Program is now closed to overseas applicants until further notice.

You recently started an application for ACT nomination but it is still 'in progress' and has not been finalised. If you would like to continue, you must submit the application and pay the \$300 service fee by 11.59 pm, Thursday 24 August 2017 (AEST).

If you choose not to complete and submit the application by 11.59 pm, Thursday 24 August 2017 (AEST), the application will automatically lapse and you will not be able to apply for ACT nomination until the Program reopens in 2018.

Regards

Julianne O'Brien

Phone: 02 6207 1957 | Email: julianne.obrien@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

ACT Government | Nara Centre, 1 Constitution Ave Canberra 2601

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

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From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Bayer, Chris](#)
Subject: URGENT - ACT Migration Program is closed to overseas applicants [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 3:09:50 PM

Chris – email to all agents

Dear Agents

Greetings from Canberra

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa – Closure of ACT Migration Program to overseas applicants

Effective immediately (23 August 2017 at 9am AEST) applications for ACT nomination from overseas residents will not be accepted.

- If your client is living overseas you will not be able to commence an application for ACT nomination of a Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa until the program reopens at a date to be determined.
- If you have recently started an application for ACT nomination, and the status is ‘in progress’, the application must be submitted, and the service fee paid before midnight Thursday 24 August 2014 (AEST). **You must submit a complete application e.g. all supporting documents attached, as additional documentation will not be accepted after lodgement.** Applications not submitted by midnight Thursday 24 August 2014 (AEST) will automatically lapse.

Please note, the processing time for applications lodged since 5 July 2017 onwards is likely to be 5 to 6 months, due to the large number of applications received post publication of the July 5 Occupation List.

CLOSE TIES TO CANBERRA

This action does affect overseas applicants with close ties (either close family or genuine job offer) in Canberra. Close tie applicants will still be able to apply for ACT 190 nomination.

CANBERRA RESIDENTS

This action does not affect Canberra based applicants. If your client is living in Canberra and working in a skilled occupation, the program is still open. You are still able to lodge an application for ACT nomination of the Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa if your client meets the current nomination criteria. The average processing time of applications from Canberra residents is 6 to 8 weeks.

Regards

Julianne

Julianne O'Brien | Client Manager

Phone 02 6207 1957 | Fax 02 6207 0033

Migration and Information Services | Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

490 Northbourne Ave, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |

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Regards

Julianne O'Brien

Phone: 02 6207 1957 | Email: julianne.obrien@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

ACT Government | Nara Centre, 1 Constitution Ave Canberra 2601

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

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From: [Bayer, Chris](#)
To: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT - ACT Migration Program is closed to overseas applicants [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 3:54:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Out of Scope

Three minor changes suggested change below.

Cheers,

Chris Bayer | Manager - National Data Collections, Reporting and Skilled Migration

Phone: 02 6205 9134 | Email: chris.bayer@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 5 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.cmtedd.act.gov.au

Signature



From: OBrien, Julianne
Sent: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 3:10 PM
To: Bayer, Chris
Subject: URGENT - ACT Migration Program is closed to overseas applicants [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Chris – email to all agents

Dear Agents

Greetings from Canberra

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa – Closure of ACT Migration Program to overseas applicants

Effective immediately (23 August 2017 at 9am AEST) applications for ACT nomination from overseas residents will not be accepted.

- If your client is living overseas you will not be able to commence an application for ACT nomination of a Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa until the program reopens at a date to be determined.
- If you have **recently** started an application for ACT nomination **prior to closure of the program**, and the status is 'in progress', the application must be submitted, and the service fee paid before midnight Thursday 24 August 2014 (AEST). **You must submit a complete application e.g. all supporting documents attached, as additional documentation will not be accepted after lodgement.** Applications not submitted by midnight Thursday 24 August 2014 (AEST) will automatically lapse.

Please note, the processing time for applications lodged since 5 July 2017 onwards is likely to be 5 to 6 months, due to the large number of applications received post publication of the July 5 Occupation List.

CLOSE TIES TO CANBERRA

This action does **not** affect overseas applicants with close ties (either close family or genuine job offer) in Canberra. Close tie applicants will still be able to apply for ACT 190 nomination.

CANBERRA RESIDENTS

This action does not affect Canberra based applicants. If your client is living in Canberra and working in a skilled occupation, the program is still open. You are still able to lodge an application for ACT nomination of the Skilled Nominated (subclass 190) visa if your client

meets the current nomination criteria. The average processing time of applications from Canberra residents is 6 to 8 weeks.

Regards

Julianne

Julianne O'Brien | Client Manager

Phone 02 6207 1957 | Fax 02 6207 0033

Migration and Information Services | Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

490 Northbourne Ave, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |

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Regards

Julianne O'Brien

Phone: 02 6207 1957 | Email: julianne.obrien@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

ACT Government | Nara Centre, 1 Constitution Ave Canberra 2601

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

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From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Bayer, Chris](#)
Subject: important message CCYF website [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 4:21:06 PM

THE ACT MIGRATION PROGRAM IS CLOSED TO MOST OVERSEAS APPLICANTS: EFFECTIVE 23 AUGUST 2017

This action does not affect PhD streamlined applicants living overseas; or applicants with close ties (either family or genuine job offer) in Canberra. You are still able to lodge an application for ACT nomination if you meet the nomination criteria.

CANBERRA RESIDENTS

This action does **not** affect Canberra based applicants. You are still able to apply for ACT nomination if you meet the nomination criteria.

From: [OBrien, Julianne](#)
To: [Bayer, Chris](#)
Subject: RE: important message CCYF website [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 5:04:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

THE ACT MIGRATION PROGRAM IS NOW CLOSED TO OVERSEAS APPLICANTS: EFFECTIVE 23 AUGUST 2017

However, you can still apply for ACT 190 nomination if you have close ties (either family or genuine job offer) in Canberra; OR you have completed a PhD at an ACT university.

CANBERRA RESIDENTS - if you are living in Canberra, you can apply for ACT 190 nomination as soon as you meet the nomination criteria.

From: Bayer, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 4:51 PM
To: OBrien, Julianne
Subject: RE: important message CCYF website [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Julianne

My suggestions.

Chris Bayer | Manager - National Data Collections, Reporting and Skilled Migration

Phone: 02 6205 9134 | Email: chris.bayer@act.gov.au

Skills Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 5 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.cmtedd.act.gov.au

Signature



From: OBrien, Julianne
Sent: Tuesday, 22 August 2017 4:21 PM
To: Bayer, Chris
Subject: important message CCYF website [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
THE ACT MIGRATION PROGRAM IS NOW CLOSED TO MOST OVERSEAS APPLICANTS: EFFECTIVE 23 AUGUST 2017

This action does not affect PhD streamlined applicants living overseas; or applicants with close ties (either family or genuine job offer) in Canberra.

These applicants ~~You~~ are still able to lodge an application for ACT nomination if you meet the nomination criteria.

CANBERRA RESIDENTS

This action does **not** affect Canberra based applicants. You are still able to apply for ACT nomination if you meet the nomination criteria.



ACT international services exports increased in 2016-17

ACT

In 2016-17, ACT services exports increased by 6.5 per cent, while ACT services imports increased by 8.8 per cent. The ACT services trade deficit was \$346 million, increasing from a deficit of \$280 million in 2015-16.

National

Australia's services exports increased by 8.3 per cent in 2016-17, while services imports decreased by 1.5 per cent. Australia services trade deficit was \$2.7 billion, reducing from a deficit of \$10.3 billion in 2015-16.

Services exports and imports, 2016-17

	Value (\$'m)	Change (%)
ACT		
Services exports	1,942	6.5
Services imports	2,288	8.8
Services trade balance (surplus + /deficit -)	-346	
Australia		
Services exports	81,642	8.3
Services imports	84,344	-1.5
Services trade balance (surplus + /deficit -)	-2,702	

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

ACT largest services exports, 2016-17

	Value (\$'m)	Change (%)
Education exports ¹	786	24.4
Government goods and services exports ²	452	8.7
Inbound tourism ³	246	-3.9
Technical, trade-related and other business services ⁴	228	10.1
Research and development services	105	-17.3

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

ACT largest services imports, 2016-17

	Value (\$'m)	Change (%)
Government goods and services imports ²	1,243	1.3
Outbound tourism ³	694	9.8
Outbound business travel	103	10.8
Technical, trade-related and other business services ⁴	98	180.0
Research and development services	49	-5.8

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Notes:

1. The ABS classification is 'Travel – Personal – Education related'.
2. The ABS classification 'Government goods and services not included elsewhere': imports are largely related to purchases by the Australian diplomatic missions overseas; exports are largely related to purchases by the foreign diplomatic missions in the ACT.
3. The ABS classification is 'Travel – Personal – Other'.
4. ABS classification 'Technical, trade related and other business services' includes architectural, engineering, scientific and technical services, as well as miscellaneous business services.

Commentary

Services exports

In 2016-17, the largest contributor to growth in ACT services exports was education exports (up 24.4 per cent), contributing 8.4 percentage points to overall growth. This is the highest growth rate of any State or Territory.

Over the past five years, ACT education exports have increased by 79.5 per cent, reflecting a growing number of international students choosing to study in Canberra. The ACT's five year growth rate is 16.1 percentage points higher than the national growth rate (63.4 per cent).

In 2016-17, government goods and services exports (up 8.7 per cent) contributed 2.0 percentage points to growth. Technical, trade-related and other business services exports (up 10.1 per cent) contributed 1.2 percentage points to growth. Over the past five years, Technical, trade-related and other business services exports have increased by 140.0 per cent.

This was partly offset by a decline in inbound business travel in 2016-17 (down 37.2 per cent), detracting 1.6 percentage points from growth.

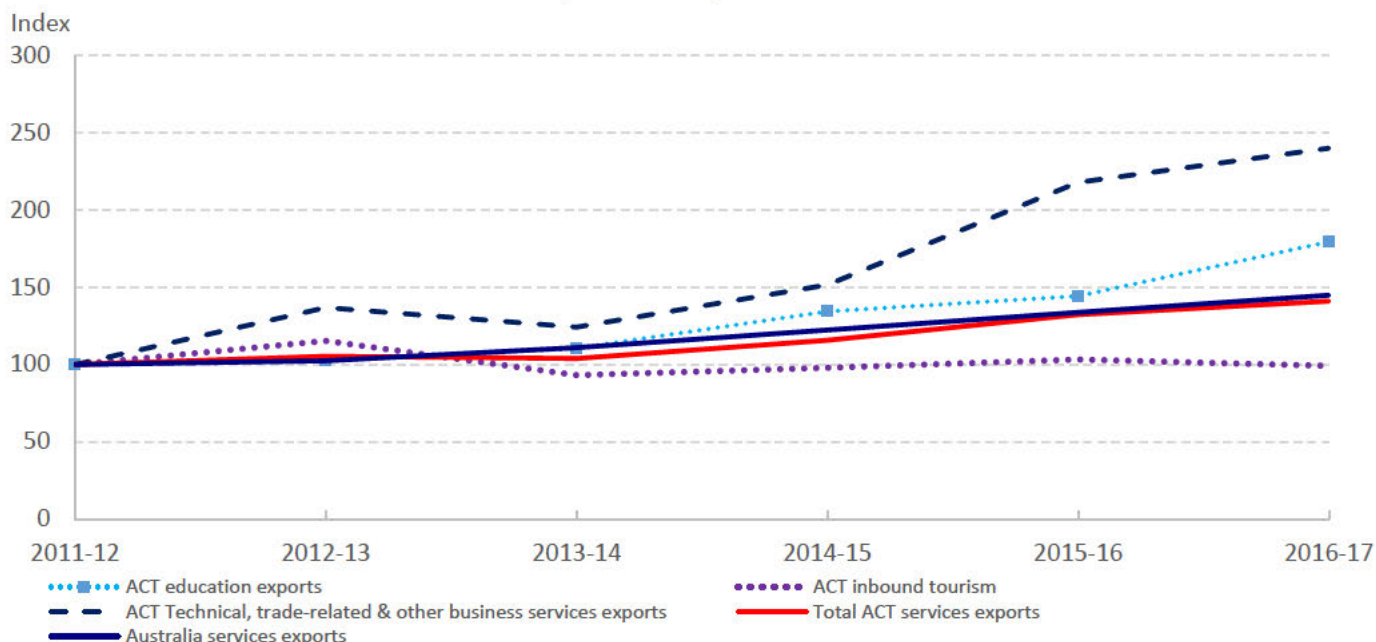
Inbound tourism (down 3.9 per cent) detracted 0.5 percentage points from growth in 2016-17. Over the past five years, inbound tourism has been flat (down 0.8 per cent).

Services imports

The growth in ACT services imports (up 8.8 per cent) was partly due to a significant increase in Technical, trade-related and other business services imports (up 180.0 per cent), contributing 3.0 percentage points to overall growth.

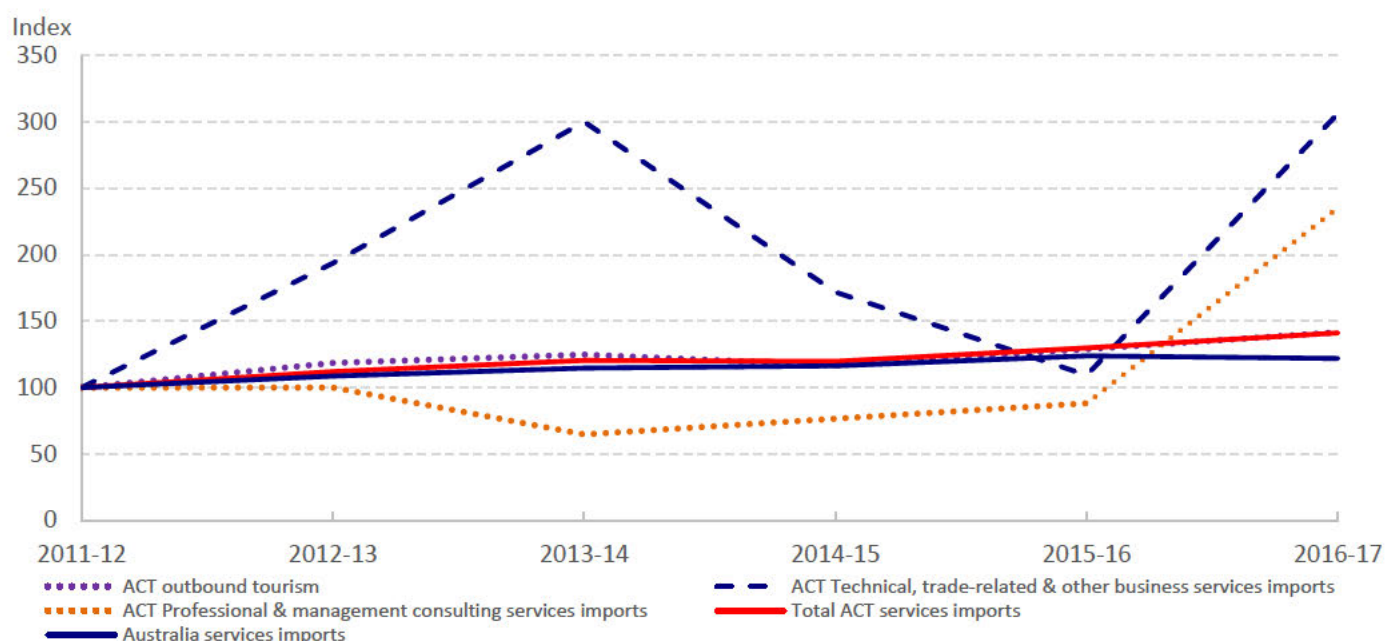
Outbound tourism (up 9.8 per cent) contributed 2.9 percentage points. Professional and management consulting services (up 166.7 per cent) contributed 1.2 percentage points to growth.

Services exports index, ACT and Australia



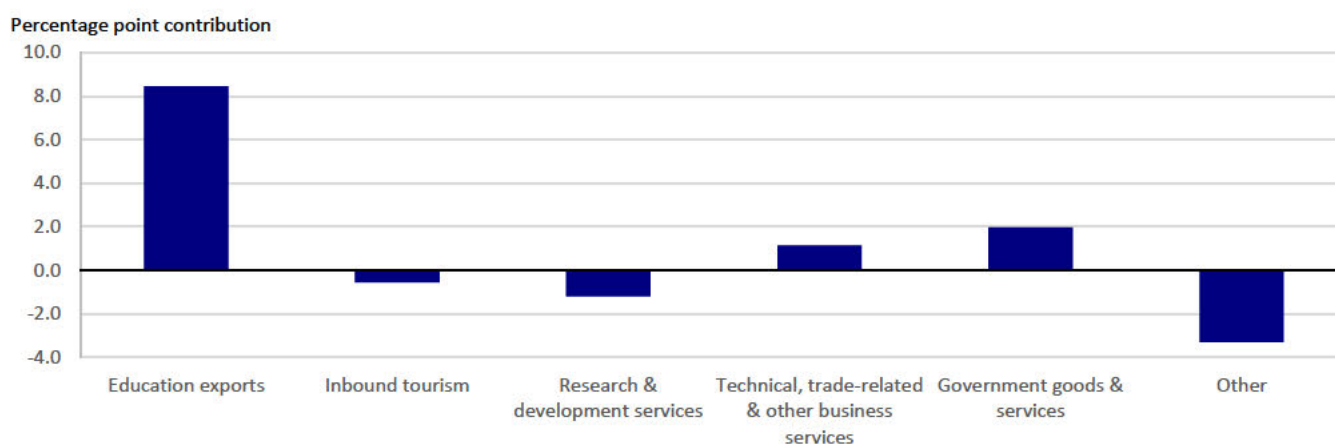
Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003; ACT Treasury calculation
Base 2011-12 = 100

Services imports index, ACT and Australia



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003; ACT Treasury calculation
Base 2011-12 = 100

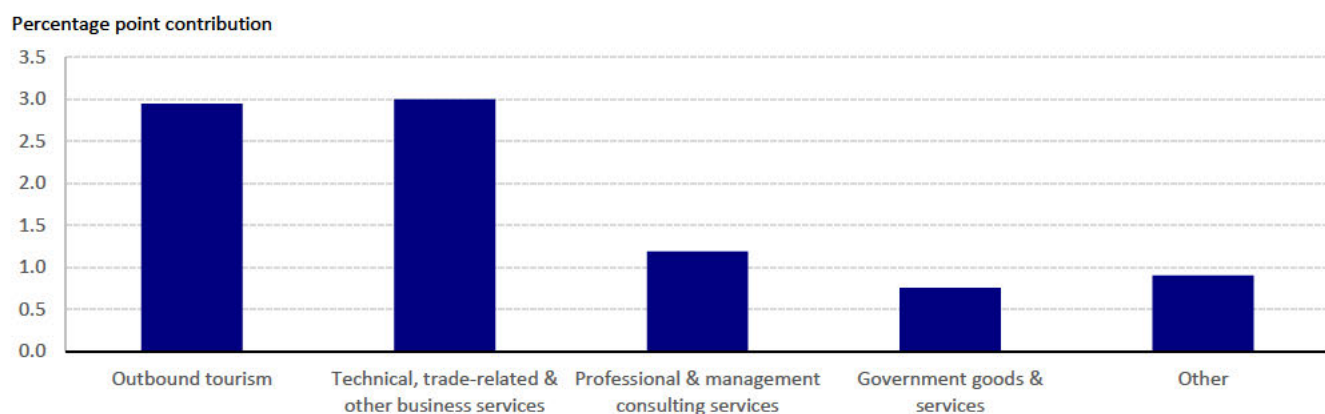
2016-17 ACT services exports, contribution to growth



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Note: The Other exports grouping includes transport, inbound business travel, insurance and pension services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunications, professional and management consulting services and personal, cultural and recreation.

2016-17 ACT services imports, contribution to growth



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Note: The Other imports grouping includes transport, outbound business travel, education imports, research and development, insurance and pension services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunications and personal, cultural and recreation.