

- 1) *Detailed information on how invitations for subclass 189 and 190 are issued and any policies or procedures that department of immigration follow to select candidates to issue invitations.*

Skilled Nominated visas (subclass 190) are not included in invitation rounds. Each state or territory has their own process to determine which candidates are nominated.

Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189) invitations are issued from SkillSelect via an automated process.

SkillSelect uses a ranking process for the invitation rounds. This ranking sees the highest point scoring Expressions of Interest (EOIs) invited first followed by EOIs with earlier dates of effect. The system operates without manual intervention to ensure objectivity in the ranking process and invitation rounds.

- 2) *Information on how the department limits number of invitations per invitation round.*

The Department of Home Affairs sets the number of invitations for each round taking into consideration a number of factors:

- the number of applications for Skilled Independent visas (subclass 189) that are already waiting to be processed.
- the availability of places in a nominated occupation.

- 3) *Details of number of invitations that were issued for subclass 189 and 190 for ICT occupations with points score above 60 and below 70 excluding the state nominated points.*

01/05/2017 to 21/01/2018 (to 31 January 2018) for 2611 ANZSCO code:

1. Total invitations – 1341
2. Subclass 189 – 430
3. Subclass 190 - 271

- 4) *Why invitations for the candidates with only 70 or 75 points were invited in the past 3-4 invitation rounds while EOI cutoff is 60 points for ICT occupations.*

All invitations issued during automated rounds are subject to the ranking system of the highest points score followed by the earliest date of submission. As EOIs enter and exit SkillSelect the ranking changes.

Other factors that can impact the cut-off points score are:

- Fewer invitations offered may drive the dates back and points pass mark up.
- Entry into the pool of many clients with higher points' scores may push the date of effect backwards for the cut-off score.
- The cut-off number is not indicative of the points pass-mark required for the visa subclass.

The occupation of ICT Business and System Analysts (2611) is subject to pro rata arrangements. Pro rata arrangements are applied to an occupation group for each invitation round and use the ranking system of the highest points score followed by the earliest date of submission.

- 5) *Information on why the number of invitations per round is lowered from approximate 1000-1200 to approximate of 300 - 400 and when can it be expected to increase back to 1000.*

Invitation round numbers for each round throughout the program year are considered monthly. A timeframe on when, or if, the ceiling for ICT occupations will change is unable to be anticipated.