

9 January 2023

A Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Following the release on Friday 6 January of the Centre for Population's Population Statement 2022, the journalist reporting the event on SBS News stated that, in the current year, the government was bringing 195,000 skilled migrants into the country. This statement is grossly incorrect but is the widely held interpretation of the government's migration program in the community.

In fact, the Skilled component of the 2022-23 Program is 142,400. About half of these are the family members of the primary applicants meaning there are about 71,000 skilled migrants being afforded permanent residence. Of these 50-60 per cent are already in Australia and most of these are already working in the Australian labour force. So, in rough terms, mirroring the words of the SBS journalist, the government's migration program in 2022-23 will bring about 35,000 skilled migrants into the country, not 195,000.

Given that now partners and children in the Family Stream and the family members of skilled migrants are all provided permanent residence according to demand, the public perception would be enhanced if the government's migration program consisted only of the specified number of primary applicants for skilled migration.

Other capped categories such as Humanitarian migrants and parents of Australian citizens would be announced separately.

Yours sincerely,



Peter McDonald
Professor of Demography

President of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population 2010-13, Member in the Order of Australia, Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Winner of the 2015 Irene Taeuber Award of the Population Association of America, Winner of the 2022 Laureate of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.