

# 13 Additions to the labour force from migration

## 13.1 Australian Medical Council approvals

A significant source of permanent additions to the Australian medical labour force is overseas-trained medical practitioners who have permanent resident status and who have gained full or conditional eligibility to practise by meeting examination and other requirements of the Australian Medical Council.

In 1996 a total of 289 permanent-resident overseas-trained medical practitioners were ratified for registration by the Australian Medical Council. Of these, 63 were specialists.

**Table 95: Australian Medical Council examination results, 1992–96**

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Overseas trained doctors entering through the general registration pathway</b>					
Multiple choice questionnaire examination					
Number of candidates presenting	921	812	619	688	858
Number passing/eligible to proceed to clinical examination	298	217	218	220	392
Clinical examination					
Number exams conducted	570	439	380	482	512
Number passing Australian Medical exam and eligible for registration	238	194	212	262	226
<b>Overseas trained specialists entering through the Australian Medical Council/specialist college</b>					
Number of applications received	264(a)	147	139	174	n.a.
Number rejected	67(a)	3	10	7	5
Total qualified for registration	50(a)	10	23	55	63
<b>Total overseas trained doctors entering the</b>	<b>289(b)</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>289</b>

(a) Data for the period 1990–92.

(b) Includes Australian Medical Council/specialist college pathway data for the period 1990–92.

### Notes

1. The total number of examinations conducted is a factor of the number of clinical examination places that the Australian Medical Council is able to arrange in any one year. In 1993 the number of places was reduced from a target of 600 per year to 400 per year as a result of constraints on the clinical resources used for the clinical examinations.
2. A three-year limit for Australian Medical Council clinical examination came into force on 1 January 1995 for those who passed the multiple choice questionnaire examination.
3. From 1996 the Australian Medical Council was to cease to conduct the multiple choice questionnaire overseas.

Source: Australian Medical Council.

## 13.2 Migration by medical practitioners

Medical practitioner international migration data are provided by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. The features of these data included the following.

### Visas issued

- In 1995–96, 545 visas were issued to persons holding medical qualifications permanently migrating to Australia, an increase of 12.6% on the number issued in 1994–95. The majority of these visas (71.6%) were issued under the ‘preferential family’ category.
- 34.7% of these visas were issued at immigration offices in the People’s Republic of China and a further 13.8% were issued at offices in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

### Permanent migration

- In 1995–96, 626 medical practitioners who were citizens of foreign countries permanently migrated to Australia. Almost half (49.4%) previously resided in Asia, 13.9% in the United Kingdom or Ireland, and 11.3% in New Zealand. A further 819 medical practitioners who were Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia returned after a long-term (12 months or more) overseas stay. Of these, 38.0% had been staying in the United Kingdom or Ireland, 23.7% in Asia and 20.3% in the United States of America or Canada.
- During the same year, 153 medical practitioners permanently migrated from Australia—32.0% to New Zealand. A further 605 foreign medical practitioners who had been residing in Australia for 12 months or more departed from Australia—44.5% to the United Kingdom or Ireland.

### Temporary migration for the purpose of employment

- In 1995–96, 980 medical practitioners who were citizens of foreign countries arrived in Australia temporarily to take up employment—412 for a long-term stay and 568 for a short-term stay. Of these, 56.6% previously resided in the United Kingdom or Ireland and 9.9% in New Zealand.
- During the same year, 790 Australian citizen or permanent resident medical practitioners left Australia temporarily to take up employment overseas—424 on a long-term basis and 366 on a short-term basis. Of these, 32.0% were intending to work in the United Kingdom or Ireland, 31.0% in Asia, 18.6% in the United States of America or Canada and 3.8% in New Zealand.

**Table 96: Permanent migration of medical practitioners to Australia: category of visa, 1991-92 to 1995-96**

Visa category	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Business	17	0	1	4	6
Concessional family	156	75	58	47	39
Employer nomination scheme	40	27	28	38	45
Preferential family	146	167	193	235	390
Independent	249	94	118	127	45
Refugee/humanitarian	26	66	36	32	20
Other	5	0	2	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>545</b>

  

	(per cent)				
Business	2.7	0.0	0.2	0.8	1.1
Concessional family	24.4	17.5	13.3	9.7	7.2
Employer nomination scheme	6.3	6.3	6.4	7.9	8.3
Preferential family	22.8	38.9	44.3	48.6	71.6
Independent	39.0	21.9	27.1	26.2	8.3
Refugee/humanitarian	4.1	15.4	8.3	6.6	3.7
Other	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, unpublished data.

**Table 97: Permanent migration of medical practitioners to Australia: category of visa and country of visa issue, 1995-96**

Country of visa issue	Business	Con- cessional familiv	Employer nomination	Preferential familiv	Independen	Refugee/ humani- tarian	Total
China	1	0	1	187	0	0	189
Egypt	0	4	0	11	0	2	17
Germany	2	0	0	5	0	0	7
Greece	0	3	1	3	2	0	9
Hong Kong	1	3	3	24	7	1	39
India	0	0	0	16	6	0	22
New Zealand	0	2	2	7	4	0	15
Russian	0	0	0	20	0	5	25
Singapore	2	1	0	0	2	0	5
South Africa	0	8	7	4	4	0	23
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	13	4	1	18
United Kingdom/Ireland	0	5	23	43	4	0	75
Other countries	0	13	8	57	12	11	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>545</b>

  

	(per cent)						
China	16.7	0.0	2.2	47.9	0.0	0.0	34.7
Egypt	0.0	10.3	0.0	2.8	0.0	10.0	3.1
Germany	33.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3
Greece	0.0	7.7	2.2	0.8	4.4	0.0	1.7
Hong Kong	16.7	7.7	6.7	6.2	15.6	5.0	7.2
India	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	13.3	0.0	4.0
New Zealand	0.0	5.1	4.4	1.8	8.9	0.0	2.8
Russian	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0	25.0	4.6
Singapore	33.3	2.6	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.9
South Africa	0.0	20.5	15.6	1.0	8.9	0.0	4.2
Sri Lanka	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	8.9	5.0	3.3
United Kingdom/Ireland	0.0	12.8	51.1	11.0	8.9	0.0	13.8
Other countries	0.0	33.3	17.8	14.6	26.7	55.0	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>						

Source: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, unpublished data.

**Table 98: Permanent migration of medical practitioners to and from Australia, 1992–93 to 1995–96**

	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1995–96
	(number)				(per cent)
<b>Permanent migration of overseas residents to Australia</b>					
Country of previous					
New Zealand	39	49	74	71	11.3
Other Oceania	7	5	6	6	1.0
United Kingdom/Ireland	105	85	119	87	13.9
Other Europe	103	55	81	63	10.1
Middle East	11	15	22	24	3.8
Africa	33	38	40	35	5.6
Hong Kong	46	28	31	30	4.8
China	25	42	58	186	29.7
Other Asia	96	100	110	93	14.9
United States of America/Canada	13	19	13	25	4.0
Other countries	2	9	4	6	1.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>445</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>626</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Migration to Australia by Australian residents returning after a long-term overseas stay</b>					
Country of long-term stay					
New Zealand	14	17	13	18	2.2
Other Oceania	15	13	24	12	1.5
United Kingdom/Ireland	312	324	289	311	38.0
Other Europe	38	49	38	43	5.3
Middle East	28	34	38	44	5.4
Africa	26	26	29	24	2.9
Hong Kong	95	98	120	106	12.9
Singapore	13	15	14	10	1.2
Malaysia	20	16	10	14	1.7
Other Asia	35	39	50	65	7.9
United States of	137	164	179	166	20.3
Other countries	1	3	2	6	0.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>734</i>	<i>798</i>	<i>806</i>	<i>819</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Migration from Australia of Australian residents permanently departing</b>					
Country of future residence					
New Zealand	29	34	52	49	32.0
Other Oceania	1	1	0	2	1.3
United Kingdom/Ireland	37	31	41	32	20.9
Other Europe	6	9	7	6	3.9
Middle East	6	10	4	3	2.0
Asia	29	37	36	29	19.0
United States of	22	25	13	27	17.6
Other countries	3	4	1	5	3.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Migration from Australia of temporary visitors departing after long-term</b>					
Country of future residence					
New Zealand	18	32	20	22	3.6
Other Oceania	14	9	17	17	2.8
United Kingdom/Ireland	187	161	192	269	44.5
Other Europe	18	31	35	41	6.8
Malaysia	32	26	35	31	5.1
China	38	31	39	39	6.4
Japan	15	31	25	19	3.1
Other Asia	83	76	82	124	20.5
United States of	10	21	17	16	2.6
Other countries	16	17	18	27	4.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>431</i>	<i>435</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>605</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Source: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, unpublished data.

**Table 99: Temporary migration of medical practitioners to and from Australia for employment, 1992–93 to 1995–96**

	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1995–96
	(number)				(per cent)
<b>Migration to Australia for long-term stay</b>					
Country of previous					
New Zealand	50	48	63	41	10.0
United Kingdom/Ireland	148	193	241	278	67.5
Asia	25	32	37	37	9.0
Other countries	18	25	35	56	13.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>412</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Migration to Australia for short-term stay</b>					
Country of previous					
New Zealand	52	57	49	56	9.9
United Kingdom/Ireland	334	444	641	277	48.8
Asia	25	38	46	37	6.5
United States of	8	25	36	164	28.9
Other countries	7	31	23	34	6.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>426</i>	<i>595</i>	<i>795</i>	<i>568</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Migration of Australian residents from Australia for long-term overseas</b>					
Country of long-term stay					
New Zealand	9	13	12	17	4.0
Other Oceania	26	21	18	24	5.7
United Kingdom/Ireland	163	140	161	147	34.7
Other Europe	11	13	12	17	4.0
Middle East	23	21	23	22	5.2
Hong Kong	54	56	67	50	11.8
Other Asia	39	31	36	45	10.6
United States of	101	69	93	87	20.5
Other countries	13	15	12	15	3.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Migration of Australian residents from Australia for short-term overseas</b>					
Country of short-term stay					
New Zealand	62	4	5	13	3.6
Other Oceania	6	6	8	10	2.7
United Kingdom/Ireland	84	120	83	106	29.0
Other Europe	6	7	7	6	1.6
Middle East	16	20	9	16	4.4
Singapore	42	12	7	3	0.8
Hong Kong	37	94	117	70	19.1
Other Asia	44	13	28	77	21.0
United States of	49	41	40	60	16.4
Other countries	11	17	4	5	1.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>334</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Source: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, unpublished data.