



GLOBAL BUSINESS & TALENT  
ATTRACTION TASKFORCE

**AUSTRALIA**

## Exceptional opportunities

Australia is recruiting exceptional global  
talent & top tier businesses

# Global Business and Talent Attraction Newsletter

**March 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first edition of the Global Business and Talent Attraction Newsletter for 2021. This Newsletter provides quarterly policy updates, highlights of key engagements and successful candidates.

Kendall Draper has taken up her position as the new Global Talent Officer for South East Asia and South Asia. Kendall will be based out of the Australian High Commission in Singapore with Cecilia Calder, Global Talent Support Officer.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you over the coming months.

Regards

Kendall and Cecilia.

## **Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce**

The Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce is an Australian Government initiative to attract high-value, marquee businesses and exceptionally talented individuals to Australia along with their ideas, networks and capital.

The Taskforce is led by the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Global Business and Talent Attraction, Peter Verwer AO and is a coordinated national effort hosted by the Department of Home Affairs, partnering with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, with expertise from the Treasury, the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, and Defence.

Working with the States and Territories, the Taskforce is offering a new gateway for eligible high-yield businesses and exceptionally talented individuals to enter the Australian marketplace.

*“We’re not just open for business, we’re open to businesses of the future and we’ve created a new gateway to get there.”* Peter Verwer AO – Prime Minister’s Special Envoy



We want people with entrepreneurial energy and deep skill sets, who can drive innovation and create local jobs. We want the most successful companies with high growth potential and highly skilled people in future-focused industries to come to Australia and develop their ideas here.

We are looking for businesses that can make significant contributions to our economic recovery and long-term prosperity by building clusters or ecosystems of excellence in priority sectors, conducting cutting-edge research and development, and filling gaps in supply chains. We want these apex enterprises to partner with local companies and institutions to help deliver our blueprint for economic growth.

We are setting the bar high and we’re asking business, industry organisations and sector leaders to help us identify which enterprises and entrepreneurs they believe would turbocharge our economy and boost Australia’s national prosperity.

The Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce looks forward to working with you to help achieve our national goals. Further information can be found on the [Global Business & Talent Attraction Taskforce Australia website](#) and keep up to date with the [Taskforce by connecting here on LinkedIn](#).

## Global Talent Visa Program

On 27 February 2021 the Distinguished Talent Visa was renamed the Global Talent Visa.

The Global Talent Visa Program has continued to assess and finalise expressions of interest and visa applications for top calibre candidates over the past six months. However, due to COVID-19, the Department is experiencing delays in responding to expressions of interest received via the Global Talent contact form. If you do have candidates that are experiencing delays receiving a response please do not hesitate to let us know and we will assist where possible.

### Changes to student eligibility

The Department has announced new eligibility requirements for student and graduate applicants for the Global Talent Visa Program.

- Bachelor with Honours, Masters by Coursework and Masters by Research graduates will no longer be eligible solely on the basis of having achieved a qualification in a priority sector.
- PhD graduates who completed their studies within the past three years will still be eligible, however candidates who achieved their qualification overseas from a non-Australian education provider must demonstrate that their PhD meets Australian standards.
- PhD students nearing completion of their degree must demonstrate that they have a prior record of exceptional and outstanding professional achievement, and that their PhD will meet Australian standards.

Candidates who have expressed interest in the program but who have not yet received an invitation will be subject to the new eligibility requirements. Any candidate who has already been invited to the program will be eligible to continue with their visa application on the basis of their qualifications.

## New Global Talent priority sectors

On 17 December 2020, s499 Ministerial Direction no.89 came into effect and includes a new list of Global Talent priority sectors:

- Resources
- Agri-food and AgTech
- Energy
- Health industries
- Defence, advanced manufacturing and space
- Circular economy
- Digitech
- Infrastructure and tourism
- Financial services and FinTech
- Education

The ten priority sectors will ensure Australia's investment priorities are aligned with opportunities that support our post COVID-19 economic recovery. The ten sectors identified will maximise opportunities that sustain our economic growth, build resilience from future global shocks, and provide jobs and opportunities to Australians.

Further information on the Global Talent Visa Program can be found on the Department's [website](#).

## Successful candidates and businesses

We are proud to celebrate Sakka Mohamed, one of Australia's newest global talents. Hailing from Tunisia, Sakka is the current lead software engineer for MFC Safe in Queensland. Having successfully developed and delivered complex projects in Australia, Canada and Japan, Sakka moved here because "Australia is a compelling destination to develop and commercialise the next generation of agriculture and food technologies."



*Mr Sakka Mohamed, Global Talent recipient*

Dirk-Jan ter Horst and Gaurav Singhal are co-founders of Drive lah, a peer-to-peer car sharing platform they created in 2018 that has now become Singapore's largest car sharing community.

After picking Australia as their next destination for the Drive lah platform, they have partnered with a local Australian technology firm and will soon be launching the Australian version, Drive Mate, which will contribute to Australia's urban mobility and smart cities initiative, creating jobs for locals along the way.

*“Australia offers brilliant opportunities for entrepreneurs like us and a great environment for our children to have a bright future.”*



*Dirk-Jan ter Horst and Gaurav Singhal*

## Travel restrictions and exemptions

From 22 January 2021, if you are travelling to or transiting through Australia, you must provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test to your airline, taken 72 hours or less before your scheduled departure.

If you do not have evidence of a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test, you should not go to the airport as your airline will not allow you to board the aircraft.

More information can be found on the Department's [website](#) and the Department of Health [website](#).

## Limits on international arrivals

Information about the total number of limits on international arrivals across all jurisdictions can be found on the National Cabinet [website](#).

On 5 February 2021, the National Cabinet agreed that international passenger arrival caps would return to pre-8 January levels on 15 February 2021 for:

- New South Wales (430 per day)
- Queensland (1000 per week).

The National Cabinet also agreed that international passenger arrival caps would increase on February 2021 for:

- Victoria from 1120 to 1310 arrivals per week with additional increases to be considered
- South Australia from 490 to 530 arrivals per week.

The current cap in Western Australia (512 per week) will remain in place pending further review.

Further information about international passenger arrival caps can be found on the National Cabinet's [website](#).

The Department of Home Affairs does not have a role in determining how airlines allocate booking arrangements. It is the sole responsibility of airline carriers to make this decision. Passengers should

ensure they check the airline's required documentation and other travel conditions prior to check in. Further information about quarantine arrangements for passengers arriving into Australia is available on the local State and Territory Health Departments' [website](#).

## Australian Travel Declaration

Before you travel to Australia, you should complete the Australia Travel Declaration at least 72 hours before your departure for Australia.

The Australia Travel Declaration collects your contact details in Australia, flight details, quarantine requirements and your health status. This information helps the Australian Government determine your quarantine arrangements (if required) and also allows the relevant health departments to contact you if someone you travelled with tests positive for COVID-19.

If you do not complete the declaration you may not be able to board your flight, or you may experience delays when you arrive in Australia. Further information is available on the Department of Home Affairs [website](#).

## Additional resources

Further information about working in Australia and visa options can be found on the Department of Home Affairs [website](#).

## System Maintenance

If you are experiencing system outages and maintenance issues on the Department's website, including ImmiAccount, please refer to [System Maintenance](#) on our website.

### Australian Government news and updates

Stay up to date with the latest [COVID-19](#) news and advice from Australian Government agencies.

### Border updates

Some states and territories in Australia have closed their borders to non-essential travel due to COVID-19. Keep up to date with [state and territory](#) border closures and entry requirements.

#### For more information visit:

[Exceptional opportunities | Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce \(globalaustralia.gov.au\)](#)

[www.homeaffairs.gov.au/global-talent](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/global-talent)

**Global Talent Officer** – Kendall Draper

[\(kendall.draper@dfat.gov.au\)](mailto:kendall.draper@dfat.gov.au)

[Kendall Draper | LinkedIn](#)

**Global Talent Support Officer** – Cecilia Calder

[\(cecilia.calder@dfat.gov.au\)](mailto:cecilia.calder@dfat.gov.au)