



AustraliaMigrate Reviews 2027 International Student Planning Level

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CHATSWOOD, NSW - September 09, 2026 -

AustraliaMigrate, a registered migration agency established in 2000, has published a review of the 2027 National Planning Level (NPL) for Australia's international education sector, confirmed by the Australian Government on 15 July 2026. The NPL for 2027 will remain at 295,000 New Overseas Student Commencements (NOSC), the same level as 2026, and the review is aimed at prospective students and the education agents and providers who work with them.

The review explains that the NPL is not a cap or a hard limit on international student numbers. Instead, it operates as a prioritisation system built into visa processing. Student visa applications lodged from outside Australia are processed as high priority until a student's chosen education or training provider reaches a threshold of its NOSC allocation for that year, which was 80 per cent in 2026. After a provider passes that threshold, further student visa applications naming that provider are still accepted and can still be granted, but they are processed more slowly.

"The most common misunderstanding we see is that the planning level is a quota that shuts the door once it's reached," said Ian Singer, Director and Principal Registered Migration Agent at AustraliaMigrate. "It isn't. A genuine student who meets the visa requirements can still apply and still be granted a visa after the threshold is reached. What changes is the speed of processing, not the outcome, and that's a distinction worth understanding before choosing a provider and a lodgement date."

AustraliaMigrate's review notes that the Australian Government has confirmed no active education provider will receive a lower allocation in 2027 than it held in 2026, and that a number of student cohorts sit outside the NOSC count altogether, including school students, standalone English language course students, higher degree by research candidates, TAFE and VET students at dual-sector universities, and students from the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The review is published against the backdrop of a related change already in effect: from 1 July 2026, the base visa application charge for the Student (subclass 500) visa rose from \$2,000 to \$2,500 under the Government's 2026-27 Budget measures.

Mr Singer said the two changes, taken together, are shaping how his firm advises prospective students. "Cost has gone up, and processing speed can vary through the year depending on how close a provider is to its allocation," he said. "Neither of those things affects whether a genuine student is eligible. Our advice is to apply with a complete file as early as reasonably possible in the intake cycle, because that is the one factor a student can actually control. Every application is still assessed on its own circumstances, and no agent can promise a processing time or an outcome."

AustraliaMigrate advises prospective students and their families to confirm a provider's current allocation status directly with that provider before applying, and to check current Student visa requirements and charges with the Department of Home Affairs before lodging.

AustraliaMigrate is based in Chatswood, Sydney, and has assisted individuals, families and businesses with Australian visa applications for more than 25 years. The firm's agents are registered with the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority and provide advice across student, skilled, employer-sponsored and partner visa categories. For more information about the Student visa (subclass 500), the Graduate visa (subclass 485) pathway or the 2027 planning level, visit the AustraliaMigrate website.

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For more information about Australia Migrate Pty Ltd, contact the company here: Australia Migrate Pty Ltd Ian Singer 0294116000 ian@australiamigrate.com Suite 601, 10 Help Street, Chatswood NSW 2067, Australia

Australia Migrate Pty Ltd

AustraliaMigrate is a trusted leader in immigration & visa services. Led by Director Ian Singer and a team of five registered migration agents, we provide expert visa solutions for individuals and businesses of all sizes.

Website: <https://www.australiamigrate.com/>

Email: ian@australiamigrate.com

Phone: 0294116000

