New Study Finds 68% of Visa Applicants Unaware of Recent Immigration Policy Changes ? Australia Migrate Urges Informed Action

October 29, 2025

CHATSWOOD, NSW - October 29, 2025 -

A recent study conducted by Sydney-based migration consultancy Australia Migrate has revealed that 68 per cent of visa applicants are unaware of significant changes to Australia?s immigration policies. The findings highlight a widespread lack of awareness that may be placing thousands of applicants at risk of rejection, delay, or lost opportunity.

Drawing on data collected from internal consultations and enquiry trends during the first quarter of 2025, the team at Australia Migrate observed a recurring issue: many clients were relying on outdated, inaccurate, or informal information when preparing their visa applications. This is particularly evident in skilled, partner, family, and student visa streams, where even minor changes to eligibility requirements can have major implications for an applicant?s success.

According to Ian Singer, Director of Australia Migrate and a Registered Migration Agent, the public is often unaware that immigration policy shifts can occur several times per year.

?Migration law in Australia is dynamic. It evolves with the government?s priorities, economic needs, and labour market shortages,? said Mr Singer. ?Unfortunately, most people begin their visa process with information they found online a year ago or advice from someone in a similar situation. That?s where mistakes happen, and those mistakes can be costly.?

The most common errors identified include assuming an occupation is still on the Skilled Occupation List when it has been removed, believing student visas automatically lead to permanent residency, and selecting the wrong visa subclass altogether. Many applicants also depend on free online tools or calculators that have not been updated to reflect recent legislative changes.

Mr Singer explained that while these tools may offer a general overview, they often fail to reflect the nuances and legislative updates that migration agents are required to keep up to date with under the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) Code of Conduct.

?The complexity of the migration system means that even small misunderstandings can result in a visa refusal or missed opportunity,? he said. ?In many cases, we?ve had to help clients correct avoidable mistakes after they?ve already spent time and money lodging applications on their own.?

Australia Migrate, which has been assisting migrants for over two decades, provides tailored guidance to clients at all stages of their journey. The consultancy?s team of registered migration agents works closely with individuals and families to identify the most appropriate visa pathways, navigate eligibility requirements, and prepare strong applications aligned with the latest policy settings.

The firm offers services across a range of visa categories, including skilled migration, employer-sponsored visas, partner and family reunification, graduate visas, and transitions from temporary to permanent residency. According to Mr Singer, professional advice is not only valuable for ensuring eligibility but also for improving the efficiency of the application process.

?Many of our clients are eligible for more than one type of visa, but they often don?t realise this,? he said. ?By reviewing their background, skills, and goals, we can identify better pathways that may be faster, more secure, or provide greater long-term benefits.?

The findings come at a time when Australia?s migration program is undergoing significant structural changes. As the federal government focuses on addressing critical skills shortages, encouraging regional migration, and refining visa processing priorities, staying informed has become more important than ever.

Australia Migrate continues to see strong interest from skilled workers, international graduates, and families looking to reunite with loved ones in Australia. However, the firm cautions against relying on generic visa

advice found in online forums or through unofficial sources.

?We always encourage people to seek professional advice before they start their application,? Mr Singer said. ?The earlier you speak with a registered agent, the more options you have. It?s about setting the process up for success from day one.?

Established in 2000, Australia Migrate has supported thousands of successful visa applications from over 50 countries. The firm?s reputation is built on transparent communication, high success rates, and deep knowledge of Australia?s immigration system.

Each application is handled by a registered migration agent who is committed to providing ethical, clear, and up-to-date guidance. From assessing eligibility to liaising with the Department of Home Affairs, Australia Migrate assists clients every step of the way, ensuring compliance with Australian legislation and migration policies.

?Our mission is to give every client confidence in their migration journey,? Mr Singer added. ?It?s not just about lodging forms ? it?s about helping people make informed, life-changing decisions based on facts, not assumptions.?

About Australia Migrate

Australia Migrate is a registered migration consultancy based in Sydney, New South Wales. The firm provides expert advice and visa application services to individuals, families, and businesses across Australia?s skilled, partner, family, student, and employer-sponsored migration programs. All agents at Australia Migrate are registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) and operate in accordance with the official Code of Conduct.

Client Enquiries

To book a consultation or learn more about available visa pathways, visit www.australiamigrate.com/contact-us/

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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.

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