



Senator Pauline Hanson
One Nation Senator for Queensland

MEDIA RELEASE

ONE NATION TO SLASH IMMIGRATION BY 750,000

14 September 2026

One Nation will reset Australia's immigration system and slash the number of temporary visa holders and unlawful non-citizens in the country by more than 750,000 over three years. The major plan will restore Australian living standards, ease pressure on housing and essential services and bring population growth back to a sustainable rate.

One Nation leader Senator Pauline Hanson said Australians have had enough of mass migration and have been heard loud and clear.

"I know Australians are doing it tough. Families are competing with hundreds of people for rental accommodation. Patients are stuck in ambulances because there are not enough hospital beds. Young Australians are being locked out of home ownership while wages and infrastructure fail to keep up," Senator Hanson said.

"The Labor-Liberal political cartel has sacrificed Australian living standards to serve vested interests demanding continued mass migration. Under Labor, the number of temporary visa holders has surged from 2 million in 2022 to roughly 3 million in 2026.

"A larger economy on paper means nothing if Australians are poorer per person and cannot afford a home, find a hospital bed or get ahead. A larger economic pie doesn't mean anything if individual Australians' slice of it is getting smaller.

"One Nation's plan will return the temporary migrant population to around 2017 levels and the international student population to 2015 levels. Over the three years net overseas migration will be net-negative. Following this, One Nation's net overseas migration ceiling of 130,000 per year would remain in place.

"We will crack down on illegal migrant employment, cutting off illicit income and encouraging departures. Illegal migrants will be given three-months to leave Australia. Those who depart will be allowed to apply for a visa in the future. Those who remain unlawfully after this period will be subject to immigration enforcement and a lifetime ban from re-entering Australia.

"Tinkering around the edges will not fix the damage. This is about giving Australians breathing space by drastically cutting the stock of temporary migrants, restoring control and making sure migration serves Australia.





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“Vested interests and elite economists will shriek at the prospect of these cuts. But Canada has shown you can cut migrant numbers, take pressure off rents and still grow the economy.

“Universities will still be able to enrol more than 100,000 international students per year. Universities that provide accommodation for their international students will get priority for these places. Our new high-value postgraduate study visa will also help attract the world’s brightest minds in science, engineering and medical research, giving Australia the talent we need to compete and returning universities to their proper role as research institutions rather than visa factories.

“The temporary skilled migration program will remain available and be driven by employer demand. One Nation will maintain the existing seasonal worker programs, such as PALM and the working holiday maker program. Employers will still be able to sponsor skilled migrants, but temporary skilled migration will no longer operate as a sham family migration pathway.

“One Nation’s previously announced policy to pause new migration from countries the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade rates ‘do not travel’ because of terrorism or other extreme security risks will continue to apply. The use of taxpayer-funded legal aid for visa appeals will also stop.

“We will take back control of who comes here and how many we accept, train more Australians, restore living standards and put the safety and security of Australians first.”





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POLICY EXPLAINER

Details of One Nation's 750,000 Temporary Visa Cuts

What is One Nation proposing?

One Nation will substantially reduce Australia's temporary migrant population over three years, taking pressure off housing and essential services and restoring clear limits to the temporary migration system.

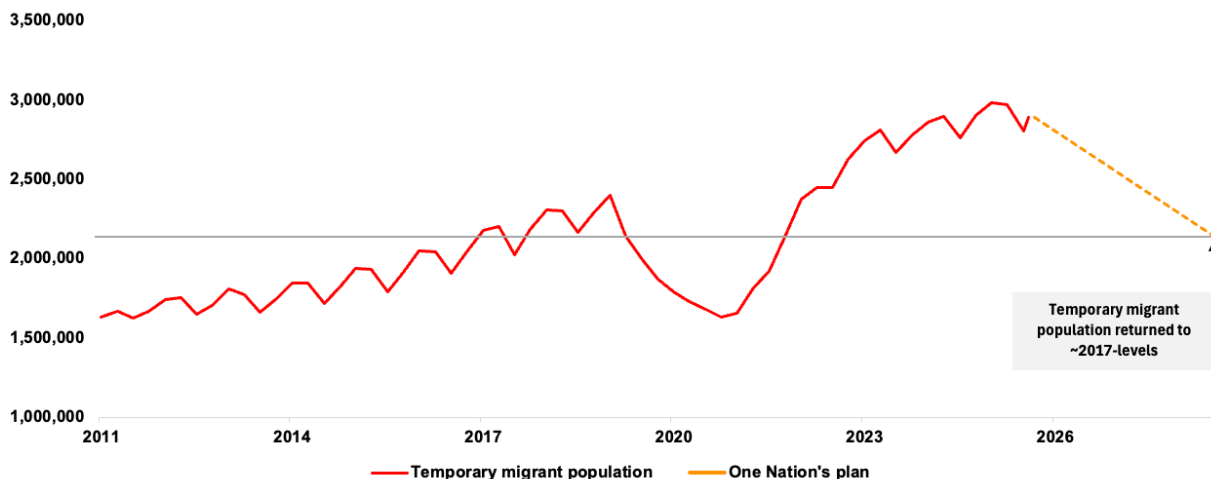
The major parties have allowed temporary visas to become a front door to long-term stays and permanent residence. One Nation's principle is straightforward: students should come to study, skilled workers should fill jobs Australia needs filled, and temporary visas should be temporary, with a clear end point.

One Nation's reduction in the temporary migrant population of approximately 750,000 will be achieved through:

- restricting visa numbers and tightening eligibility criteria for temporary student and student graduate visas;
- substantially restricting the ability of temporary students, graduates and skilled workers to sponsor family and dependants to Australia;
- ending the practice of temporary visa hopping; and
- the departure and removal of illegal migrants.

It is anticipated that One Nation's changes will bring the temporary migrant population down to 2017 levels of approximately 2.1 – 2.2 million.

One Nation's plan to cut temporary migration levels





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The changes to student, graduate, skilled and other visas are set out in the table below.

One Nation migration proposal

Visa category	CURRENT LEVELS		ONE NATION PROPOSAL		
	Total visa population in Australia on 31 July 2026	Total granted in FY2026	Annual visa grant caps	Target visa population after 3 years	Total reduction over 3 years
Student visas (subclass 500)	589,923	337,527	115,000	350,000	(239,923)
Primary applicants	522,374	291,536	100,000		
High-value study / PhD (new category)	0	0	15,000 ^{**}		
Other dependants / family	67,549	45,991	0		
Graduate visas (subclass 485)	269,674	144,063	20,000[^]	40,000	(229,674)
Primary applicants	195,970	101,384	20,000		
Dependants / family	73,704	42,679	0 [^]		
Temporary skilled visas (subclass 482)	263,489	140,824	70,000[*]	160,000	(103,489)
Primary applicants	140,447	69,335	70,000 [*]		
Dependants / family	123,042	71,489	0		
Bridging visa holders	412,533	—	—	300,000	(112,533)
Unlawful non-citizens (estimate)	80,000	N/A	N/A	0	(80,000)
Total	1,616,000	—	—	850,000	(766,000)

* **Uncapped estimates.** These grants are demand-driven. |

[^] **Family exceptions.** High-value study / PhD visas who transition to graduate visas may apply for dependent / family visas given the high economic contribution of these cohorts. All other graduate visas will be limited to primary applicants only.

Why is this needed?

Labor and the Coalition have allowed uncapped temporary migration to become a route to long-term settlement, with too little attention to the cost borne by regular Australians. In just 4 years, Labor has grown the temporary migrant population by 50%, or around 1 million people.

Universities benefit from international student fees. Employers gain access to an unlimited pool of temporary migrant labour - often low skilled and low paid. But the wider community must provide the housing, roads and services needed to accommodate a larger population.

Australia's migration program must always put Australians first. One Nation will put Australians' living standards at the centre of migration policy.





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What will net overseas migration (NOM) be under One Nation's policy?

One Nation will deliver net-negative overseas migration over the three-year reset, with more people leaving Australia than arriving.

We will reduce the temporary visa population by approximately 750,000 over three years.

Once this reduction is achieved, One Nation's net overseas migration ceiling of 130,000 per year would remain in place and be reviewed yearly.

Australia needs to reverse some of the migration-driven population growth that has put housing and services under such pressure. We will monitor the results and consider further restrictions if needed to deliver net-negative migration over the reset period.

What changes for student visas (subclass 500 visa)?

One Nation will cap the main student visa intake at 100,000 grants a year for three years.

One Nation will also create a new visa subclass for high-value postgraduate study. This will include PhDs and select STEM research degrees.

The policy will also:

- allow only PhD and select postgraduate research students on the new high-value study visa to bring dependants or family to Australia;
- prioritise the allocation of student visas to universities that secure accommodation for their international students, those in regional areas and those with a high post-study return rate;
- require all new student visa applications to be made from outside Australia;
- provide a one-off transition giving priority to student applications already lodged in Australia when the new rules begin; and
- review the cap after three years.

The target is to reduce the student visa population, including accompanying family members, from approximately 590,000 to 350,000 by year three. This would be the same level previously seen in 2015.

Australia will continue to welcome international students. But the sector should compete on the quality of its education, with migration decisions made separately in Australia's interests.

What are the changes for student graduate visas (subclass 485 visa)?

Completing an Australian course will no longer be enough to secure access to a broad post-study work pathway.

The existing subclass 485 visa and its streams will be replaced with a single student graduate visa capped at 20,000 grants a year.

The target is to reduce the graduate visa population from approximately 270,000 to 40,000 by year three.





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The new visa will last 18 months and will not be renewable.

Allocations will first be made to graduates who held the new high-value study visa. Remaining places will be open to other students, with priority being given to fields such as science, engineering, frontier technology and healthcare, and exceptional graduates in other fields that serve the national interest.

One Nation's plan will also ensure Australian students are not competing with international students for graduate jobs in fields like accounting, IT and business where there is a clear oversupply of graduates already.

At the end of the graduate visa, a person must leave unless they qualify for a skilled work visa.

Why change the graduate program so sharply?

The graduate visa has become a major reason temporary stays extend well beyond study. Graduate visas are currently offered as a broad post-study work entitlement to students completing any university and other courses. They are issued for up to 4 years, can be renewed in some cases and do not require a student to work in a job related to their field of study. It is common for graduate visa holders to sponsor family members who then enjoy broad working rights.

One Nation believes this undermines Australia's education and migration system.

The new program will retain outstanding talent while ending the expectation that any Australian qualification comes with an extended right to work and live here.

What are the changes for temporary skilled workers (subclass 482 visa)?

Australia's temporary skilled visa program has become a family migration program. More than half of temporary skilled visas granted in FY2026 were to family members and dependants of skilled migrants.

One Nation will end new visas for family members accompanying temporary skilled workers.

Existing family visas will remain valid until they expire but will not be renewed.

Employers will still be able to sponsor skilled workers. The program will remain demand-driven, with **no new cap on primary worker visas**.

Around **70,000 primary visas were granted in 2025–26**. That provides a guide to the program's size without accompanying family visas, but future numbers will depend on employer demand.

The removal of new secondary visas is expected to reduce the total number of people on temporary skilled visas, including family members, from approximately 263,000 to 160,000 by year three.

One Nation has serious concerns about how this program operates. Too often, the label "skilled migration" is used to justify recruitment into jobs where a genuine shortage has not been established.

One Nation will work with employers to understand where shortages exist, why they cannot recruit locally and what is stopping them from training Australians.





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The priority must be giving Australians the skills and opportunities to fill these jobs. Overseas recruitment should not become a permanent substitute for investing in Australian workers.

Migration should fill clearly identified needs. It should not become a standing substitute for apprenticeships, better training or competitive pay and conditions.

What does stopping visa hopping mean?

People should not be able to keep extending their stay by moving sideways between temporary visa categories.

Under the new rules:

- **Students** must leave after completing their studies unless eligible for the targeted graduate pathway.
- **Graduate visa holders** may move to an eligible employer-sponsored temporary skilled visa, but cannot obtain another graduate visa or switch back to a student visa from within Australia.
- **Temporary skilled workers** may renew or replace their work visa if eligible, but cannot switch onshore into student, graduate, visitor or other temporary categories.
- **Visitors** cannot apply for another visa from within Australia, apart from the specified exception for family-sponsored applications.

Outside the permitted pathways, a person will need to leave Australia before applying for a new visa.

What happens to bridging visas?

Bridging visas will remain available for legitimate applications that are permitted to be made in Australia.

One Nation will close many of the pathways that lead to bridging visas by requiring most visa applications to be made offshore. This includes student visas and repeat student visas. Onshore applications will continue to be permitted in certain cases, including family visas and temporary work visas for those already working in Australia.

Restricting onshore applications and visa switching will reduce the number of people entering and remaining in the bridging visa system. We anticipate this will reduce the current bridging visa population from approximately 413,000 to 300,000 by year three.

What happens to people living here without a valid visa?

One Nation supports a well-managed and targeted immigration system. We welcome migrants who come here to contribute to Australian society and abide by our laws.

There are approximately 80,000 unlawful non-citizens in Australia. These are illegal migrants who have no right to be in Australia. For too long, Labor and Liberal governments have decided to tolerate Australia's migration laws being disregarded. One Nation's position is clear: Australia must uphold its laws and cease rewarding those who break them.

One Nation will give people without a valid visa three months to leave voluntarily.

There will be no general amnesty allowing them to obtain a visa and remain. Assistance with





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flights may be provided case by case where a person genuinely cannot afford to leave. Large businesses will be subject to increased penalties and enforcement activities for employing illegal labour. Cutting off illegal income streams will encourage overstayers to self-depart.

Those who do not leave within the three-month period will face immigration enforcement and a lifetime ban on returning to Australia.

The package also proposes stronger consequences for deliberate overstaying:

- An automatically applied three-year re-entry ban for deliberate overstays exceeding one month.
- A lifetime re-entry ban for overstays exceeding six months.

Our objective is to make departure requirements enforceable and remove the incentive to break Australian law.

Will these changes mean fewer nurses, builders and other essential workers?

No. While we are removing secondary visas (i.e. family and dependants), this policy does not make any changes to the existing primary temporary skilled visa program. The program will continue to be driven by employer demand.

One Nation believes that a greater share of temporary skilled visas should be granted to essential workers like nurses, aged care workers and those in construction.

Currently there are very few essential workers in the temporary skilled visa program. For example, registered nurses represent only 1% of visas granted. Aged and disabled care workers comprise less than 0.5% of the program.

What will happen to the PALM program and working holiday makers?

These changes are limited to skilled work visas (subclass 482). Visas including the Working Holiday Maker program and the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme are separate to this and will continue as normal without change.

Won't cutting migration crash the economy?

Canada cut temporary migration sharply among students, temporary workers and graduates and is currently running net negative migration levels. People have kept spending, the economy is growing, and pressure on housing has eased.

Canada's left-wing government recognised that too many people were arriving for the housing and services available. Prime Minister Mark Carney stated the cuts "**will help ease strains on housing, on public infrastructure and social services.**"

Economists at TD, one of Canada's largest banks, studied what happened when Canada reduced migration. They found:

- **People kept spending.** The sharp slowdown in population growth did not produce a matching slump in spending at shops and businesses.
- **Less pressure on rents.** By 2027, renting a one-bedroom apartment would cost around





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C\$1,100 a year less than if high migration had continued.

- **Less pressure on jobs.** TD estimated that unemployment would have been at least one percentage point higher without the migration slowdown.

In the June quarter of 2026, Canada's economy grew 0.8 per cent, economic output per person rose 1 per cent, and household spending grew 0.8 per cent. Its population fell for the third quarter in a row.

The claim that we must keep importing people or the economy will collapse does not stand up. It is a lie.

The major parties use migration to make the economy look bigger and collect more tax. But a bigger pie does not mean a bigger slice for every Australian, especially when rent and bills swallow more of the family budget. Adding more people is not an economic plan.

Won't this destroy our universities?

Australia had a substantial international education industry in 2015. Returning student numbers to that size will not destroy Australia's international higher education industry.

The policy still allows up to 100,000 student visa grants a year and exempts students undertaking high-value research. Universities that provide student accommodation, those in regional areas and those with a high graduate return rate will receive priority allocation of these grants.

One Nation's position is that the primary role of universities must be to educate Australian students. In attracting international students, universities should compete on teaching, research and the value of their qualifications. The prospect of remaining in Australia should not be the foundation of their recruitment model.

We should be exporting education, not selling migration.

Why not just build more homes?

Australia has a chronic housing shortage. When the number of people needing homes grows faster than the supply, Australians face more competition for rentals and less chance of getting ahead. Migration needs to be far below the number of homes we build each year to alleviate the pressure on rents and house prices. Coalition policies that match migration to housing completions appear to view this shortage as acceptable. They also seem to suggest that new houses should be built for the benefit of new migrants not Australians.

Australia already builds more homes and has a larger relative construction workforce than other developed economies. Addressing our chronic housing shortages is also a demand problem.

