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'Skilled migration has not stopped, it has been temporarily suspended'

Explaining the reason behind the delay, Adelaide-based migration agent Mark Glazbrook said skilled migration will remain suspended until the federal government decides on the size and composition of the Migration Program which is set each year through the Budget process.

“But as the budget will now be delivered in October instead of May due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been no formal announcement about the 2020-2021 Migration Program year and as a result of that states and territories haven’t been advised about what their individual quotas are,” he said.

The delay has given rise to speculation among existing visa holders and prospect skilled migrants already reeling under economic pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Melbourne-based migration agent Navjot Kailay said while the delay is significant, visa seekers must remember that “General Skilled Migration is an integral part of the Australian migration program and has not been stopped.”

“A lot of misleading statements around skilled migration are in circulation since July 1. I would like to clarify that skilled migration has been temporarily suspended, but it has not stopped or will ever stop. There have been delays in the past as well, the only difference is that this year instead of one month, it has been suspended for a longer period,” he said.

“While applications in some states remain open - this implies that applicants meeting current criteria can apply for Expression of Interest (EOI) and nomination application if invited by the relevant state authority. However, nominations will only be issued once the quota is allocated to the respective state for this financial year.”

