There has been a distinct shift in the focus of Australia's Migration Program in favour of skilled migration over the last decade or so. As a result, more permanent places are now allocated to skilled migrants than any other category. Migrants entering Australia under the skill stream in 2010–11 accounted for 67.4 per cent of all visas granted to permanent migrants.

Perhaps even more significant is the rise in temporary long-term skilled migration to Australia over the last decade with many of these entrants transitioning to permanent residence over time. In 2009–10, 43,390 temporary migrants who entered Australia originally with a long-stay business (subclass 457) visa, became permanent residents—the majority having been granted permanent employer sponsored visas.

The Parliamentary Library has just published a new paper with more detail on this topic—*Skilled migration: temporary and permanent flows to Australia*. The paper provides background on migration to Australia since the first immigration department was established in 1945. It also outlines some of the more recent changes that have been made specifically to address labour market concerns and encourage more ‘demand-driven’ sponsored skilled migration. Skilled migration statistics since the 1980s are provided in the appendix.

Other key Parliamentary Library immigration-related papers include:
• H Spinks, *Australia’s Migration Program*, 2010


• E Koleth, *Multiculturalism: a review of Australian policy statements and recent debates in Australia and overseas*, 2010


Posted by Janet Phillips at 11:41 AM

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