

BUSINESS MIGRATION

TO

AUSTRALIA

THE COMPLETE 2026 GUIDE FOR
ENTREPRENURS, INVESTORS
& BUSINESS OWNERS



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BUSINESS MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

The Complete 2026 Guide for Entrepreneurs, Investors & Business Owners

Your Step-by-Step Roadmap to Australian Visas, Business Setup, Investment Pathways, and Permanent Residency

Using the D.R.E.A.M. Method™

Define | Research | Execute | Achieve | Maintain

By Manoj Palwe

RCIC R422575 | MIA Examination Passed | 25+ Years Experience

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Manoj's hands-on experience with the Australian Business Innovation and Investment Program spans the full spectrum of BIIP visa streams. His combination of technical immigration expertise, business consulting background, and genuine empathy for the migrant journey makes him a trusted advisor for business families worldwide.

DISCLAIMER

This e-book is intended for general informational purposes only. The information provided does not constitute legal or immigration advice. Immigration laws, policies, and administrative practices change frequently, and the details in this guide reflect information available as of early 2026. Specific thresholds, points values, and procedural requirements are described as they stood at time of writing; always verify against the Department of Home Affairs website and current state nomination guidelines before acting.

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, readers are strongly advised to consult a Registered Migration Agent (RMA) or qualified Australian immigration professional before making any decisions. The author and publisher accept no liability for any errors, omissions, or consequences arising from reliance on this information. Individual circumstances vary greatly, and outcomes cannot be guaranteed.

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Business migration to Australia is a multi-year, high-stakes process. This guide is designed to be strategic and practical — not just procedural. Depending on where you are in your journey, different sections will be most relevant to you.

PATH A — Still deciding whether BIIP is right for me:

Read the Introduction, Chapter 1 (BIIP overview), Chapter 12 (Plan B options), Chapter 11 (mistakes), and then request a Personal Evaluation Report to assess your specific profile before committing further time or money.

PATH B — I have chosen my stream and am preparing my application:

Go directly to the relevant stream chapter (Chapters 2-5), then work through Chapter 7 (state nomination), Chapter 8 (business plan), and Chapters 9-10 (setup and compliance). Use the D.R.E.A.M. checklist in Chapter 8 to test your readiness.

PATH C — I already hold a Subclass 188 visa:

Focus on Chapters 6 (888 pathway), 9 (business setup), 10 (financial compliance), and 11 (common mistakes). Start building your evidence portfolio immediately if you have not already done so.

How to Use This Book When Rules Change

Immigration law, policy, and practice are in constant flux. The BIIP has been subject to review, invitation pauses, threshold changes, and policy resets multiple times in recent years. This book gives you the strategic framework, compliance discipline, and red-flag awareness that remain valuable even when specific numbers shift.

Whenever this guide quotes a financial threshold, points value, or procedural step, treat it as correct at time of writing but always verify the current position directly with the Department of Home Affairs website (homeaffairs.gov.au) and the relevant state or territory migration office before acting. Cross-referencing with a qualified RMA before lodging any application is non-negotiable.

INTRODUCTION: WHY AUSTRALIA?

Australia is consistently ranked among the world's top destinations for business migration. It offers political stability, a robust rule-of-law framework, a diversified and resilient economy, world-class infrastructure, and an enviable quality of life. For entrepreneurs, investors, and business owners seeking a fresh start or a global platform, Australia presents an opportunity unlike almost any other destination.

Australia's GDP exceeds AUD 2.5 trillion, and its strategic location in the Asia-Pacific region makes it an ideal hub for businesses seeking to access the fastest-growing consumer markets on the planet. Strong trade relationships with China, India, Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN nations give Australia-based businesses a formidable competitive advantage.

The D.R.E.A.M. Method™ — Your Framework for Success

Throughout this guide you will encounter the D.R.E.A.M. Method™ — a proprietary framework designed specifically for business migrants navigating the Australian immigration system:

- DEFINE your migration goal, investment capacity, and business vision
- RESEARCH the visa streams, state nomination options, and compliance requirements
- EXECUTE your visa application, business plan, and settlement strategy
- ACHIEVE permanent residence and business success milestones
- MAINTAIN compliance, reporting obligations, and residency conditions

KEY POINT

Australia has accepted more than 100,000 business migrants over the past decade, contributing billions in investment and creating thousands of local jobs. This program is a genuine pathway to permanent residency — not merely a temporary work arrangement.

Risk Factors You Must Understand From the Outset

Before investing time and resources in the BIIP process, every applicant must be clear-eyed about the material risks involved. Business migration is not a guaranteed outcome — it is a process with multiple decision points, each of which can succeed or fail based on factors within and beyond your control.

RISK FACTORS — IMPORTANT

- ⚠ Policy risk: The BIIP framework has been modified, paused, and restructured multiple times. Thresholds, points values, and stream eligibility can change with little notice.
- ⚠ Business risk: You are required to genuinely operate a business in Australia. Markets are competitive, and business failure during the provisional period affects your 888 prospects.
- ⚠ Currency risk: Financial thresholds are in AUD. Depreciation of your home currency against AUD may affect your net asset position materially.
- ⚠ Personal circumstance risk: Family changes, health events, or personal factors can affect your ability to meet residency and compliance obligations.

- ⚠ Delay risk: Processing times for both 188 and 888 applications can extend significantly beyond published estimates due to caseload fluctuations and government priorities.
- ⚠ State nomination risk: State nomination is a separate process controlled by state governments, not the federal Department of Home Affairs. State conditions and quotas change independently.

CASE STUDY: Ravi and Priya S., Manufacturing Entrepreneurs from India

Ravi had operated a small manufacturing company in Pune for 12 years. With net business and personal assets of AUD 1.3 million, he applied for the Business Innovation Stream (Subclass 188A). After securing state nomination from South Australia and submitting a detailed business plan aligned with SA's strategic priority sectors, Ravi's visa was granted within 14 months. He launched an auto-components distribution business in Adelaide. Within two years he had created 4 local jobs and met all turnover benchmarks. His family was granted the Subclass 888 permanent residency visa.

What could have gone wrong: If Ravi had failed to achieve the AUD 300,000 annual turnover benchmark, or had relocated his business to Melbourne without SA's consent, the state government could have withdrawn its support for his 888 application — potentially resulting in refusal.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Australia is one of the world's most business-friendly migration destinations
- ✓ The D.R.E.A.M. Method™ provides a structured framework for navigating the system
- ✓ Material risks — policy, business, currency, delay — must be understood before committing
- ✓ Permanent residency is achievable through demonstrated business performance, not simply wealth

2026 POLICY SNAPSHOT

POLICY ALERT

This section reflects conditions as at early 2026. BIIP policy has been volatile. Always verify the current status of invitation rounds and thresholds at homeaffairs.gov.au and relevant state migration office websites before taking any action.

Are BIIP Invitation Rounds Currently Running?

The BIIP has experienced periods of invitation pauses and quota reductions over the past several years, driven by broader skilled migration program ceiling pressures and periodic policy reviews. As at early 2026, the following conditions broadly apply — but applicants must verify current round status directly:

- **Business Innovation Stream (188A):** Invitation rounds are being conducted, but volume is lower than historical averages. Competition is high, particularly for nominations from NSW and Victoria. South Australia and regional pathways in QLD and WA continue to be more accessible.
- **Investor Stream (188B):** Nominations are available from most states, but requirements have been tightened. Several states now require applicants to demonstrate a genuine connection to the state or propose specific economic benefit.
- **Significant Investor Stream (188C):** The SIV remains open but has been subject to compliance review. The government has signalled ongoing focus on investment integrity and genuine economic contribution.
- **Entrepreneur Stream (188E):** Invitation numbers remain modest. The focus on genuine innovation with external funding endorsement is more rigorously enforced.

BIIP Review and Consolidation — What You Need to Know

The Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs has been conducting periodic reviews of the BIIP framework. Key themes emerging from government commentary and consultation processes include:

- Greater emphasis on genuine job creation for Australian citizens and permanent residents
- Stronger compliance monitoring during the provisional period, with increased case officer scrutiny at the 888 stage
- Policy discussions around simplifying the BIIP structure — potentially consolidating the number of sub-streams
- Renewed focus on regional investment, with some state governments actively targeting business migrants for regional areas
- Enhanced integrity measures for source-of-funds and business ownership verification

Current Emphasis Areas (2026)

| Focus Area | What It Means for You |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Job Creation | Demonstrating employment of Australian citizens and residents is weighted more heavily than in previous years. Even exceeding turnover benchmarks may not compensate for weak employment records. |
| Regional Investment | Several state governments are prioritising business migrants who commit to regional or peri-urban business establishment. Processing and nomination can be faster for regional commitments. |
| Compliance Integrity | Source-of-funds scrutiny has intensified. The Department expects clear, documented evidence of how business and personal assets were accumulated. |
| Genuine Business Activity | Shell companies, sham transactions, and artificially inflated financial records are subject to increased audit risk. The 888 stage is now an active compliance checkpoint, not just a formality. |
| Business Planning Quality | State migration offices are reporting a higher rejection rate for business plans that are generic, templated, or lack genuine market-specific analysis. |

How to Stay Current

Given the pace of change in this space, adopt the following practice throughout your migration journey:

1. Bookmark and regularly check homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188
2. Monitor your target state's migration office website for quota and requirement updates
3. Maintain a relationship with a current-practice RMA who attends OMARA and CAPIC CPD events
4. Subscribe to Australian immigration law bulletins such as those published by the Law Council of Australia's Migration Law Committee

CHAPTER 1: UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS INNOVATION & INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIIP)

The Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) is Australia's primary pathway for business owners, investors, and entrepreneurs who wish to migrate to Australia and contribute to the national economy. Administered jointly by the Department of Home Affairs and individual State and Territory Governments, the program channels applicants through a structured points-based and nomination-driven process.

| LAW | POLICY | PRACTICE |
|--|---|---|
| Thresholds and stream eligibility are set by Migration Regulations 1994 (Cth) — a legislative instrument that can be amended by the government with relatively short notice. | The Policy Advice Manual (PAMs) and Procedural Advice Manuals issued by the Department of Home Affairs provide guidance on how the Regulations are applied. State nomination criteria are set by state/territory governments and are policy documents, not law — they can change without parliamentary process. | Case officers and state nomination teams apply their own judgment within the legislative and policy framework. Understanding how they actually assess cases — not just what the rules say on paper — is often the key to success. |

Overview of BIIP Visa Subclasses

| Visa Subclass | Description |
|----------------------|--|
| Subclass 132 | Business Talent (Permanent) — direct permanent residence for high-level investors and SBH applicants |
| Subclass 188A | Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) — Business Innovation Stream |
| Subclass 188B | Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) — Investor Stream |
| Subclass 188C | Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) — Significant Investor Stream (SIV) |
| Subclass 188D | Premium Investor Stream — SUSPENDED (not currently available as at 2026) |
| Subclass 188E | Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) — Entrepreneur Stream |
| Subclass 888 | Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) — transition from 188 streams |

POLICY ALERT

The Premium Investor Stream (188D) has been suspended and is not accepting applications as at 2026. Applicants who previously targeted this stream should reassess their options with a qualified RMA.

The EOI and Points Test System

Most BIIP applicants must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) through SkillSelect. States and territories conduct EOI draws and issue invitations to applicants whose profiles align with their economic priorities. Key factors assessed include:

- Age of the primary applicant (points value at time of writing — verify current scale)
- English language proficiency
- Qualifications and business experience
- Net assets and business turnover
- Innovation factors: patents, significant contracts, export sales
- Investment record

KEY POINT

EOI points scores are only one factor. State migration offices also assess the quality and credibility of your business proposal, your genuine connection to the state, and whether your proposed activity aligns with current state priorities. A high points score does not guarantee nomination.

MYTH

Any wealthy person can simply buy a business and get an Australian visa.

FACT

The BIIP requires genuine business ownership and active management — not just wealth. Immigration authorities assess the authenticity of your business history and your real intention to operate a business in Australia. Passive investment structures without genuine management involvement do not satisfy the requirement.

ACTION STEP

Review your current business and personal asset position, calculate your AUD equivalent net assets using the RBA exchange rate, and check current EOI points values at homeaffairs.gov.au before deciding which stream to pursue. Cross-reference Chapter 8 for business plan requirements.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The BIIP covers multiple streams — each with distinct financial thresholds and business activity requirements
- ✓ BIIP operates under Migration Regulations (law), PAMs (policy), and case officer practice — all three matter
- ✓ The 188D Premium Investor Stream is currently suspended
- ✓ EOI points + state nomination alignment + business plan quality = the complete assessment picture
- ✓ Policy changes regularly — verify all thresholds directly with Home Affairs before acting on any figure in this book

CHAPTER 2: SUBCLASS 188A — BUSINESS INNOVATION STREAM

The Business Innovation Stream (Subclass 188A) is the most widely used BIIP pathway. It is designed for people with a successful history of owning and managing a business who wish to establish, develop, or maintain business activity in Australia.

Financial and Business Eligibility Requirements (at time of writing)

| Requirement | Details |
|--------------------------|--|
| Net Assets | At least AUD 800,000 (business and personal combined) — verify current threshold |
| Business Turnover | At least AUD 500,000 in at least 2 of the past 4 fiscal years — verify current threshold |
| Ownership Stake | At least 51% (or 30% in listed companies with turnover AUD 400,000+) |
| Age | Under 55 years (states may grant exceptions for significant economic benefit) |
| English | Functional English — IELTS 4.5 equivalent or above |
| Innovation Points | Minimum 65 points on the Business Innovation and Investment Points Test (verify current minimum) |

POLICY ALERT

Financial thresholds and the points test scale have been adjusted multiple times. The figures above reflect the position at time of writing. Always verify at homeaffairs.gov.au before preparing an application.

Points Innovation Test — Key Scoring Factors

The points test awards points for age, English proficiency, qualifications, business experience, asset levels, and innovation factors. The age scoring scale favours applicants in their late 20s to mid-40s. Points are also awarded for:

- Ownership of registered patents or design rights
- Significant export sales above a defined threshold in any fiscal year
- Contracts with government bodies or major corporate clients
- Formal venture capital funding or angel investor endorsement

KEY POINT

Your points score must be current at the time of invitation, not at the time of EOI lodgement. If your situation changes between lodging your EOI and receiving an invitation, your points position must be re-assessed.

Business Activities During the Provisional Period

Once the Subclass 188A visa is granted, the primary applicant must:

5. Establish or take over ownership of an active Australian business within 12 months of visa grant
6. Maintain at least a 30% ownership stake in the primary business
7. Actively manage the business — not simply hold a titular directorship
8. Reside in the nominating state or territory for a substantial period each year
9. File annual reports with the nominating state government as required by nomination conditions

See Chapter 6 for the exact benchmarks required to transition from 188A to the permanent Subclass 888A visa. See Chapter 8 for the D.R.E.A.M. Method™ business plan framework.

WARNING

Failing to establish or genuinely operate an active Australian business is the most common cause of 888A refusal. Simply holding shares in a dormant company does not satisfy the requirement. The Department of Home Affairs has significantly increased compliance monitoring during the provisional period.

CASE STUDY: James T., Restaurant Chain Owner from Hong Kong

James owned three restaurants in Hong Kong with combined annual turnover of HKD 14 million. His EOI score was 85 points. After receiving an invitation from Victoria, he opened a fusion restaurant in Melbourne. He maintained detailed records: payroll, supplier agreements, staff meeting minutes, and monthly P&L statements. At his 888A application, his Melbourne restaurant had achieved AUD 920,000 annual turnover and employed 12 full-time equivalent staff. His permanent visa was approved in 7 months.

What could have gone wrong: If James had allowed the Melbourne restaurant to become effectively manager-run without his personal active involvement — a common temptation for owners with overseas operations — the Department could have found he did not meet the 'active management' requirement, leading to 888A refusal.

CHECKLIST: Subclass 188A Application Document Checklist

- Certified financial statements for 2-4 fiscal years (audited preferred)
- Business registration certificates and ownership documents
- Personal and business tax returns for 4 years
- Evidence of active management role (board minutes, contracts signed, payroll records)
- Net asset valuation by a licensed professional accountant
- IELTS or equivalent English test results
- Passport and identity documents for all family members
- Police clearances from all countries of residence in past 10 years
- Health examinations for all family members included in the application
- Detailed business plan for proposed Australian business activity (see Chapter 8)

- State nomination evidence and conditions document
- Source-of-funds documentation (see Chapter 10)

ACTION STEP

Calculate your turnover in AUD using RBA historical exchange rates for each of the past 4 fiscal years. Check whether you meet the threshold in at least 2 years. If currency conversion is borderline, consult an accountant experienced in immigration financial assessments.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The 188A stream requires AUD 800K net assets and AUD 500K turnover in 2 of the past 4 years — verify current thresholds
- ✓ A minimum of 65 points on the innovation test is required — your score must be current at invitation date
- ✓ Active business management in Australia during the provisional period is non-negotiable
- ✓ Comprehensive documentation from Day 1 of your provisional visa is essential for 888A success
- ✓ Cross-reference: Chapter 6 (888A benchmarks), Chapter 7 (state nomination), Chapter 8 (business plan)

CHAPTER 3: SUBCLASS 188B — INVESTOR STREAM

The Investor Stream (Subclass 188B) is designed for applicants with a record of direct investment and business activity who wish to make a designated investment in a State or Territory Government-managed fund or security. It suits high-net-worth individuals who may not have an active business management background but have a strong investment track record.

Key Eligibility Requirements (at time of writing)

| Requirement | Details |
|------------------------------|---|
| Designated Investment | At least AUD 1.5 million in a complying State/Territory government bond or approved managed fund — verify current threshold |
| Net Assets | At least AUD 2.25 million — verify current threshold |
| Investment History | At least 3 years of direct business or investment activity |
| Age | Under 55 (exceptions possible for significant economic benefit) |
| English | Functional English required |
| Residence | Must maintain primary residence in the nominating state during the provisional period |

POLICY ALERT

Several states have added requirements beyond the federal threshold. Some now require applicants to demonstrate a genuine connection to the state before nomination, including site visits and preliminary meetings with state investment officials. Check the current requirements of your target state before submitting an EOI.

| LAW | POLICY | PRACTICE |
|--|--|---|
| The Regulations define 'designated investment' and set the minimum threshold. The state/territory determines what qualifies as a complying fund or bond within its jurisdiction. | State nomination guidelines specify which investment vehicles are approved, any additional financial requirements, and what 'genuine connection' evidence is expected. | In practice, states are increasingly requiring personal visits and preliminary engagement before granting nominations. A cold EOI without any prior state contact is significantly less competitive than one supported by documented site visits and business connection letters. |

Transition to Permanent Residence (888B)

To qualify for the permanent 888B visa, applicants must demonstrate:

10. Maintenance of the designated investment for the full provisional period (typically 4 years)
11. Net assets meeting the threshold at the time of 888B application
12. Residence in the nominating state for the required minimum period
13. Compliance with all state nomination conditions and annual reporting obligations

CASE STUDY: Mr. and Mrs. Chen, Retired Business Owners from China

The Chens had retired from their manufacturing business with net assets of AUD 4.2 million. They pursued the 188B through South Australia, placing AUD 1.5 million in SA government bonds. They fulfilled residence obligations, attended business networks, and filed required annual reports. Their 888B application was approved and they are now permanent residents in Adelaide.

What could have gone wrong: If the Chens had spent significant time overseas each year without properly tracking their Australian residency days, they could have breached their nomination conditions. Failure to meet the minimum days-in-state requirement is a documented cause of 888B refusal.

MYTH

The Investor Stream is a passive arrangement — once you park your money, you don't need to do anything.

FACT

You must actively maintain your designated investment, comply with all reporting obligations, reside in your nominated state, and demonstrate genuine engagement with Australia during the provisional period. Non-compliance can result in visa cancellation.

ACTION STEP

Before targeting a specific state for 188B nomination, visit that state's migration office website and check current additional requirements. Consider booking a preliminary consultation with the state's investment team to establish contact before lodging your EOI.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The 188B requires AUD 2.25M net assets and AUD 1.5M designated investment — verify current thresholds
- ✓ States have layered additional requirements on top of federal criteria — do your state-specific research
- ✓ The investment must be maintained for the full provisional period; early withdrawal constitutes a breach
- ✓ Minimum residence obligations in the nominated state must be tracked and met
- ✓ Cross-reference: Chapter 6 (888B benchmarks), Chapter 7 (state nomination strategy)

CHAPTER 4: SUBCLASS 188C — SIGNIFICANT INVESTOR STREAM (SIV)

The Significant Investor Stream (Subclass 188C) requires a minimum investment of AUD 5 million in complying investments. It offers a more flexible residency arrangement than other BIIP streams, making it the preferred pathway for globally mobile high-net-worth individuals.

Key Eligibility Requirements

| Requirement | Details |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Complying Investment | AUD 5 million in the prescribed three-tranche complying investment framework |
| Business History | No specific business ownership history required; investment track record sufficient |
| Age | No age limit |
| English | No English language requirement at application stage |
| Physical Presence | 40 days in Australia over the 4-year provisional period (primary applicant) |
| Nominated by | Any state or territory government |

The Complying Investment Framework (at time of writing)

| Investment Tranche | Requirement |
|--|---|
| Emerging Companies (min. 10%) | AUD 500,000 minimum in eligible venture capital or early-stage private equity funds managed by an AFSL licensee — verify current allocation |
| Managed Funds (min. 30%) | AUD 1.5 million minimum in eligible managed funds investing in Australian businesses — verify current allocation |
| Balancing Investment (max. 60%) | Remaining amount in complying investments: ASX-listed stocks, corporate bonds, government bonds, or real property mortgages — verify current allocation |

POLICY ALERT

The SIV complying investment framework has been reviewed and adjusted in recent years. The current allocation percentages and eligible fund types must be verified at homeaffairs.gov.au before placing any funds. Placing investments in non-complying structures may mean they are not counted toward your requirement, jeopardising your 888C eligibility.

KEY POINT Real estate cannot be directly included in the SIV complying investment framework. This is a persistent misconception. Property may qualify only through specific mortgage instruments or listed property trusts within the balancing investment tranche, subject to current rules.

| LAW | POLICY | PRACTICE |
|--|--|--|
| The Migration Regulations prescribe the minimum investment amount and the high-level investment categories. The 'complying investments' definition references the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and relevant ASIC instruments. | The Department's Policy Advice Manuals specify which fund structures qualify, how compliance is monitored, and what reporting is required during the provisional period. | In practice, SIV compliance officers are conducting more rigorous audits than in earlier program years. Fund managers are being asked to demonstrate ongoing AFSL compliance, and investment reports are checked against fund PDS documents. Applicants who selected funds purely on the basis of migrant-friendly marketing without independent due diligence have encountered compliance issues. |

Source of Funds for SIV

Source-of-funds documentation is particularly critical for SIV applicants given the quantum of investment involved. You must be prepared to trace the origin of all AUD 5 million through a clear, documented financial trail. See Chapter 10 for full source-of-funds requirements.

WARNING The AUD 5 million must represent genuine net assets. Borrowed funds, funds placed temporarily in your name by third parties, or funds with undocumented origins will not satisfy the SIV requirement and may trigger fraud concerns. Always ensure your source-of-funds documentation is complete, transparent, and auditable.

CASE STUDY: The Wang Family, Technology Entrepreneurs from Shanghai

Mr. Wang had sold his technology company and realised AUD 12 million. He pursued the SIV, allocating AUD 5 million per the framework: AUD 500,000 in a VC fund, AUD 1.5 million in a managed fund, and AUD 3 million in government bonds. His children enrolled in private schools in Sydney. After meeting the 40-day residency requirement over 4 years, the family received the 888C permanent visa.

What could have gone wrong: If Mr. Wang had placed funds in non-complying structures — for example, a fund without the required AFSL licensing or a direct property investment — those funds would not have counted toward the AUD 5 million requirement. He would have been short of the threshold at the 888C application stage with very limited remediation options.

ACTION STEP Before placing any SIV funds, obtain independent legal advice from an Australian financial services lawyer on whether the fund structures you are considering are 'complying investments' under current Migration Regulations. Do not rely solely on fund manager representations.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The SIV requires AUD 5 million in a prescribed three-tranche complying investment framework
- ✓ No age or English requirements — accessible to a wide range of global HNW applicants
- ✓ Minimal residency (40 days over 4 years) is the stream's most distinctive advantage
- ✓ Complying investment structures must be verified with independent legal and financial advice
- ✓ Source-of-funds documentation must be comprehensive and auditable — see Chapter 10

CHAPTER 5: SUBCLASS 188E — ENTREPRENEUR STREAM

The Entrepreneur Stream (Subclass 188E) is designed for individuals with innovative ideas and the capacity to commercialise them through a new or developing Australian business. It targets startup founders, technology entrepreneurs, and innovators with genuine intellectual property or disruptive concepts.

Core Eligibility Requirements (at time of writing)

| Requirement | Details |
|--------------------------|--|
| Funding Agreement | At least AUD 200,000 from a complying venture capital or specified third-party organisation — verify current threshold |
| Business Concept | Genuine, scalable, and innovative business idea with credible commercialisation pathway |
| Age | Under 45 (exceptions possible for significant innovation track record) |
| English | Competent English — IELTS 6.0 or equivalent |
| Endorsement | Must be endorsed by a Collaborating Entity approved by the Commonwealth |

What is a Complying Funding Agreement?

The AUD 200,000 funding must come from one of the following complying sources:

- A Venture Capital Limited Partnership (VCLP) or Early Stage VCLP registered with the ATO
- A Commonwealth Government agency funding program
- A specified third-party entity approved by the Department of Home Affairs
- An approved landing pad, innovation hub, or accelerator program

KEY POINT

Self-funded ventures do not qualify for the Entrepreneur Stream. The AUD 200,000 must come from an external complying source — demonstrating that an arms-length third party with the appropriate standing has assessed and endorsed your business concept.

Transition to Permanent Residence (888E)

To qualify for the 888E permanent visa, applicants must demonstrate that their entrepreneurial activity has resulted in at least one of the following outcomes:

- The venture has raised at least AUD 1 million in total equity funding from complying sources

- The venture has achieved annual revenue of at least AUD 300,000 for 2 consecutive fiscal years
- The venture has created at least 2 full-time positions for Australian citizens or permanent residents
- The venture has received a significant contract from a Commonwealth, state, or territory government

MYTH

The Entrepreneur Stream is like getting a startup visa — if you have a tech idea and some money, you qualify.

FACT

The AUD 200,000 must come from an approved external source. Self-funded ventures do not qualify. Collaborating Entity endorsement and demonstrated commercial progress during the provisional period are both mandatory. Many applicants who approach Collaborating Entities with under-developed concepts are turned away.

CASE STUDY: Aditya R., Fintech Founder from Bangalore

Aditya had developed a machine learning-powered credit scoring model for microfinance. He secured a AUD 250,000 funding agreement from a Sydney-based VC firm with VCLP registration. After receiving the 188E through NSW, he established his company in Sydney's Tech Central precinct. He raised AUD 1.8 million in total VC funding, built a team of 8 employees, and signed a pilot contract with an Australian microfinance institution. He received the 888E permanent visa ahead of schedule.

What could have gone wrong: If Aditya's startup had failed to raise further funding and revenues remained below the threshold, he would need to demonstrate either the job-creation or government-contract benchmark to qualify for 888E. Applicants without a clear secondary pathway to 888E eligibility face significant residency uncertainty if their primary milestone is not met.

ACTION STEP

If you are pursuing the Entrepreneur Stream, identify 3-5 Collaborating Entities aligned with your industry sector before approaching any one of them. Research their current intake criteria and portfolio focus. A strong match with the Collaborating Entity's strategic priorities significantly improves your endorsement prospects.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The 188E requires AUD 200,000 in external complying funding — self-funded ventures do not qualify
- ✓ Collaborating Entity endorsement from a Commonwealth-approved organisation is mandatory
- ✓ Four pathways exist to 888E: VC funding, revenue benchmarks, job creation, or government contract
- ✓ Competent English (IELTS 6.0+) is required — higher than other BIIP streams
- ✓ Cross-reference: Chapter 6 (888E benchmarks), Chapter 8 (D.R.E.A.M. business planning)

CHAPTER 6: SUBCLASS 888 — PERMANENT RESIDENCE PATHWAYS

The Subclass 888 is the permanent residence visa for applicants who have held a Subclass 188 visa and met their provisional period obligations. It is the culmination of the business migration journey and the gateway to full Australian permanent residency for you and your family.

888A — Business Innovation (Permanent)

For 188A holders, the 888A application requires demonstrating that during the provisional period:

- The applicant owned and operated an Australian business generating at least AUD 300,000 annual turnover (verify current threshold)
- The business employed at least 1 Australian citizen or permanent resident in a full-time equivalent role
- Net business and personal assets of at least AUD 600,000 are maintained (verify current threshold)
- A minimum number of days per year were spent in Australia and in the nominating state

See Chapter 7 for detailed state nomination compliance obligations.

888B — Investor (Permanent)

For 188B holders, the 888B requires:

- Maintenance of the AUD 1.5 million designated investment for the full provisional period
- Net assets of at least AUD 2.25 million at time of 888B application (verify current threshold)
- Residence and reporting compliance with state nomination conditions

888C — Significant Investor (Permanent)

For 188C holders, the 888C requires:

- Maintenance of the AUD 5 million complying investment in the prescribed allocation throughout the provisional period
- Physical presence of at least 40 days over the 4-year provisional period (primary applicant)
- Full compliance with investment reporting and monitoring obligations

888E — Entrepreneur (Permanent)

For 188E holders, the 888E requires evidence of one of the four commercial milestones described in Chapter 5 having been achieved during the provisional period.

KEY POINT

The Subclass 888 application is not automatic. You must formally apply and demonstrate that all provisional period benchmarks have been met. Begin gathering evidence from Day 1 of your 188 visa — waiting until the final months is a serious and common mistake.

| LAW | POLICY | PRACTICE |
|--|---|---|
| The Migration Regulations prescribe the precise benchmarks (turnover, employment, assets) for each 888 stream. These can be amended. | The PAMs provide guidance on how case officers should assess evidence of business activity, genuineness, and compliance with nomination conditions. | In practice, 888 applications are now subject to considerably more active case officer scrutiny than applications lodged 5-7 years ago. Requests for Further Information (RFIs) are more common. Case officers are trained to identify artificial transaction patterns, sham employment, and inconsistencies between financial statements and business activity evidence. |

Your 888 Evidence Portfolio — Build From Day One

CHECKLIST: 888 Evidence Portfolio — Collect Throughout Your Provisional Period

- Annual audited financial statements for your Australian business
- Personal and business tax returns (BAS, income tax) for all years
- Payroll records showing Australian employees on your payroll
- Records of Board meetings, management decisions, and strategic planning activities
- Evidence of your personal involvement in day-to-day business management
- Lease agreements, supplier contracts, and customer contracts
- Bank statements showing business transactions and operational cashflow
- Photographs of business premises, signage, staff activities, and business events
- Professional memberships and industry association participation records
- Travel records confirming days spent in Australia and in the nominating state
- State/territory annual report lodgements and any state correspondence
- Source-of-funds documentation for any significant capital injections

CASE STUDY: Mehmet K., Import/Export Business Owner from Turkey

Mehmet arrived in Melbourne on a 188A visa and immediately engaged an accountant and a document management system. Every quarter he compiled a compliance folder: P&L statements, BAS lodgements, payroll summaries, bank statements, and a management report. He photographed every business event and maintained a spreadsheet tracking days in Victoria vs. interstate vs. overseas. His 888A evidence package exceeded 600 pages. Application approved in 5 months with no requests for further information.

What could have gone wrong: If Mehmet had not kept contemporaneous records and tried to reconstruct evidence retrospectively, the inconsistencies in dates, document formatting, and

transaction references would likely have triggered an RFI — and potentially a credibility finding against him.

ACTION STEP

Set up a compliance folder system from Day 1 of your 188 visa — physical or cloud-based. Allocate a fixed date each month (e.g., the 5th) to file that month's evidence. Assign this responsibility to a specific person: you, your accountant, or a business administrator. Never let this lapse.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The 888 requires formally demonstrating that all provisional period benchmarks were met — it is not automatic
- ✓ Different 888 sub-streams have different benchmark thresholds — verify current figures with Home Affairs
- ✓ Evidence collection must be contemporaneous — retrospective reconstruction raises credibility concerns
- ✓ 888 applications now face active compliance scrutiny — quality of evidence determines outcome
- ✓ Cross-reference: Chapters 2-5 for stream-specific 888 benchmarks; Chapter 10 for financial compliance

CHAPTER 7: STATE AND TERRITORY NOMINATION STRATEGY

State and territory nomination is a mandatory and often underestimated component of the Australian business migration process. The nomination decision is made entirely by the relevant state or territory government — not by the federal Department of Home Affairs. Your state nomination choice is therefore a strategic decision with major consequences for both your immediate application prospects and your long-term residency obligations.

The State Nomination Matrix

The following matrix provides a comparative overview of Australian states and territories from a business migration nomination perspective. All information reflects conditions at time of writing and must be verified directly with each state's migration office.

| State/Territory | Competitiveness | Favoured Sectors | Extra Requirements | Regional Openness |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| New South Wales | High competition | Tech, fintech, professional services, agribusiness | Strong business plan quality expected; sector alignment critical | Low — metro focus dominates |
| Victoria | High competition | Food & beverage, advanced manufacturing, education, health, clean tech | Detailed financial history; active management evidence required | Moderate — some regional pathways |
| Queensland | Moderate competition | Tourism, agriculture, resources, construction, health | Regional investment encouraged; site visits valued | High — regional nominations more accessible |
| South Australia | Accessible | Food/wine, defence tech, energy, agribusiness | Streamlined process; sector alignment important; exploratory visit valued | High — strong regional program |
| Western Australia | Moderate | Resources, mining, agriculture, construction, professional services | Genuine commitment to WA required; distance acknowledged | High — strong regional incentives |
| Tasmania | Lower competition | Agriculture, tourism, creative industries, specialty foods | Lifestyle businesses welcome; community integration valued | Very high — all Tasmania effectively regional |
| ACT | Selective — small quota | Professional services, technology, education, government-adjacent | Highly targeted; must align with ACT economic strategy | Low — Canberra-focused |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|---|
| Northern Territory | Lowest competition | Tourism, Indigenous community enterprise, resources, Darwin services | Most flexible criteria; community economic benefit valued | Very high — all NT effectively regional |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|---|

Nomination Strategy Principles

Selecting the right state requires balancing your personal preferences, business concept, competitive profile, and risk tolerance. The following principles guide effective nomination strategy:

1. Align your business concept with the state's published industry priorities — misalignment is the most common avoidable cause of nomination rejection
2. Consider the competitiveness of your EOI profile against other applicants targeting the same state
3. If your points score is moderate, favour lower-competition states or regional pathways
4. Make a genuine site visit to your target state before lodging an EOI — document the visit with photographs, meeting notes, and business contact records
5. Engage with local industry associations and chambers of commerce in the target state before nomination

Nomination Conditions — Legally Binding Obligations

When you receive a state nomination, it comes with conditions you must comply with throughout your provisional period. These are not aspirational guidelines — they are binding obligations that the state government monitors and that the federal Department of Home Affairs considers when processing your 888 application. Typical conditions include:

- Primary residence in the nominating state for a specified minimum period per year
- Establishment and maintenance of your main business in the nominating state
- Annual reporting to the state migration office with business performance data
- Notification of any material changes to your business structure, ownership, directors, or operations
- Restrictions on relocating your principal business activity to another state

Changing States — When, Why, and the Risks

Relocating your business from the nominating state to another state during the provisional period is one of the highest-risk decisions a 188 visa holder can make. Before considering a state change, understand the following:

- You must obtain the nominating state's formal consent before relocating your principal business activity
- Some states will consent to a move if you can demonstrate compelling reasons, but others will formally withdraw nomination support
- Without state government support, the federal Department of Home Affairs is very unlikely to grant the 888 permanent visa

- There is no formal 'state transfer' mechanism — the process is discretionary and case-specific
- Even with state consent to relocate, the new state does not automatically 'take over' as your nominating state — you remain under your original state's nomination

WARNING

Moving your principal business from Victoria to New South Wales after 2 years on the 188A — without Victoria's consent — constitutes a likely fatal breach of your nomination conditions. Seeking forgiveness rather than permission in this context routinely results in 888 refusal.

Sample Nomination Strategies by Applicant Profile

The following anonymised profiles illustrate how nomination strategy should be tailored to the applicant's situation:

PROFILE 1 — Manufacturing SME Owner, moderate assets (AUD 1.1M), limited English, 48 years old: NSW and Victoria are likely too competitive given the age score reduction and English level. South Australia's advanced manufacturing sector and streamlined process make it the primary target. Regional SA provides even lower competition for a factory-based operation. Queensland (regional) is secondary.

PROFILE 2 — IT Services Entrepreneur, high English, AUD 800K assets, no patents: The IT services sector is highly competitive in the 188A stream because it attracts many applicants. The asset and turnover position is at the minimum threshold. This profile may be better served by a skilled visa pathway (189/190) if the applicant or a family member holds qualifying skills. Business migration should not be pursued simply because the applicant runs a technology business — the financial thresholds and compliance burden are significant relative to a skilled visa.

PROFILE 3 — Property Investor, no active business management history, AUD 3M liquid assets: The 188B Investor Stream is the correct pathway. South Australia or Queensland offer the most accessible nomination. A detailed site visit and preliminary state engagement are essential to demonstrate genuine interest beyond the financial requirement.

ACTION STEP

Before making any nomination decision: (1) List your top 3 target states. (2) Contact each state's migration office website to check current nomination requirements and sector priorities. (3) Plan a site visit to your preferred state. (4) Have your RMA conduct a formal state-matching analysis based on your current EOI profile.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ State nomination is made by state governments independently of the federal Department — it is a separate strategic process
- ✓ Business concept alignment with state industry priorities is more important than simply meeting financial thresholds
- ✓ Nomination conditions are legally binding — read every condition before accepting a nomination
- ✓ Moving interstate without state consent is a likely fatal breach of nomination conditions

✓ Low-competition states (SA, WA regional, Tasmania, NT) offer real pathways for applicants with moderate profiles

CHAPTER 8: BUSINESS PLANNING — THE D.R.E.A.M. METHOD™

Your business plan is the single most important document in your Australian business migration application. It is reviewed by the state migration office at nomination stage and again by the federal Department of Home Affairs at the visa application stage. A weak, generic, or unrealistic business plan is a primary cause of nomination rejection.

The D.R.E.A.M. Method™ provides a structured framework for building a business plan that meets immigration standards while reflecting genuine commercial viability.

D — Define Your Business Concept

Begin with absolute clarity. Your plan must answer these questions with specificity, not generality:

- What product or service will the business provide in Australia? (Not globally — specifically in Australia)
- What problem or market need does it address in the Australian context?
- Why are you — specifically — the right person to operate this business in Australia?
- What transferable expertise from your home country business creates a genuine competitive advantage?

R — Research the Australian Market

Immigration officers are trained to distinguish genuine market research from copied industry reports. Your research must be Australia-specific and demonstrate real engagement:

- Market size data from Australian Bureau of Statistics, IBISWorld Australia, or equivalent
- Competitive landscape analysis identifying specific Australian competitors
- Customer validation: letters of intent, signed expressions of interest, preliminary supplier conversations
- Regulatory requirements: licences, industry permits, professional registrations required for your sector in Australia

KEY POINT

Generic global market reports cannot substitute for Australia-specific research. If you have visited Australia and conducted any business reconnaissance activities, document them with photographs, meeting notes, and business cards.

E — Execute: Financial Projections and Operational Plan

Your financial projections must be realistic, internally consistent, and explicitly connected to the immigration benchmarks you need to hit. Include:

- Year-by-year P&L projections for at least 3 years with clearly stated revenue assumptions
- Cash flow forecast showing the business can sustain operations through the establishment phase
- Operational structure: staffing plan, premises, supply chain, technology
- Capital requirements and funding structure — how much of your own capital will be deployed and when

A — Achieve: Map Projections to 888 Benchmarks

Most business plans fail to make this connection explicit. Your financial projections must show the specific year in which you will achieve each relevant 888 benchmark — turnover, employment, net assets. Present this as a milestone table that an immigration officer can review at a glance.

| Year | Milestone Target (Illustrative Example) |
|--------|--|
| Year 1 | Establish business, build customer base, hire first employee. Projected turnover: AUD 180,000 (Year 1 — establishment phase) |
| Year 2 | Scale operations, second employee. Projected turnover: AUD 310,000 (exceeds 888A AUD 300K threshold — verify current) |
| Year 3 | Consolidate and grow. Projected turnover: AUD 480,000. Net assets maintained at AUD 650,000+ |
| Year 4 | Prepare 888A application with 2 full years above turnover benchmark and 2+ Australian employees |

M — Maintain: Risk Analysis and Contingency Planning

A business plan without a risk section is not credible. Include:

- Identification of 3-5 key business risks (market, operational, regulatory, financial)
- Specific mitigation strategy for each risk
- Contingency scenario: if Year 1 revenue is 40% below projection, what is your response?
- Personal financial capacity to sustain the business through an extended establishment phase without achieving the turnover benchmark in Year 1

The D.R.E.A.M. Migration-Readiness Checklist

CHECKLIST: D.R.E.A.M. Business Plan Migration-Readiness Test (Answer Yes to Proceed)

- DEFINE: Does the plan specify a concrete Australian business activity — not a generic concept?

- DEFINE: Does it explain why you specifically are qualified to run this business in Australia?
- DEFINE: Does it describe what makes your offering different from existing Australian competitors?
- RESEARCH: Is market data sourced from Australian-specific, credible, and current publications?
- RESEARCH: Have you identified and named your top 5 Australian competitors?
- RESEARCH: Does the plan include evidence of any customer or market validation in Australia?
- RESEARCH: Are relevant Australian licences, permits, and regulatory requirements addressed?
- EXECUTE: Are revenue projections based on stated, verifiable assumptions?
- EXECUTE: Does the cash flow forecast show a path to operational sustainability?
- EXECUTE: Is a specific staffing plan included with job titles, approximate salaries, and timelines?
- EXECUTE: Does the plan include a premises strategy (lease, location, size)?
- ACHIEVE: Is there an explicit milestone table mapping projections to 888 benchmarks?
- ACHIEVE: Does the plan show when AUD 300K+ annual turnover will be reached?
- ACHIEVE: Does it show when at least 1 Australian employee will be on payroll?
- ACHIEVE: Does it demonstrate maintenance of the net asset threshold throughout the period?
- MAINTAIN: Are 3-5 specific risks identified with named mitigation strategies?
- MAINTAIN: Is a contingency scenario included for below-projection revenue?
- MAINTAIN: Is the applicant's personal financial buffer to sustain the business stated?
- OVERALL: Has the plan been reviewed by an Australian-based business advisor or accountant?
- OVERALL: Does the plan feel like it was written by someone who genuinely intends to operate this business in Australia?

Worked Mini Business Plan: Sample Application of D.R.E.A.M.

Applicant Profile

Ms. Yun Li, aged 42. Background: 10-year owner of a specialty food import and distribution company in Guangdong Province, China. Annual turnover (most recent 2 fiscal years): CNY 5.8 million and CNY 7.2 million respectively. Net assets: AUD 1.4 million equivalent. Points score: 75. Target state: South Australia. Proposed business: premium Asian specialty food distribution to independent supermarkets and restaurant chains in South Australia and Victoria.

D — Define

BUSINESS: Wholesale distribution of premium, certified-organic Asian specialty foods (Japanese, Korean, and South-east Asian product lines) to independent supermarkets, Asian grocery chains, and high-end restaurant groups in South Australia (primary) and Victoria (secondary expansion from Year 3). **DIFFERENTIATION:** Direct sourcing relationships with 12 established Asian food producers; certified organic and halal certifications already held; demonstrated product quality at premium price points. **WHY MS. YUN:** 10 years of product knowledge, supplier network, and food safety compliance

experience. Australia-China FTA tariff benefits reduce landed cost by 8-12% versus competitors using third-party distributors.

R — Research

Australian specialty food wholesale market estimated at AUD 2.1 billion (IBISWorld 2025, Industry Report C1129). Premium Asian food segment growing at 7.4% annually, driven by Asian migration growth and mainstream adoption of Asian cuisine. Identified 4 direct competitors in SA market: [named]. Key insight from market visit (October 2025, Adelaide): 3 of 4 independent supermarket buyers interviewed expressed interest in a local distributor with direct-source organic certifications — currently supplied by Melbourne-based national distributor with longer lead times.

E — Execute

Year 1: Establish SA company, secure warehouse lease (500 sqm, Regency Park Industrial, AUD 68,000/yr), hire 1 operations coordinator, 1 sales representative (2 Australian permanent residents). Import first container AUD 280,000. Projected Year 1 revenue: AUD 420,000. Year 2: Add 2nd salesperson, expand product range. Projected Year 2 revenue: AUD 680,000. Year 3: Open Victoria distribution satellite; hire 1 Melbourne-based rep. Projected Year 3 revenue: AUD 1.1 million. Capital deployed Year 1: AUD 380,000 from personal funds.

A — Achieve (Immigration Milestone Map)

| Year | Immigration Benchmark Achievement |
|---------|---|
| Year 1 | AUD 420K revenue (exceeds AUD 300K 888A threshold — verify current). 2 Australian employees on payroll. Net assets: AUD 1.05M (above AUD 600K 888A threshold — verify current). |
| Year 2 | AUD 680K revenue. 3 Australian employees. Net assets: AUD 1.2M. |
| Year 3+ | 888A application eligible. All benchmarks met with meaningful margin. Strong compliance evidence portfolio from Years 1-2. |

M — Maintain (Key Risks)

Risk 1: Exchange rate appreciation of AUD against CNY increases landed costs. Mitigation: 6-month forward purchase agreements with currency broker. Risk 2: Competitor response (price pressure from incumbent distributor). Mitigation: Premium positioning and organic/halal certifications create defensible differentiation; direct sourcing provides cost advantage. Risk 3: Biosecurity import rejection on first shipment. Mitigation: DAFF pre-import advice obtained; all products pre-cleared in writing. Personal financial buffer: AUD 320,000 undeployed personal funds available to sustain operations if Year 1 revenue 50% below projection.

RMA Annotations on This Plan

[ANNOTATION 1] The explicit naming of competitors from a site visit demonstrates genuine research — this is the detail state officers look for. Generic market data alone does not achieve this effect. [ANNOTATION 2] The immigration milestone map on page XX directly connects turnover projections to the 888A thresholds, making it trivially easy for a case officer to assess compliance readiness. Many business plans omit this mapping entirely. [ANNOTATION 3] The personal financial buffer statement in the risk section demonstrates that the applicant has thought through the establishment period realistically — a credibility signal for both state nominators and federal case officers. [ANNOTATION 4]

The specific warehouse address and annual cost, while subject to change, signals that genuine premises research has been conducted — not a theoretical plan assembled for immigration purposes.

ACTION STEP

Draft your own D.R.E.A.M. business plan using the worked example above as a template. Complete the Migration-Readiness Checklist before submitting to your RMA. If you answer 'No' to any of the 20 questions, revise before submission. A plan that fails the checklist will likely fail the state nomination review.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The business plan is the most important document in your application — invest significantly in its quality
- ✓ D.R.E.A.M. = Define, Research, Execute, Achieve, Maintain — use all five dimensions
- ✓ The immigration milestone map is a non-optional component — show exactly when 888 benchmarks will be hit
- ✓ Use the 20-question Migration-Readiness Checklist to self-audit before submission
- ✓ Have the plan reviewed by a qualified Australian-based business advisor before lodging with the state

CHAPTER 9: SETTING UP YOUR BUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA

Once your visa is granted and you arrive in Australia, the compliance clock starts. Setting up your business correctly from Day 1 establishes the documentary foundation you will need for your 888 application.

Choosing Your Business Structure

| Structure | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sole Trader | Simplest structure; full personal liability; suitable for very small sole operators only |
| Partnership | Shared ownership; each partner personally liable for all partnership debts |
| Company (Pty Ltd) | Most common for business migrants; limited liability; separate legal entity; ASIC registration required |
| Trust | Used for asset protection and tax planning; requires a trustee entity; specialist advice essential |
| Branch of Foreign Company | Registers an existing overseas company; complex ongoing compliance; rarely the optimal structure for new Australian operations |

KEY POINT

Most business migration applicants should establish a Proprietary Limited Company (Pty Ltd) as their Australian business vehicle. It provides limited liability protection, is familiar to accountants and immigration compliance officers, and satisfies the 'separate entity' requirement that supports genuine business establishment.

Registration Sequence

6. Register the company with ASIC and obtain an ACN (Australian Company Number)
7. Register for an Australian Business Number (ABN) through the ATO
8. Register for Goods and Services Tax (GST) once projected annual turnover exceeds AUD 75,000
9. Register for PAYG withholding when you engage your first employee
10. Open an Australian business bank account in the company's name
11. Register for Workers Compensation insurance in the nominating state before engaging staff
12. Obtain any industry-specific licences or regulatory approvals required for your business activity

Hiring Australian Employees — Compliance Essentials

Creating local employment is both a business necessity and an immigration compliance indicator. Key obligations:

- Fair Work Act 2009 governs most employment relationships — minimum entitlements apply from Day 1 of employment
- Modern Awards set minimum pay rates and conditions for most industries — you must check which Award applies to your employees
- Superannuation: 11.5% mandatory employer contribution (2024-25 rate; increases to 12% from 1 July 2025) on ordinary time earnings
- National Employment Standards (NES): minimum leave entitlements, notice periods, and redundancy pay apply
- Single Touch Payroll (STP): mandatory electronic payroll reporting to the ATO from your first pay run

WARNING

Underpaying workers — even inadvertently — is a civil and potentially criminal matter in Australia. The Fair Work Ombudsman actively pursues wage compliance cases including against migrant business owners. Engage a payroll specialist or HRIS system from the outset.

Related-Party Employment and Immigration Compliance

A frequently asked question: can your spouse or adult children who are also on your 188 visa be counted as your Australian employee for the 888A benchmark? The answer requires care:

Family members included on your 188 visa are themselves visa holders, not Australian citizens or permanent residents. The 888A employment benchmark typically requires employment of Australian citizens or permanent residents. Employing a family member on a 188 visa generally does not satisfy this benchmark. Engage only genuinely arms-length Australian citizen or PR employees for your compliance headcount.

Contractor vs PAYG Employee

A common compliance question is whether contractors can be counted toward the employment benchmark for 888A purposes. The Department of Home Affairs assesses this carefully:

- Full-time PAYG employees on payroll are the safest category for compliance purposes
- Genuine independent contractors may be considered, but the case officer will assess whether the relationship is truly arms-length and commercially genuine
- Sham contracting — where a worker is engaged as a contractor to avoid employment entitlements — is illegal under Australian law and creates both Fair Work and immigration compliance risks

TIP

If in any doubt about whether a worker arrangement satisfies your immigration employment benchmark, engage your RMA and a Fair Work specialist before making the hiring decision. The cost of incorrect classification far exceeds the cost of advice.

ACTION STEP

Within 30 days of arriving in Australia: register your Pty Ltd, obtain ABN, open business bank account. Within 60 days: secure business premises, register for GST and PAYG. Within 90 days: hire your first Australian employee, enrol in superannuation fund, set up payroll system. Document every step.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Establish a Pty Ltd as your Australian business vehicle — it is the standard compliance-friendly structure
- ✓ Complete all ATO and ASIC registrations within 30-60 days of arrival
- ✓ PAYG Australian citizen or PR employees are the safest way to meet the 888A employment benchmark
- ✓ Superannuation at 11.5% is mandatory for eligible employees — non-compliance has serious consequences
- ✓ Related-party family members on 188 visas generally do not satisfy the Australian employee benchmark

CHAPTER 10: FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS, SOURCE OF FUNDS & COMPLIANCE

Financial integrity is the backbone of your Australian business migration journey. Meeting financial benchmarks is necessary but not sufficient — the Department of Home Affairs also requires that you can demonstrate how your wealth was accumulated. Source-of-funds documentation has become as important as the financial figures themselves.

Source-of-Funds: Why It Matters More Than Ever

Australia has robust Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) laws. AUSTRAC (the Australian financial intelligence agency) and the Department of Home Affairs share information. The following source-of-funds issues are the most common triggers for compliance scrutiny:

- Large cash deposits into business accounts shortly before EOI lodgement, without documented commercial explanation
- Rapid fund movements between multiple entities or jurisdictions in the 12 months before application
- Funds arriving from third-party entities without clear documentation of the commercial relationship
- Business turnover or asset figures that are inconsistent with home-country tax records
- Asset values that changed dramatically in the 12-24 months before application without a clearly documented explanation

KEY POINT

The Department of Home Affairs expects you to be able to trace your assets and business funds through a clear, documented financial trail. This is not about proving you earned money legally in a philosophical sense — it is about providing paper documentation of each step from source to current position. If you cannot document a step, the Department may treat the funds as unexplained.

Source-of-Funds Documentation Standards

For each significant asset or fund you include in your net asset calculation, you should be prepared to provide:

13. The origin of the funds: salary history, business profit, property sale, inheritance, investment gains
14. Bank statements showing the movement of funds from source to current account
15. Tax returns and financial statements from your home country showing the income was reported
16. Where funds passed through multiple entities or accounts, a documented paper trail for each step
17. If assets include a business valuation: an independent valuation report from a licensed professional

18. If large cash transactions are involved: an explanation letter with supporting documentation

Layered Entities and Common Red Flags

The following structures attract heightened scrutiny and should be documented with particular care:

| Red Flag Pattern | How to Address It |
|--|---|
| Multiple Company Transfers | Funds moved through 3+ related entities before reaching the applicant — provide full entity structure charts and purpose explanations for each |
| Family Gift Arrangements | Large gifts from family members must be documented with gift declarations, donor's source-of-funds evidence, and evidence of the gift's genuine, unconditional nature |
| Pre-Application Asset Consolidation | Selling multiple assets and consolidating into a single account shortly before application — document each sale with contracts, settlement statements, and valuations |
| Mixed Personal/Business Accounts | Business and personal funds commingled — provide a professional reconciliation showing how figures are allocated between business and personal assets |
| Home Country Tax Inconsistency | If your home-country tax records show lower income than your current assets suggest — provide a written explanation with supporting documentation for how the discrepancy arose |

What to Do If Your Home-Country Tax Records Are Weak

Many applicants from jurisdictions with less robust tax infrastructure have incomplete or inconsistent home-country tax records. This is a real challenge but not an insurmountable one. Key strategies:

- Engage a home-country accountant to prepare a formal wealth reconciliation statement tracing asset accumulation from documented business income
- Obtain statutory declarations or affidavits from home-country business partners, banks, or accountants corroborating the history of asset accumulation
- Provide bank statements covering the longest available history (ideally 10 years) to establish a consistent pattern of income and saving
- Where tax records are partially absent, an explanation letter from a home-country tax professional, translated and notarised, can partially address the gap

None of these fully substitute for clean, consistent tax records. If your source-of-funds position is complex, engage an Australian-based immigration accountant with BIIP experience before lodging any application.

Understanding the Australian Tax System

| Tax Type | Overview |
|----------|----------|
|----------|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Income Tax (Company) | 25% for base rate entities (turnover under AUD 50M); 30% for others — verify current rates |
| Goods and Services Tax | 10% on most taxable supplies; monthly or quarterly BAS reporting |
| Capital Gains Tax | Applies to gains on disposal of assets; various small business CGT concessions available |
| Superannuation | 11.5% mandatory employer contribution on eligible employees' ordinary time earnings (verify current rate) |
| State Payroll Tax | Levied by states on wages above a state-specific threshold; rates and thresholds vary by state |
| Fringe Benefits Tax | Applies to non-cash employee benefits; specialist advice recommended before providing FBT-relevant benefits |

WARNING

Artificially inflating business turnover — through circular related-party transactions, sham sales, or cash revenue manipulation — constitutes fraud under Australian law and potentially under Public Interest Criterion (PIC) 4020. Consequences include visa cancellation, a 3-year or 10-year bar from Australian visas, and potential criminal prosecution. The Department of Home Affairs and the ATO share data. Fraud is detected.

ACTION STEP

Before lodging your EOI: prepare a one-page 'Source of Funds Summary' listing each asset, its current AUD value, and a one-line description of its origin. Have your accountant review it for gaps. This exercise identifies documentation problems before you are in a formal application process — when they are much easier to address.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Source-of-funds documentation is now as important as the financial figures themselves
- ✓ Common red flags: rapid pre-application fund movements, layered entity transfers, family gifts without documentation, home-country tax inconsistencies
- ✓ If your home-country tax records are weak, engage specialist advice before lodging — not after
- ✓ Artificially inflating business figures constitutes fraud — consequences include multi-year visa bars and criminal prosecution
- ✓ Prepare a Source of Funds Summary before your EOI — identify and address gaps proactively

CHAPTER 11: COMMON MISTAKES — INCLUDING MISREPRESENTATION & FRAUD RISKS

After more than 25 years in immigration consulting, I have observed the same mistakes repeat across thousands of cases. Understanding these pitfalls in advance can save years of delay, legal costs, and in the most serious cases, permanent exclusion from Australia.

Operational Mistakes

MISTAKE 1 — Underestimating the business plan: Generic, template-based plans that lack genuine market research and explicit connection to immigration benchmarks are consistently the primary cause of nomination rejection. Invest in a professionally prepared, Australia-specific plan.

MISTAKE 2 — Wrong state selection: Selecting a state based purely on personal preference without assessing your competitive profile against that state's current nomination criteria. A systematic state-matching analysis against your EOI score and business concept should precede any state nomination decision.

MISTAKE 3 — Operating a nominal business: Setting up a dormant or minimally active company to satisfy immigration requirements rather than genuinely operating a business. Case officers look for genuine revenue, real customers, authentic supplier relationships, and actual employees. A nominal operation will result in 888 refusal.

MISTAKE 4 — Poor record-keeping: Applicants who cannot produce comprehensive, contemporaneous records of their business activities during the provisional period face an almost impossible task at the 888 stage.

MISTAKE 5 — Breaching state nomination conditions: Moving your principal business to another state without the nominating state's formal consent. This is one of the most common and most serious compliance failures.

MISTAKE 6 — DIY applications: Attempting to navigate the BIIP without a qualified, current-practice Registered Migration Agent. The cost of professional advice is insignificant compared to the cost of a refused application and the consequential visa bars.

Misrepresentation and Document Fraud — The Highest Risk Category

Misrepresentation in immigration applications is governed by Public Interest Criterion (PIC) 4020 in the Migration Regulations. PIC 4020 is one of the most consequential provisions in Australian immigration law. Understanding its reach is essential.

PIC 4020 is engaged where an applicant provides, or causes to be provided, a bogus document or false or misleading information to an officer exercising a power under the Migration Act 1958 (Cth). It

applies to applications made before the BIIP, during the BIIP, and potentially to subsequent applications.

What Constitutes Misrepresentation Under PIC 4020

- Inflated business turnover — including transactions with related parties at non-arms-length prices to artificially boost reported revenue
- Sham employees — listing family members or paid third parties as employees who do not genuinely perform work
- Fabricated or altered financial statements, tax returns, or business records
- False claims of business ownership percentages
- Concealment of previous visa refusals, criminal history, or adverse immigration history
- Using translation services that add, omit, or alter material information from source documents

Consequences of a PIC 4020 Finding

| Consequence | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Visa Refusal | The application in which the misrepresentation is detected is refused |
| 3-Year Bar | A PIC 4020 finding triggers a mandatory 3-year bar from being granted a further visa |
| 10-Year Bar | For more serious misrepresentation involving criminal conduct, a 10-year bar applies |
| Visa Cancellation | Where misrepresentation is discovered after visa grant, the visa may be cancelled |
| International Sharing | Australia shares immigration fraud information with the Five Eyes group (UK, Canada, NZ, USA) — a PIC 4020 finding can affect visa applications to all these countries |
| Criminal Prosecution | Where misrepresentation involves the provision of false documents to a Commonwealth officer, criminal charges under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) may follow |

WARNING

A 3-year or 10-year visa bar resulting from a PIC 4020 finding is not limited to Australian visas. Under information-sharing agreements within the Five Eyes group, the finding may be shared with immigration authorities in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States. The global consequences of immigration fraud in Australia can be catastrophic.

Tax Compliance and Immigration

The ATO and the Department of Home Affairs share data under information-matching arrangements. Inconsistencies between figures provided in immigration applications and tax records filed with the ATO are a documented trigger for compliance audit. Ensure absolute consistency between all financial figures across all documents — immigration applications, tax returns, BAS statements, and financial statements.

ACTION STEP

If you discover any material error or inconsistency in documents already submitted to the Department of Home Affairs or a state migration office, seek legal advice immediately. Proactive disclosure of an error, before it is detected, is treated very differently from misrepresentation that is uncovered during a compliance audit.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Operational mistakes — poor business planning, wrong state selection, nominal business — are avoidable with proper preparation
- ✓ PIC 4020 misrepresentation findings trigger 3 or 10-year visa bars — plus potential criminal prosecution
- ✓ Inflated turnover, sham employees, and falsified documents are the most common fraud patterns in BIIP
- ✓ Information-sharing with the Five Eyes group means Australian fraud findings can affect global visa prospects
- ✓ If an error has been made in documents already submitted, seek legal advice immediately — proactive disclosure matters

CHAPTER 12: IF BIIP IS PAUSED OR UNAVAILABLE — PLAN B OPTIONS

The BIIP is a valuable but volatile program. Rounds have been paused, invitation volumes have been cut, and the program has been periodically restructured. A sophisticated approach to Australian business migration includes understanding viable alternative pathways — both as standalone options and as components of a combined family strategy.

POLICY ALERT

This chapter does not suggest that BIIP is currently closed — see the 2026 Policy Snapshot for current status. It is included because every serious BIIP applicant should have a documented Plan B before committing to a single pathway.

Alternative Visa Pathways — Overview

| Visa Subclass | Overview |
|--|--|
| Subclass 189 — Skilled Independent | Points-tested permanent visa for skilled workers with an occupation on the MLTSSL. No state nomination required. Highly competitive — currently 90+ points needed for most occupations. |
| Subclass 190 — Skilled Nominated | State-nominated permanent visa; adds 5 points to 189 score threshold. More accessible than 189 for many applicants; still occupation and points dependent. |
| Subclass 491 — Skilled Work Regional | Temporary visa; regional state nomination or family sponsorship; pathway to 191 permanent visa after 3 years in a regional area. Significant availability for regional commitment. |
| Subclass 482 — Temporary Skill Shortage | Employer-sponsored temporary visa. Requires a sponsoring Australian employer. Pathway to 186 permanent visa after 2+ years. |
| Subclass 186 — Employer Nomination Scheme | Permanent employer-sponsored visa. Requires 2 years with the same employer on a 482 visa (typically) or direct entry stream for occupations on a specified list. |
| Global Talent (Subclass 858) | For exceptionally talented individuals in priority sectors (AgriFood, MedTech, Energy, FinTech, Infrastructure, Defence, Advanced Manufacturing, Quantum, AI). Must be internationally recognised. Requires endorsement. |

Combined Family Strategies

Many business-migrant families find that the optimal outcome is achieved by pursuing different pathways for different family members simultaneously:

- BIIP parent(s) on 188A or 188B, while a qualified adult child pursues a skilled visa (189/190) independently — the child's skilled visa may be granted faster and provides an additional permanent residency anchor for the family
- Business owner pursues 188A, while spouse (who holds a professional qualification) applies for a 190 nomination in the same state — both are permanent residents through different pathways
- If BIIP rounds are paused, a family member may be able to secure regional sponsorship through a 491 to establish a foothold in Australia while BIIP recovers

KEY POINT

Many business families achieve the best outcome by not putting all their migration eggs in the BIIP basket. A portfolio approach — with BIIP as the primary pathway and a skilled or employer-sponsored visa as the secondary — provides genuine resilience against policy volatility.

What Happens If My BIIP Stream Is Paused After I Lodge?

If a BIIP stream is paused or invitation rounds are suspended after you have already lodged a formal 188 application (i.e., you have received an invitation to apply and have lodged your visa application), your application is generally not automatically cancelled. Applications already lodged continue to be assessed, though processing may slow significantly.

If you are in the EOI stage — meaning you have lodged an EOI but have not yet received an invitation — a pause in invitation rounds means no invitation will be issued until rounds resume. Your EOI remains in the system but cannot proceed.

The key risk is that if rounds are suspended for an extended period and the program is subsequently reformed with different criteria, your EOI may need to be reassessed under new rules.

Employer-Sponsored Pathways for Business Migrants

Some business migrants whose BIIP application is delayed or uncertain choose to establish an Australian business and then self-sponsor through the employer-sponsored pathway. This is a legitimate strategy but involves important caveats:

- You cannot nominally own a business and sponsor yourself through it without genuinely working in the nominated occupation
- The sponsoring business must have a genuine need for the occupation, pay market salary rate, and demonstrate labour market testing in most cases
- The business must meet the sponsorship approval criteria under the Fair Work Amendment Act including financial health and compliance history
- Processing timelines for employer-sponsored visas have also been volatile — do not assume a 482 is necessarily faster than a BIIP pathway

ACTION STEP

Map out your family's full migration profile: list every family member aged 18+, their educational qualifications, professional experience, and English proficiency. Check which, if any, hold occupations on the MLTSSL or STSOL. This exercise reveals whether any family members independently qualify for a skilled visa — providing a Plan B pathway that does not depend on BIIP availability.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ BIIP volatility means every applicant should have a documented Plan B before committing exclusively to the BIIP
- ✓ Skilled visa pathways (189/190/491) are available to family members with qualifying occupations and points
- ✓ Employer-sponsored pathways (482/186) are available for business owners who can genuinely self-sponsor
- ✓ Combined family strategies — BIIP for business owner + skilled visa for spouse or adult child — provide meaningful resilience
- ✓ If BIIP rounds are paused after EOI lodgement, the EOI remains active but cannot progress until rounds resume

CHAPTER 13: LIFE AFTER LANDING — INTEGRATION AND GROWTH

Receiving your Subclass 188 visa is the beginning of your Australian story, not the end. Successful business migrants who thrive in Australia share a common approach: they commit to genuine integration, take compliance seriously, and approach their Australian venture with the same professional discipline they applied in their home country.

Building Your Australian Business Network

Business success in Australia is strongly relationship-driven. Key networking avenues:

- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and state Chamber networks
- Industry associations relevant to your sector
- Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) — free or subsidised business advisory services
- State government migrant business owner programs and welcome events
- LinkedIn — the primary professional networking platform in Australia

Understanding Australian Business Culture

- Informality: First names are standard across all seniority levels — from your bank manager to government officials
- Directness: Australians value clear, unambiguous communication — indirect communication can be read as evasiveness
- Punctuality: Arriving late without notice is viewed as disrespectful regardless of cultural background
- Fair play: Treating employees, suppliers, and customers equitably is a genuine cultural value — not merely a legal compliance requirement
- Quality over relationship entry: Australians often prioritise product quality and reliable delivery over prior relationship. Consistent execution builds trust faster than social gestures.

Family Settlement Priorities

- School enrolment: Public schools are available to 188 holders; enrol early as some schools have waitlists
- Medicare: Availability depends on your home country's reciprocal health agreement with Australia — check your specific eligibility
- Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP): Free English tuition for eligible migrants — an underutilised resource
- Spouse employment: Secondary applicants on the 188 visa may work without restriction — partner employment supplements family income and wellbeing

From Permanent Residence to Citizenship

The Subclass 888 permanent visa opens the path to Australian citizenship. General requirements:

19. Hold permanent residency for at least 1 year immediately before applying
20. Be physically present in Australia for at least 4 years prior to the application (including at least 1 year as PR)
21. Pass the citizenship test: knowledge of Australia, Australian values, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
22. Demonstrate English proficiency at a competent level
23. Be of good character: pass character assessments including criminal history checks

TIP

Australian citizenship provides an Australian passport — consistently ranked among the top 10 most powerful travel documents globally — full voting rights, and the ability to sponsor family members for Australian migration. For business families with global operations, the travel facilitation alone is transformative.

ACTION STEP

Within 12 months of arriving on your 188 visa: join at least 2 industry associations relevant to your business. Attend at least 4 in-person networking events. These activities build genuine connections and generate the kind of community integration evidence that supports both state compliance reporting and your long-term 888 application.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Integration into the Australian business community accelerates both compliance record-building and commercial success
- ✓ Australian business culture values directness, informality, punctuality, and quality execution
- ✓ Family settlement investment — schooling, healthcare, AMEP — directly supports your business focus
- ✓ Citizenship becomes available after 4 years of residency including 1 year as a permanent resident
- ✓ An Australian passport is one of the world's most powerful travel documents — a transformative asset for global business families

FAQs: YOUR TOP 25 QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: Do I need to speak English to get a business migration visa?

A: English requirements vary by stream. The SIV (188C) has no English requirement. The Business Innovation Stream (188A) and Investor Stream (188B) require Functional English (broadly IELTS 4.5 equivalent). The Entrepreneur Stream (188E) requires Competent English (broadly IELTS 6.0). Thresholds should be verified at homeaffairs.gov.au — they have been updated in the past.

Q: What happens if my turnover is slightly below AUD 300,000 but I have strong job creation and regional impact?

A: The financial benchmarks for 888A are set by the Migration Regulations and are not simply overridden by other positive factors. However, if your shortfall is modest, you may be able to present your case with reference to discretionary provisions. Some case officers will consider whether a realistic shortfall was caused by factors outside the applicant's reasonable control — for example, a demonstrated COVID-related impact or natural disaster. This is not a guaranteed safety net, and you should consult an RMA immediately if you are tracking below threshold as you approach your 888 application window.

Q: Can I restructure my business or change shareholders during my provisional period?

A: Yes, but you must notify your nominating state migration office of any material changes to business structure, ownership percentages, or directors. You must also ensure that your ownership stake does not fall below the minimum required for your visa stream (30% for 188A in most circumstances). Restructuring that results in you no longer being the controlling or majority owner may breach your visa conditions. Seek RMA advice before any material restructuring.

Q: How are related-party transactions treated for turnover and asset calculations?

A: Related-party transactions — sales between your Australian business and your own overseas company, or between entities you control — are subject to heightened scrutiny. The Department of Home Affairs expects that all revenue counted toward your 888A turnover benchmark represents genuine, arms-length commercial transactions. Related-party sales at non-market prices, circular transactions, or transactions that lack genuine commercial substance will not be counted and may trigger a fraud investigation. Always ensure related-party transactions are properly documented, priced at market rates, and supported by genuine commercial contracts.

Q: Can I count contractors towards my employment benchmarks?

A: This is a nuanced area. The 888A benchmark requires employment of Australian citizens or permanent residents. Genuine independent contractors may be considered, but the case officer will assess whether the arrangement is genuinely arms-length, whether the person is truly a contractor or a de-facto employee, and whether the engagement is commercially genuine. Full-time PAYG employees with proper employment contracts are significantly safer for compliance purposes. If you rely on contractors to meet your employment benchmark, obtain RMA advice before your 888 application.

Q: What if my home-country tax records are weak or inconsistent?

A: This is a real challenge for applicants from jurisdictions with less robust tax infrastructure. Strategies include: engaging a home-country accountant to prepare a formal wealth reconciliation statement; obtaining statutory declarations from business partners or banks; providing the longest available bank statement history; and preparing a carefully written explanation letter from a home-country tax professional. None of these fully substitute for complete records, but they meaningfully address the gap when presented transparently. If this applies to you, engage an immigration accountant before lodging any application.

Q: What happens if the government closes or suspends my BIIP stream after I lodge?

A: If you have already lodged a formal 188 application (received an invitation and applied), your application continues to be processed unless the program is formally terminated by legislative change — which is rare. Processing may slow materially during periods of policy review. If you are at the EOI stage only, a pause in invitation rounds means no invitation can be issued until rounds resume. Your EOI remains in the SkillSelect system but cannot progress.

Q: Can I retire in Australia on a business migration visa?

A: The BIIP is designed for active business participation. The Investor Stream (188B) is the closest to a passive option, but even 188B holders must manage their designated investment, comply with residency conditions, and meet annual reporting obligations. A purely passive retirement arrangement is not consistent with any current BIIP stream.

Q: Can my children study in Australia on the 188 visa?

A: Yes. Children included as secondary applicants on the 188 visa may enrol in Australian schools. They may access public education without additional fees in most states. For university, conditions vary. This is one of the most valued benefits for business migrant families.

Q: Can I include overseas property in my net asset calculation?

A: Yes, but it must be valued by a licensed property valuer, converted to AUD at the RBA rate on the valuation date, and supported by title documentation and the valuation report. If the property has a mortgage, the outstanding loan balance must be deducted.

Q: How long does the entire process typically take?

A: EOI to 188 visa grant: 12-24 months. Provisional period: 4-5 years. 888 application to permanent visa: 6-18 months. Total from first EOI to permanent residence: 6-8 years for most applicants. These timelines are estimates — policy and caseload changes affect processing at each stage.

Q: Can I use my spouse's assets to meet the net asset requirement?

A: Yes. Net assets are calculated across business and personal assets for both the primary applicant and their spouse or de facto partner included in the application.

APPENDIX: KEY RESOURCES, FORMS & CONTACTS

Federal Government Resources

| Resource | Details |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Department of Home Affairs | homeaffairs.gov.au — primary source for visa information, forms, and policy |
| SkillSelect / ImmiAccount | immi.homeaffairs.gov.au — EOI lodgement and visa application system |
| Australian Taxation Office (ATO) | ato.gov.au — ABN registration, GST, BAS lodgement, superannuation |
| ASIC | asic.gov.au — company registration and corporate compliance |
| AUSTRAC | austrac.gov.au — AML/CTF compliance for financial businesses |
| Fair Work Commission | fwc.gov.au — employment awards, minimum wages, dispute resolution |
| Fair Work Ombudsman | fairwork.gov.au — wage compliance, payroll calculators, employer guides |
| Business.gov.au | business.gov.au — registration, licences, grants, startup support |
| Invest Australia | investaustralia.com.au — federal investment promotion body |

State and Territory Migration Offices

| State/Territory | Migration Office Website |
|------------------------------|---|
| New South Wales | business.nsw.gov.au/migration |
| Victoria | business.vic.gov.au/visas-and-migration |
| Queensland | migration.qld.gov.au |
| South Australia | invest.sa.gov.au/migration |
| Western Australia | wa.gov.au/migration |
| Tasmania | migration.tas.gov.au |
| Australian Capital Territory | invest.act.gov.au |
| Northern Territory | migration.nt.gov.au |

Key Forms (verify current versions at homeaffairs.gov.au)

| Form | Purpose |
|------------------|--|
| Form 1011 | Request for exemption or waiver |
| Form 1008 | Notification of change in circumstances |
| Form 80 | Personal particulars for character assessment |
| Form 1195 | Details of travel — 10-year travel history |
| Form 1221 | Additional personal particulars for business migration |

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Manoj Palwe is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC R422575), a CAPIC Fellow (R11592), and has successfully passed the MIA examination for Australian immigration. He is the President of Taurus Infotek., operating under the Dreamvisas brand, with offices in Toronto, Canada, and Pune, India.

With over 25 years of immigration consulting experience, Manoj has personally assisted more than 10,000 families in their journey to Canada, Australia, Germany, and other global destinations. His educational reach extends to over 20,000 YouTube subscribers, 4 million+ Quora views, and 550+ professional recommendations on LinkedIn.

Manoj's hands-on experience with the Australian Business Innovation and Investment Program spans the full spectrum of BIIP visa streams. His combination of technical immigration expertise, business consulting background, and genuine empathy for the migrant journey makes him a trusted advisor for business families worldwide.

A Personal Evaluation Report — Is Australia Business Migration Right for You?

Every applicant's situation is unique. Before investing significant time and resources in the BIIP process, a professional assessment of your specific profile is invaluable.

Dreamvisas offers a Personal Evaluation Report (PER) that provides:

- An honest, professional assessment of your eligibility across all BIIP streams based on your current financial and business profile
- A recommended nomination strategy based on current state priorities and your specific business concept
- A realistic timeline, process overview, and cost framework
- A clear, prioritised action plan for moving forward

Typical PER profiles we assess include: manufacturing SME owners from India targeting South Australia; property investors from China considering the 188B or 188C; technology founders from Southeast Asia exploring the 188E; retired business families from the Middle East considering the investor or SIV streams.

To request your Personal Evaluation Report or to book a consultation with Manoj Palwe and the Dreamvisas team, visit www.dreamvisas.com or contact our offices in Toronto or Pune. We also offer a Business Plan Review service for applicants who have a business concept ready to be assessed against D.R.E.A.M. standards and current state nomination criteria, and an 888 Compliance Audit service for 188 holders who wish to identify and address compliance gaps before they lodge their permanent residence application.

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Book a consultation to discuss your specific situation and create a personalized immigration strategy.

Thank you for reading!

Best wishes for your journey.

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