

Innovative Investor
pathway with
Queensland NIV
Fund



PATHWAYS

NATIONAL INNOVATION
(SUBCLASS 858) VISA IN
QUEENSLAND



National Innovation (subclass 858) Visa in Queensland

Migration Strategy Reforms

The Australian government's Migration Strategy was released in December 2023 with the renewed intention of *"getting migration working for the nation, for workers, for business and for all Australians"* and included reforms to the Global Talent Program and the Business Innovation and Investment Program for permanent residency.

Acting on the Migration Review and specialist research by the Productivity Commission and the Grattan Institute, the Migration Strategy sought to combine the Global Talent and Business Innovation and Investment programs into a single *"talent and innovation visa"*. The reforms would streamline the previous multiple concurrent subclasses into a single recalibrated subclass. Eligibility changed to a priority order that focused on an applicant's *"exceptional and outstanding achievements"* as a predictor of an ability *"to make an outsized contribution to Australia"*.

The National Innovation Visa

The National Innovation (subclass 858) visa was introduced to reform the Global Talent (subclass 858) visa and incorporate elements of the closed Business Innovation and Investment Program that research had shown to be successful, in particular the Significant Investor (subclass 188) visa. The National Innovation Visa (NIV) would become the recommended single streamlined talent and innovation visa for permanent residency.

The NIV was established by regulations made by the Minister for Home Affairs in November 2024 in *"Migration Amendment (National Innovation Visa) Regulations 2024"* amending the *"Migration Regulations 1994"* (Regulations), setting out the criteria to be satisfied by an NIV application including the requirement to be invited in writing by the Minister.

The subsequent *"Ministerial Direction 112"* (MD112) made by the Assistant Minister in December 2024 introduced the NIV priority order by mandating an *"order of consideration and assessing exceptional and outstanding achievement"* for invitations to NIV applicants. In practice this priority based criteria replaced the previous multiple subclass streams and recalibrated the effectiveness of the talent and innovation visas into a single program.

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) reporting to the Minister, has responsibility for administering migration programs and delivering the policy outcomes in the Migration Strategy. The new NIV focus on effectiveness has allowed the DHA to reduce the Migration Planning Levels for the NIV program to 4,300 grants in the 2026 financial year in anticipation of visa grants delivering outsized contributions.



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DHA Policy Settings for NIV

The Regulations define the high-talent areas for an NIV applicant as being a profession, a sport, the arts, or academia and research. The DHA policy settings further refine these areas to align with national economic objectives in creating jobs and driving productivity growth through:

- global researchers
- entrepreneurs
- *innovative investors (see below)*
- athletes and creatives

State and Territory governments set additional policy guidelines for NIV nominations by authority of MD112 and in cooperation with DHA for its administrative and economic objectives.

State or Territory Government Nomination

In addition to the requirements of being invited by the Minister and having a record of exceptional and outstanding achievement, the Regulations require the NIV applicant to provide the prescribed DHA Form 1000 completed by a person or organization that can attest to the achievements and act as a nominator.

If the Form 1000 is completed by an organization who is also an expert department or agency of a state or territory government, then MD112 mandates the NIV application to be considered by the DHA as the second highest priority.

To receive a state or territory government nomination the applicant must meet the additional program guidelines published by that government. For example, Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) publish guidelines for nomination headlined as *"Shape the future in Queensland, Australia with a National Innovation Visa"* and is designed to attract high-calibre talent to Queensland.

Priority Assessment

Having achieved the NIV reforms as a single talent and innovation visa stream and simplified eligibility (a record of exceptional and outstanding achievements), the priority for assessment of NIV applications set out in MD112 further refines the industry sectors of national importance for meeting Australia's economic objectives.

After global experts that have received top-of-field international awards, applicants that are nominated by an expert state or territory government agency are the second highest priority.

Applicants with exceptional and outstanding achievements in the specified tier one and tier two industry sectors are priority three and four respectively.



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PR Pathways NIV Innovative Investor Pathway

PR Pathways has designed an NIV pathway for *Innovative Investors* targeting a Queensland government nomination with investment in tier one and tier two industry sectors.

TIQ guidelines are seeking to attract actively involved investors with a record of supporting successful innovative ventures and invest a minimum of \$5 million for two or more years through asset management deploying venture capital, private equity, and co-investment, and that align with Queensland government strategic initiatives in priority industry sectors.

PR Pathways is a business broker that co-ordinates with migration agents to provide access to the Queensland NIV Fund, and asset management that specialises in deploying venture capital, private equity and co-investment with state and local government development programs. The asset manager of the Queensland NIV Fund actively involves the talent of NIV applicants that invest \$5 million by appointments to investment committees, supervisory boards and business specific project control groups.

The Queensland NIV Fund has an existing pipeline of innovative high-growth businesses in priority sectors in the Queensland innovative ecosystem, and which are aligned with Queensland government strategic initiatives.

PR Pathways will submit a registration of interest to TIQ for *Innovative Investors* in the Queensland NIV Fund for a Queensland government nomination. Completed Form 1000 nominations can be included by migration agents seeking high-priority expressions of interest for NIV applications.

Disclaimer: PR Pathways provides this document with general information that is publicly available from the Department of Home Affairs website, Trade and Investment Queensland website, and the relevant migration law and regulations. This information is not provided as any kind of legal or migration advice. PR Pathways recommends obtaining professional advice before making any decisions. PR Pathways provides business broking services to migration agents and is not registered with the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority in Australia to make visa applications.

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PO Box 4145 Robina TC, Queensland 4230 | +61 7 5500 5507 | christine.tipper@prpathways.au | veritasium.au

NATIONAL INNOVATION VISA