

Australian Dreams

Stories from international students and skilled migrants powering Australia's prosperity



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Foreword by
Giovanni Giovannelli
 President, Pearson English Language Learning

Part One: The power of shared language in realising dreams.

In 1973, during an official state visit to the Philippines, the then Australian Minister for Immigration, Al Grassby, unequivocally proclaimed the end of the White Australia Policy, famously stating, 'Give me a shovel and I will bury it'. This moment marked a pivotal shift in Australia's immigration stance, dismantling the last remnants of a policy that had significantly shaped the nation's demographic landscape - and heralding a new era of diversity, providing a foundation for the redefinition and enrichment of the Australian dream.

As providers of the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE), the most utilised English language test for migrants and international students coming into Australia, we recognise the fundamental role of shared language in unlocking opportunities.

As the President of Pearson English Language Learning, my own journey as a migrant and the transformative power of learning English gives me a profound connection to the impact and aspirations of the migrants whose journeys we explore in this paper, and their contribution to Australia's economy and society.

This report presents key insights from the *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* (PMASS), a comprehensive research initiative **that surveyed over 3,000 PTE test takers** who have migrated to Australia under skilled migration or international student visas. Through it, our purpose is to explore their underlying motivations for migration, their experiences and contributions in Australia, and their hopes for their lives in the future.

Although my migration story led me first to the US and then later to Brazil, rather than Australia, I understand what it is to seek new opportunities in the world and to face the challenges of integrating in a diverse culture.

I understand what it is to master a new language and seek new opportunities in the world. Learning English has given me access to an international education and unlocked the opportunity for a global career as well as to build connections with new friends and colleagues in many different countries. Once I started learning one language, my passion for learning continued, and I can now happily converse with people in Portuguese, Spanish, and French as well, further expanding my world. At Pearson, we strongly believe that lifelong learning means your first language doesn't have to dictate the limits of your world. We are here to add life to a lifetime of learning.

In the stories of the PTE test takers we share in this report, we see a group of people who refused to be bound by borders and who instead chose to change the circumstances around them rather than give up on their dreams. And, in so doing, help contribute to Australia being more prosperous, dynamic and culturally rich.

We hope you enjoy learning about their experiences as much as we have.



Case Study

Nadia

Manager

Country of Origin: Iran

Standing in the queue at Macquarie University’s cafeteria in July 2018, a moment of truth loomed before Iranian-born student Nadia. She’d just arrived in Australia to start a new life, and while ‘G’day’ wasn’t exactly part of her vernacular, she knew that drumming up the courage to say ‘hello’ to a stranger would be an important first step in building a sense of connection to power her life.

Never short of courage, saying “hello” is exactly what Nadia did, and something she hasn’t stopped doing since to the 94,000 people who now follow her Australian migration journey on Instagram.

Though removed from her current life in Sydney, Nadia’s life in Tehran was marked by a significant achievement. She had excelled in the highly competitive university entrance exams, earning her place at one of Tehran’s top universities completing studies in mechanical engineering. She had even gone on to manage her own business. Despite this, she yearned for more and the opportunity to explore the world.

Since arriving in Australia on a student visa, Nadia has continued to forge a path that speaks to her tenacity and her ability to seize the chances afforded to her. Despite her engineering background in Iran, Nadia made a strategic side-step, pursuing a Master of International Business at Macquarie University. The transition wasn’t merely academic; it was a gateway to a life filled with opportunities and different perspectives. Her educational accomplishments in Australia laid the groundwork for what was to come—a thriving career in a new land.

Professionally, Nadia has made significant strides. She has taken on a leadership role in the marketing industry, heading up a team for one of Sydney’s leading independent childcare groups. She has also built an impressive career as a content creator, generously sharing insights and advice in both English and Farsi to a growing community of followers on Instagram, helping this audience on their own migration journey.

Through this platform, she advocates for the Australian dream, inspiring migrants with her story of persistence and integration, guiding them through her lived experiences and Australia’s rich cultural tapestry. From heading out for her daily run, to building a career, or teaching her pet Galah to say ‘I love you’, for Nadia, Australia is the place that makes ‘anything possible’.

In the end, Nadia’s story is not just about the transition from one country to another; it’s about a transformation to a life where she is able to be the full author of her own destiny. Her advocacy for Australia is deeply rooted in the values she holds dear – freedom, opportunity, and the courage to embrace a new beginning.

It’s a story that starts with a ‘hello’ in a university cafeteria and echoes across her every post, run, and conversation. Nadia Mofrad’s experience is a powerful homage to the courage to start anew and the beauty of living free.

Executive Summary

Across November and December 2023, Pearson undertook the *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* (PMASS), a study of over 3,000 skilled migrant and international student takers of the Pearson Test of English Academic living in Australia. The foundation for this study was the Australian Government's *Continuous Study of Australia's Migrants*. However, the PMASS extended this survey to delve deeper into this group's social and cultural experiences in Australia.

Through this study, we have identified not only the ongoing productivity contributions skilled migrants and international students make to enhancing Australia's workforce and economy but also their strong sense of connection to Australia and the life it offers.

In examining their motivations, expectations, and aspirations for their life, we have begun to paint a vivid picture of their hopes and dreams and, importantly, uncovered a cohort of strong advocates for the life Australia offers.

The Economic Impact of Migrants

The study highlights the critical role migrants play in addressing Australia's skill shortages. With a 91% employment rate among surveyed migrants and 72% engaged in skilled professions, their integration into the workforce significantly boosts the economic landscape. Their median income of \$93,000, substantially above the national median of \$68,900, indicates their successful assimilation and contribution to our workforce.

"I started working in Australia at a lower level than previous ones. But, I worked hard in order to get promotion and career development in Australia".

Male 35-39yrs, Vietnam. WA

"I'm performing exceptionally well in the corporate world as well as in the community".

Male 40-44yrs, Sri Lanka, NSW

The Draw of Australian Education

Education is a key factor attracting migrants to Australia. For those entering Australia for study purposes, 86% of respondents identified that progressing skills and education is a key goal for them looking ahead. One in five (21%) noted that they see Australia's quality education facilities as a key driver in achieving these aspirations.

86%

of respondents see progressing their skills and education in Australia as a key goal.



#PTEAustralianDreams

“I always wanted to study in the IT field, but in India I couldn’t because my background was not in that field. In Australia, I can see that anybody can study in any field of their choice, and I really love that and found the hope to study IT. I’ve completed my study and am really proud of myself”.

Female 25–29yrs, NSW, India

“Australia has many good things to offer not just for me but for my future family, which includes providing good education to the future of my future child/children because Australia is one of the leading countries that can provide good education and opportunities that will help them to achieve their ambitions in the future”.

Male 30–34yrs, NSW, Philippines

“I can get more resources from schools and libraries. It will build the firm foundation base for my career. I also can share thoughts with the same hobbies, friends, or classmates.”

Male 30–34yrs, NSW, Philippines

Building a Welcoming Community

Social aspects receive a spotlight, with 89% of migrants experiencing Australian kindness, showcasing a culture of inclusivity. Migrants also contribute through volunteering and community engagement, strengthening societal bonds and mutual respect. Among our respondents, 81% reported having built community connections here in Australia.



“The warm and friendly people I encountered made me feel welcome from day one, and their diverse cultures and traditions enriched my life. This experience broadened my horizons and taught me the value of embracing change and diversity”.

Male 18–24yrs, Nepal, NSW

“I felt included and welcome when some of my colleagues ensured my dietary requirements were met in a get together event. Also, asking about my culture, and trying to understand it”.

Female 30–34yrs, India, QLD

Advocacy and Satisfaction

Migrant Advocacy and Opportunities

PMASS underscores high satisfaction levels among migrants, with 90% recommending Australia as a migration destination. An impressive 81% acknowledge gaining access to opportunities in Australia that were unavailable in their home countries, highlighting the transformative nature of migration.

“Living in Australia means encountering many opportunities; it is a... multicultural and open country with an ever-growing economy. Australia’s quality of life and unrivalled natural beauty make it the ideal destination for you if you have ever dreamed about improving your future”.

Male 30–34yrs, China, NT

The Desire for Permanent Residency

Most respondents indicated a strong desire to remain in Australia, a long-term commitment to contributing to Australian society.

A significant portion, 70%, of migrants express a strong desire to make Australia their permanent home, reflecting successful integration policies and a high quality of life.

“I got a job that I love and I met my partner here. We are buying a house soon, which I couldn’t imagine back in my home country”.

Male 25–29yrs, China, SA



Case Study

SAAD

IT Professional

Country of Origin: Pakistan

Pakistani-born but Dubai-raised IT professional Saad had a choice on his hands when it came to thinking about his next step – move to Germany to work for Google or come to Australia to work for Amazon.

In the end, Australia won out – underpinned by the role he knows that language plays in helping to drive connection.

Having already migrated once, Saad knew the importance that language plays in unlocking not just economic but also social opportunities. With a strong command of English, he knew that Australia was a place where he could build a bright future for himself (and the broad open spaces, beautiful beaches, and shared love of cricket might also have played a part).

Yet, in choosing Australia, he wasn't without concerns. For Saad, much of his understanding of Australia was from limited international reporting on social issues – which wasn't always favourable. Coming from a place like Dubai, known for its safety, he worried about whether he would be safe moving here on his own.

Two factors helped alleviate his concerns: the first was an anecdote from a colleague about having backpacked alone across Australia as a 15-year-old without incident. The second occurred just one week after he arrived. Saad lost his wallet near Sydney's Chatswood Station, which still held crucial identity documents from back home – to his relief (and delight), a member of the public had handed it into security with cards and cash intact.

He also sees the opportunities that Australia's burgeoning IT sector offers – particularly with his in-demand skills. Importantly, however, in building a career in Australia, our more laid-back lifestyle and focus on work-life balance (even in comparatively demanding careers) is the envy of his peers and colleagues at home in Dubai.

And what does he do with this extra time? He hikes, goes to BBQs with friends and colleagues and finds new ways to explore Australia's luscious landscapes. And as for the cricket? Well, he hasn't yet found a team yet, but he's taken up the next best thing. Golf.

The Pearson Australian Migrant and Student Study

This paper explores the findings of the *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* (PMASS). The research project aimed to explore the experiences of skilled migrants and international students who entered Australia between 2017 and 2023. It comprised an online survey and three focus groups of survey respondents in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane.

Survey

This research project focussed on visa holders currently residing in Australia who took the PTE between 2017 and 2023 as part of their application process. Applicants from many countries wishing to study or work in Australia must complete a Department of Home Affairs approved English language proficiency test as part of their application. A comprehensive survey was administered to a sample of n=3001 individuals to collect quantitative data on their experiences and outcomes within Australia. The survey was conducted online over a period of two weeks, from 2 to 15 November, ensuring accessibility for participants across various locations within the country.

As a central part of the survey design, the Australian Government's *Continuous Study of Australia's Migrants* was used as a framing tool for question design, providing a benchmark against which economic contribution could be modelled.

Focus groups

Each focus group comprised 8 to 13 participants, allowing for in-depth discussions about their experiences in Australia. This method facilitated a qualitative exploration of their integration, challenges, and contributions to Australia's society and economy. The selection of cities was strategic, representing diverse experiences due to each location's different economic and social environments.

Summary – Research Findings

The *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* offers an insightful snapshot into the motivations and contributions of skilled migrants and international students in Australia.

Combining quantitative data with qualitative insights from focus groups, the study showcases how these individuals are fulfilling their aspirations and enhancing Australia's economic and social landscape.

Quantitative findings reveal a strong educational draw, with one in five highly valuing Australia's academic institutions. Employment outcomes are impressive, with 91% of comparable respondents employed and 72% in skilled professions, indicative of these individuals' pivotal role in the labour market, as evidenced by their notable median income of \$93,000. This contrasts with Australia's national salary average in 2023 of \$68,900, and the Australian median weekly salary of \$67,600 per annum when extrapolated from December 2023 reported median weekly earnings of \$1,300¹.

72%

of PTE migrants on skilled visas reported working in skilled professions.

Social integration emerges as a highlight, with an overwhelming majority feeling welcomed and connected within their communities. **Acts of kindness are frequently experienced by 89% of the participants**, and the same proportion actively seeks to give back, with **more than 10% engaged in volunteer work**. This demonstrates a robust two-way integration, with migrants enriching community life as much as they benefit from it.

However, the study identifies a gap in awareness of English language support services, with more than a third of student visa holders saying services were not available or they were not sure if they exist at their institution, suggesting an area for strategic improvement. Despite this, the advocacy for Australia as a migration destination is strong—90% would recommend Australia to others, and 84% have positive experiences to share back home. Additionally, **81% have encountered opportunities that would not have been available in their home countries**.

The desire for permanent residence is significant, with 70% wishing to stay in Australia, a testament to their positive experiences and the opportunities they perceive. While individual narratives from the focus groups are not singled out, the collective voice speaks to a successful integration process underpinned by support and acceptance, especially during challenging times like the pandemic.

This research snapshot underscores the reciprocal benefits of skilled migration. It points to a migrant populace that is **not only achieving a higher standard of living and advancing their careers but is also actively participating in and contributing to Australian society**. The data portrays Australia as a nation that fosters educational excellence, champions diversity, and provides a secure environment that exceeds the expectations of its international residents.

81%

have encountered opportunities that would not have been available in their home countries

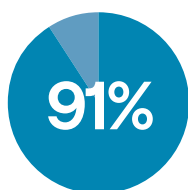
Comparison with the Australian Government's Continuous Study of Australian Migrants

As part of our research, Pearson sought to set a benchmark for understanding how its respondents compared to the averages for skilled migrants in Australia.

Higher Employment Outcomes

Through our research, we identified that PTE skilled migrant test-takers reported a 5% higher employment rate six months post-settlement. Comparing statistically similar PTE test-takers to those surveyed in the Australian Government's Continuing Study of Australian Migrants (CSAM), 94% of the PTE group reported being employed at this point, compared to 89% in the CSAM.

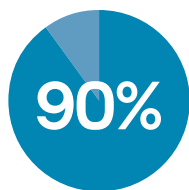
PTE test takers who participated in the PMASS were also more likely to be in highly skilled roles and less likely to be not employed than the benchmarks from the last CSAM report.



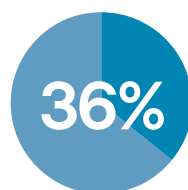
91%
of PTE skilled migrants are working



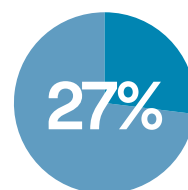
\$93k
p/a median income among PTE skilled migrants



90%
of skilled and student migrants recommend Australia.



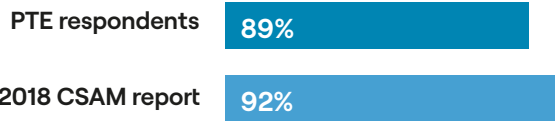
36%
of student visa holders were unsure of availability or lacked English support services at their institutions.



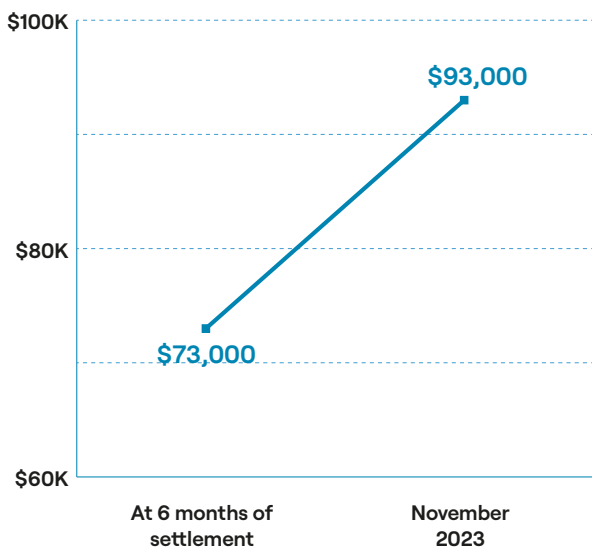
27%
of student visa holders are accessing English support services.

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics Employee Earnings December 2023 <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings/aug-2023>

Employment at six months post settlement



PTE respondents reported median income



Addressing Skills Gaps

Among the respondents to the PMASS, there were higher levels of individuals working in IT and nursing six months post-settlement compared to the Australian Government's CSAM results.

- Registered nursing (13.2% compared with 2.7% for all highly skilled migrants)
- Software and Applications Programming (6.5% compared with 4.6% for all highly skilled migrants)

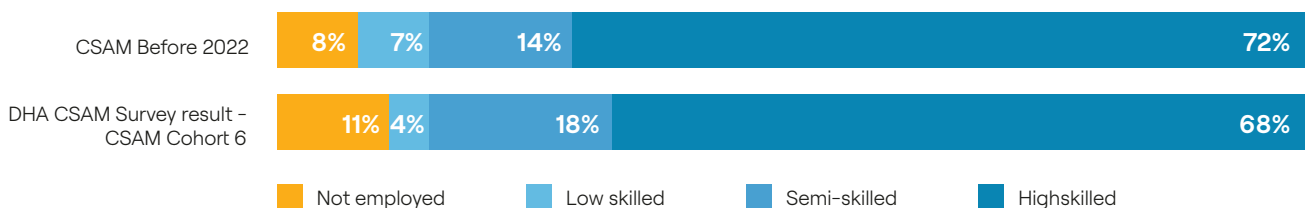
PTE Skilled Migrants Earning More

Incomes are also higher among PTE test takers, with those comparable to the CSAM data showing higher earnings, with the median income at \$73,000 six months post-settlement. Respondents also demonstrated a significant growth in income with those settling before 2022 now reporting a median income of \$93,000 per annum.

\$20k +

PTE test takers reported significant median per annum income growth post settlement.

Continuing Study of Australian Migrants (CSAM) Reports



PTE Academic: Enabling Opportunity

As a final part of the *Pearson Australian Skilled and Student Migrant Study*, Pearson sought to examine and explore the attitudes of test takers to the Pearson Test of English Academic in Australia. Importantly, understanding perceptions of the effectiveness of the PTE in facilitating educational and migration pathways for international students and migrants.

87%

of respondents preferred the PTE over other tests.

Through our research, we identified that **PTE skilled migrant test-takers reported a 5% higher employment rate six months post-settlement.**

Satisfaction and Outcomes

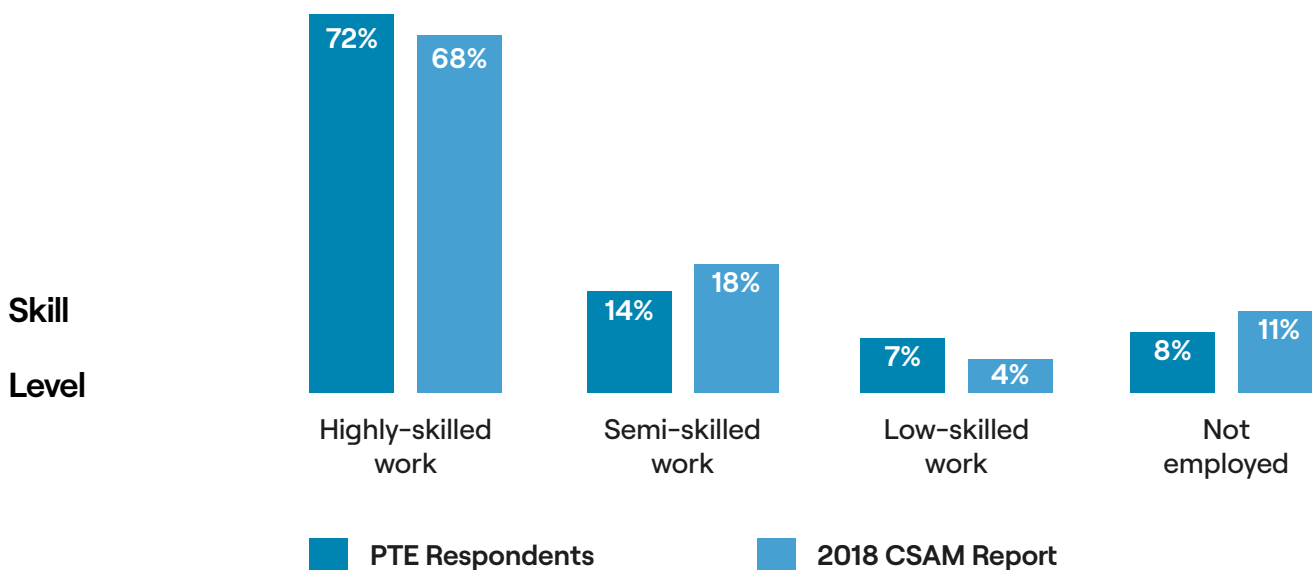
Among respondents, 51% had completed an English language test provided by an alternate provider.

However, 87% of those surveyed identified that the PTE provided the best experience for test-takers.

The following factors contributed to this preference:

- Fast results - 77%
- Test format - 56%
- Ease of preparation - 55%
- Availability of test dates - 54%
- Preferred computer-based, machine-scored test - 51%

As the Australian Dream continues to unfold, it's clear that PTE skilled migrants are not just living in Australia—they're thriving. They're buying homes, starting businesses, and contributing to an inclusive society that values their skills and ambitions. Australia is not just a destination; for many, it has become a new beginning, a place where dreams take shape and aspirations become achievements. The Australian Dream is indeed alive, fuelled by the diverse spectrum of migrants who choose to call Australia home.





Case Study

Mayur

IT Professional

Country of Origin: India

Mayur's vibrant group house in Sydney, along with his professional environment, perfectly captures the essence of Australia's cultural melting pot. These spaces act as hubs where a diverse array of people from every imaginable background come together. For Mayur, this diversity isn't just about variety—it's a gateway to a world where being true to oneself isn't just accepted; it is celebrated, where dreams aren't just daydreams but possibilities, and personal evolution is part of everyday life.

When Mayur first landed in Australia from India, armed with his IT skills and a work visa, his knowledge of the country was superficial at best, limited to its wildlife and cricket fame. Yet, what he found was a country ready to unfold an array of opportunities before him. From bushwalking in the national parks that surround Sydney to picking up new hobbies and diving into a work culture that doesn't just allow but actively encourages growth, Mayur discovered a new way of viewing his life.

For him, the true beauty of Australia lies in its open invitation for personal transformation and self-expression in a society that makes it easier for people to step out of the boxes we're often placed in. This ethos is something Mayur embraces wholeheartedly, engaging with the world around him with an open heart and a curious mind, eager to exchange stories and experiences with others.

In essence, Mayur's story in Australia is one of boundless opportunity—be it gathering with friends over a BBQ, learning guitar chords, or the camaraderie of joining swimming lessons as an adult. Australia, for him, is not just a place on the map but a land of endless possibilities.

And while it isn't something to be joked about, unusually for someone who grew up in India, Mayur is even happy to talk about the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, where Australia beat India on their home turf – but mostly he says because, by that time, he'd already become an Australia citizen.



Part Two

Introduction: Skilled Migrants And International Students As Catalysts In Shaping The “Great Australian Dream”

Migration has long been integral to the socio-economic fabric of Australia, fuelling growth and serving as a cornerstone in the evolution of what is commonly referred to as the ‘Great Australian Dream’.

Traditionally associated with home ownership and the quarter-acre block, this conceptual framework has progressively expanded to encompass the broader aspirations of a diverse, inclusive, and prosperous society.

Within this context, skilled migrants and international students emerge as pivotal contributors, not merely participants in this vision, but as dynamic agents of change and growth.

Economic Contributions: Beyond Filling Skill Gaps

The discourse surrounding the economic impact of skilled migrants often centres on their role in addressing labour shortages and driving productivity outcomes (*Castles, 2016; Walsh, 2008; Wright, 2015*).² However, with the release of the Australian Government’s 2023 review of the migration system, a more nuanced analysis reveals the complex and symbiotic relationship with the Australian economy and society.

International students, too, represent a vital economic force, contributing to Australia’s prosperity beyond their direct financial investment in education. The Australian Government’s Migration Strategy also acknowledges that ‘International education is a new engine of economic growth for Australia and an important part of our social fabric.’³ Their participation in education, the workforce and society can be understood as contributing to our highly valued cultural diversity while enhancing Australia’s economic adaptability and international linkages.

Social Contributions: Enhancing Cultural Diversity and Cohesion

The social contributions of skilled migrants and international students extend beyond economic metrics, significantly enriching Australia’s cultural tapestry. The Scanlon Institutes’ ongoing research on social cohesion illuminates the positive impact of these communities on enhancing multiculturalism and fostering a sense of belonging among diverse populations. Australians, too, are increasingly understanding and valuing these contributions. In its 2023 Mapping Social Cohesion Report, the Institute

notes that “78% agree that ‘accepting immigrants from many different countries makes Australia stronger’, 89% agree that ‘multiculturalism has been good for Australia’, and 86% agree that ‘immigrants are generally good for Australia’s economy.’⁴

By introducing varied cultural traditions, languages, and perspectives, migrants and international students play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and understanding, reinforcing these vital social pillars of the ‘Great Australian Dream’.

Furthermore, these groups facilitate international diplomacy and cross-cultural exchanges, contributing to a globalised sense of Australian identity. This aspect of social contribution is pivotal in enriching the nation’s cultural landscape, promoting unity and a collective identity that embraces diversity as a strength.

Policy Context and Strategic Migration Management

The evolution of Australia’s migration policy reflects an ongoing dialogue between economic needs, social aspirations, and the challenges and opportunities presented by global migration trends. The Australian Government’s review of the migration system emphasises a strategic and demand-driven approach to migration and includes greater capabilities in English for international students, bringing them in line with the requirements set for skilled migration.⁵ Such an approach seeks to align skilled migration with Australia’s economic priorities while ensuring that migration policies foster social cohesion and successful integration.

In its 2022 response to the Australian Government’s Migration policy review that preceded its 2023 Strategy, the Committee for Economic Development of Australia outlined the essential role that skilled migration plays in driving our prosperity and that; importantly, it does so without harming the job prospects of local workers overall.⁶

In an environment where there is growing competition for skilled migration, and OECD countries are implementing ‘new pathways to attract highly educated migrants, remote workers and potential investors’⁷ understanding the hopes, aspirations and lived experiences of successful current migrants, such as the PTE Test-takers we surveyed, provides useful data to target future attraction programs.

Skilled migrants and international students are indispensable in rediscovering and realising the ‘Great Australian Dream’. Their economic, social, and cultural contributions are critical in shaping a vision of Australia that values diversity, inclusivity, and prosperity. As Australia continues to navigate the complexities of a changing global landscape, the strategic management of its migration program remains central to sustaining the principles that underpin this dream. Through a concerted effort among policymakers, educational institutions, and the broader community, Australia can ensure that its migration strategy remains responsive, equitable, and reflective of the values that define it as a nation, thereby securing a prosperous future for all its inhabitants.

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- 2 Productivity Commission (2023) *5-year Productivity Inquiry: A more productive labour market*, Vol. 7, Inquiry Report no. 100, Canberra, p.14
Castles, S. (2016). *Rethinking Australian migration*. *Australian Geographer*, 47:4, 391–398, DOI: 10.1080/00049182.2016.1220900
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 - 3 Australian Government (2023). *Migration Strategy: Getting Migration working for the nation*. page 10
 - 4 Scanlon Institute (2023). *2023 Mapping Social Cohesion Report*. <https://scanloninstitute.org.au/publications/mapping-social-cohesion-report/2023-mapping-social-cohesion-report>
 - 5 Australian Government (2023). *Migration Strategy: Getting Migration working for the nation*. Page 65
 - 6 Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). (2022). *2022 Australia’s future migration system*. Committee for Economic Development of Australia. <https://www.ceda.com.au/ResearchAndPolicies/Research/Population/Australia-s-future-migration-system>
 - 7 OECD (2022) *International Migration Outlook 2022*. en. https://www-oecd--ilibrary-org.eu1.proxy.openathens.net/social-issuesmigration-health/international-migration-outlook-2022_30fe16d2-en



Case Study

Irina

Procurement

Country of Origin: Russia

“

In the end, Australia won out – On the day Russia invaded Ukraine, Russian national Irina and her Ukrainian husband landed in Australia, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. With an extensive background in senior procurement roles in logistics and packaging across both the US and Russia, Irina viewed Australia as a fresh start, a place known for celebrating diversity and offering opportunities to migrants from all corners of the globe.

Australia appealed to Irina not just as a place of opportunity but one where her professional skills and personal values could align more closely than ever before. Although she arrived on a student visa, her ambitions stretched beyond the confines of the classroom. She was driven by the belief that in Australia, one's background or differences don't have to dictate your pathway to success; rather, they are often reasons for celebration.

Having thrown herself into her studies, Irina was delighted to find work in her field of expertise at one of Australia's largest privately owned corporations. Importantly, for the first time in her life, she found herself in a place where environmental sustainability is a core part of operations, enabling her to leverage her skills while working in alignment with her values.

Importantly, in a time when it has been challenging and sometimes unsettling to be a Russian living abroad, Irina has found, for the most part, that in Australia she is judged more on who she is rather than where she is from.

Irina's story is a testament to the welcoming nature of Australia, a country that not only provides a safe haven for migrants but also embraces their contributions and values their diversity.

For Irina, Australia has become more than just a new home; but a place where she can make a difference, combining her skills and values in a way that feels fulfilling and impactful.

”

Impact: The Australian Dream In Action

Snapshot of findings from the Pearson Migrant and Student Study

- **8 in 10** say that Australia has met or exceeded their expectations.
- **11%** of women noted that increased independence in Australia was a key factor in driving positive experience – twice the number of men (5%)
- Ambition is key – **87%** want to progress in their careers, and **89%** want to advance their skills or education.
- The Australian dream of home ownership is strong, too, with **71%** of work visa holders aspiring to home ownership.
- **50%** of workers also aspire to start their own business in Australia.
- **1 in 5** noted the good quality of Australia's education facilities as a foundation for their aspirations.
- **97%** say learning English is important.
 - **67%** say it helped them understand rules

Economic Impact

Australia's skilled migration program is a cornerstone of the nation's economic strategy, attracting individuals who significantly contribute to the workforce and society. The *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* highlights this success, with 91% of comparable respondents employed and 72% in highly skilled work, alongside a median income of \$93,000 annually.

Exceeding Expectations

For many migrants, Australia's allure extends beyond its picturesque landscapes, offering a blend of professional opportunities and a high quality of life far exceeding their initial expectations. **This sentiment is echoed by more than 8 in 10 migrants stating that Australia has met or exceeded their expectations** and brought to life by individuals such as Sydney-based graduate accountant Charlie. Arriving in Australia from China to pursue her master's degree, Charlie found a supportive work environment and a community ready to embrace her.

Opportunities for Women

Australia's commitment to gender equality and opportunity is vividly reflected in the experiences of migrant women, with the nation providing an environment where their ambitions can be realised. This commitment is underscored by the emphasis on work-life balance and support for career.

Ambition and Career Progression

The **ambition to advance careers and further education is a driving force for 87% of migrants** in Australia, a country that champions the professional and educational aspirations of its new residents. This ambition to contribute to Australia's dynamic workforce is a common driver.

84%

of migrants say that their experience in Australia has met or exceeded their expectations.

11%

of women identified that the greater independence they feel in Australia was a key factor in driving positive experience.

The Importance of English

The emphasis on learning English among migrants is not merely about achieving fluency but unlocking Australia's full spectrum of opportunities. Filipino teacher Eric highlights English proficiency as a critical tool that has enabled him to quickly establish a life and career. This proficiency made it possible for him to excel academically and navigate the nuances of Australian society effectively. With 97% of migrants recognising the importance of English, Eric's story is a testament to how language skills directly correlate with finding employment and achieving success in a new country.

Entrepreneurial Endeavour

Jhon's story stands out among the narratives illuminating the entrepreneurial spirit fostered by Australia's skilled migration program. Reflecting the aspirations of 50% of migrant workers who aim to start their own business, Jhon's transition from Colombia to becoming a chef and restaurant owner in Australia encapsulates the essence of migrant contributions to the economy.

Jhon arrived in 2016 with dreams beyond seeking employment; he aspired to carve out a niche in Australia's vibrant culinary scene. His early experiences in the hospitality industry, marked by the supportive and welcoming nature of his colleagues and the broader community, laid the foundation for his entrepreneurial journey. This encouragement and the opportunity to immerse himself in Australia's diverse food culture fuelled Jhon's ambition to open his own restaurant.

His venture not only signifies personal success but also contributes to Australia's economic diversity and innovation. Jhon's successful chef career, adds to the rich range of culinary options available, creating jobs and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among migrants.

87%

of migrants aspire to advance their career.

71%

of work visa holders aspire to buy a home in Australia.

66%

of migrants attribute their successes at work to their English language skills.



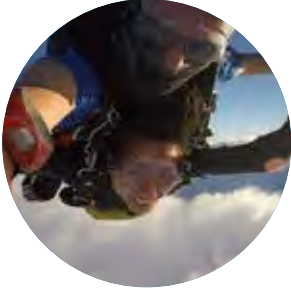
1 in 5 value Australia's education facilities.

Educational Aspirations

Pursuing educational excellence is a common theme among migrants to Australia, with 1 in 5 valuing the nation's educational facilities as a cornerstone for their aspirations. Data Analyst Tuan's relocation to Victoria from Vietnam with his family and his children's successful integration into the educational system exemplifies the high regard for Australian education. His experience underlines the commitment of migrants like him to advancing their own and their family's future through education and contributing to Australia's broader social and economic fabric. Tuan's journey reflects the aspirations of many migrants who see Australian education as a pathway to personal and professional growth, reinforcing the country's reputation for high-quality education and opportunities.

Home Ownership

Home ownership, an integral aspect of the Australian dream, is a strong ambition for 71% of work visa holders, illustrating their commitment to laying down roots and contributing to the country's social fabric. The aspiration for property ownership suggests a deeper connection with Australia, an investment in its future, and a belief in its promise of stability and prosperity.



Case Study

Charlie

Accountant

Country of Origin: China

Having grown up in China, Charlie finds swimming a distinctly Australian pastime, but one she eagerly embraced upon her arrival in Melbourne to pursue a masters in accounting.

Now residing in Sydney, she begins each day with a swim in a pool close to her home in the city's Inner West, covering a thousand metres before her workday starts as a graduate accountant at one of Australia's major financial services firms.

For Charlie, swimming is more than a leisure activity; it symbolises the determination, resilience, and ambition she has applied to her life in Australia. And, although she greatly appreciates Sydney's expansive skies and open spaces (along with its numerous outdoor pools), she hopes to one day return to Melbourne, her first Australian love.

As a graduate in the audit team, Charlie is carving out a career path, delving into the operations of Australian businesses. Adapting to a new country presents its set of challenges, notably the cultural differences between China and Australia. Nevertheless, Charlie has seized this chance for professional growth, adopting a methodical approach to her job akin to her swimming strategy—steadily progressing, learning from mistakes, and emulating her Australian peers to enhance client communication and deepen her understanding of her role.

In many ways, this daily swimming ritual is a metaphor for her Australian experience: a blend of determination, resilience, and openness fuelled by the ambition to forge a life here and seize all the opportunities it presents.

Charlie's journey epitomises the enduring narrative of migration, reflecting not just her personal goals but also the collective experiences of migrants that have contributed to Australia's rich history.

Like the many migrants who came before her, Charlie understands that determination, courage, and a willingness to embrace change are fundamental in building her new life, one stroke at a time.

Motivations: Choosing Australia – The Pursuit Of A Brighter Future

Snapshot of findings from the Pearson Migrant and Study Study

- **64%** of migrants seek a better future for themselves and their families.
- **46%** are seeking a higher standard of living.
- Study and education also score highly (**62%**), reflecting the appeal of our international education offering.
- **64%** of PTE student test-takers noted Australia's high-quality education is a key driver for choosing Australia.
- **60%** felt it was a safe and welcoming country for international students.

Australia, with its sprawling coastlines, vibrant cities, and reputation for inclusivity, has long been a magnet for skilled migrants and international students. The reasons behind this choice are multifaceted, encompassing the desire for a better future, a higher standard of living, and the pursuit of quality education. Drawing upon the personal stories from focus groups and the data gathered through the PMASS, this chapter explores the motivations that steer individuals to embark on a journey to Australia and what they aspire to achieve upon arrival.

A Vision for the Future

The desire for a brighter future is a powerful motivator for migrants but also international students like Mark from the Philippines. After six years working in healthcare in Dubai, his journey to Australia is driven by the search for a place that not only promises professional growth but also offers a stable environment for personal development. Australia's reputation for providing ample opportunities for career advancement and a high quality of life resonates with many migrants' aspirations. Through Australia's post-study pathways, nursing student Mark's decision reflects a common goal among skilled migrants: finding a country where hard work is rewarded with security and prosperity. This underscores the **64% of migrants seeking a better future for themselves and their families**, as highlighted through the *Pearson Australian Skilled and Student Migrant Study*.

Seeking a Higher Standard of Living

Chandrika's move from India to pursue a master in IT exemplifies the quest for a higher standard of living, a sentiment echoed by 46% of migrants. The decision to choose Australia was influenced by its educational opportunities and lifestyle. The presence of relatives and the allure of a society that values balance between work and personal life played a crucial role in her choice. This story underlines the multifaceted appeal of Australia, not only as a destination for academic pursuits but also as a place where migrants can enjoy a quality of life that may not be available to them in their home countries.

64%

of migrants come to Australia in search of a better future.

The Draw of Australian Education

Eric's decision to pursue studies in early childhood education in Australia highlights the draw of the country's educational system, which 62% of migrants and 64% of students specifically point to as a key factor in their choice to move. Australia's education sector is renowned for its high standards, diverse course offerings, and the support it extends to international students. For Eric and many like him, the opportunity to study in a challenging and supportive environment is a major attraction.

Safety and Welcome

Among our respondents, 84% of skilled migrants reported having built community connections here in Australia. Surprisingly, this is also true for international students, with 78% responding positively to the same measure despite the shorter terms of their visas. Perceptions of being welcoming are a key draw, particularly for international students.

Almost all of the participants within our focus groups were able to recall specific moments that supported this feeling. For Brisbane-based Indian accountant Naveen, it was an immediate sense of belonging when Australians referred to him as 'mate'. Bangladeshi aged care worker Anika, now living in Sydney, shared a pivotal moment of care and support from the Australian health sector following a serious accident. Meanwhile, Filipino nursing student Maxine's arrival in Melbourne was marked by a warm welcome, illustrated by the simple gesture of receiving motivational cards whilst setting up a bank account. These small everyday moments illustrate how Australian society is increasingly open and welcoming to migrants – and the impacts that these small gestures have on their perceptions and experiences.

64%

of students identified Australia's high-quality education system as a key draw

Aspiring for Prosperity and Security

Brisbane-based accountant Naveen is a good representative of the skilled migrants who arrive in Australia seeking professional opportunities and security. Based in Queensland and working in a financial services role in the resources sector, his journey from arriving on a work visa to achieving permanent residency illustrates the aspiration for prosperity that motivates many migrants. Naveen's story is a testament to the **64% of migrants seeking a better future in Australia**, drawn by the promise of a stable career path and the security of living in a country known for its strong economy and fair workplace practices.

Lifestyle and Community Integration

The Australian lifestyle, known for its emphasis on work-life balance, attracts individuals looking for a quality of life that allows for professional success and personal fulfilment. Saad's experience, moving from Dubai, where he worked as a data centre IT specialist, highlights the value migrants place on community and safety. Australia's friendly communities and safe environments contribute significantly to the decision to relocate, aligning with the aspirations of **46% of migrants seeking a higher standard of living**. Saad's story underlines the importance of lifestyle and community integration in making Australia home.

84%

of skilled migrants report having built community connections in Australia.

46%

of migrants are seeking a higher standard of living.



Case Study

Eric

Secondary School Teacher

Country of Origin: Philippines

Born and raised in the Philippines, Eric embarked on a journey defined by passion: a lifelong love for the English language, a commitment to education, a newfound enthusiasm for the Matildas—Australia’s women’s soccer team—and, most significantly, the discovery of self-love and acceptance in a same-sex relationship.

His fascination with English began at church back home, where he was first introduced to the language in youth group. This early exposure laid the foundation for what would become a lifelong passion.

Transitioning from a student to a teacher, Eric found great joy and purpose in sharing his love of the language with others, witnessing firsthand the impact of education on young minds.

Despite a detour into IT and project management, Eric’s heart remained with teaching. This realisation led him to retrain as a secondary English teacher, a decision that felt like a return to his true calling. The opportunity to move to Australia presented itself with the chance to further his training in early childhood education, and in 2022, he arrived on an international student visa.

In Australia, Eric’s work in early childhood centres opened his eyes to the diverse ways in which young children begin to grasp language, enriching his appreciation for English in a new context – and, importantly, he learnt the importance of being able to communicate this appreciation to their parents. His journey took another exciting turn in early 2024 when he received provisional approval to teach in secondary schools in New South Wales, allowing him to return to formal classroom teaching.

But his passion hasn’t just been contained to the love of learning. The recent FIFA Women’s World Cup, hosted by Australia, introduced Eric to another unexpected passion—the Matildas. His newfound interest in soccer mirrored his journey with English: a voyage from curiosity to fervent support, showcasing his adaptability and openness to new experiences.

Above all, Australia became the backdrop for Eric’s most profound journey: towards self-acceptance and the embrace of his identity in a fulfilling same-sex relationship. Despite the challenges, coming out to his family back home marked a significant step in his personal growth and acceptance.

And in case there was any doubt in Eric’s willingness to adapt to his new life in Australia, there’s a surprising twist: his accent. Living with his Australian partner and fully immersing himself in the local culture, Eric’s speech now carries a strong Australian twang. This subtle yet telling change is a powerful indicator of his integration into Australian society, showing he has embraced his new home, not just in his heart but in his voice as well.

Lived Experience: The Australian Welcome Through Migrant Eyes

Snapshot of findings from the Pearson Migrant and Student Study

- **9 out of 10** have felt welcome in Australia.
- **81%** have built community connections.
- **89%** have experienced acts of kindness.
- **89%** of work visa holders want to contribute to the community.
- **More than one in ten** are volunteering.

The narrative of Australia as a hospitable and inclusive nation is not simply a tale but a reality lived by countless migrants who have settled on its shores. With the *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* highlighting the positive experiences of newcomers, the stories gathered through our focus groups add weight and power to the survey data, illustrating the genuine warmth with which Australia greets its new residents.

Welcomed With Open Arms

The survey reveals that 9 out of 10 migrants feel welcomed in their new home. This sense of acceptance is echoed in the experiences of Sarah from Sweden, who navigated the transition with remarkable ease thanks to local support.

A finance manager living in Victoria, Sarah's experience underscores the ease with which migrants can settle into Australian life, particularly when establishing the essentials needed for a stable life in a new country. Her story is relevant because it highlights the efficient and supportive systems that can significantly ease the transition for newcomers.

Upon her arrival, Sarah found the process of setting up her new life—such as opening a bank account and obtaining a phone—surprisingly straightforward and swift. This positive experience reflects the well-structured support system in Australia that helps migrants navigate through the early and often overwhelming days of their move. Her ability to quickly establish these necessities allowed her to focus on integrating into her community and pursuing her career without the administrative hurdles that often accompany relocation to a new country.

Sarah's story showcases the practical and friendly assistance that migrants receive, which is instrumental in making them feel at home. It is a good example because it demonstrates the readiness and willingness of Australia to include newcomers in the everyday fabric of life, ensuring they have a solid foundation from which to build their new future.

Community Ties That Bind

Creating community connections is a crucial aspect of settling in a new country, and for 81% of migrants, Australia has facilitated this beautifully. Moyo from Nigeria spoke of the Australian people's compassion and inclusiveness, and how her connection to faith and community through volunteering at Church had helped her feel better integrated. This was further enhanced after Moyo gave birth to her first child here in Australia – seeing her build strong connections with locals and migrants alike through this experience.

90%

of migrants feel welcome in Australia.

81%

have built community connections.

Work and study too are strong locations for building a stronger sense of connection. Indian IT professional Yogesh, now living in Melbourne, experienced an increased sense of belonging once he started his job, where learning the local way of talking and engaging in common interests like sports helped him build connections with new friends.

The Kindness of Strangers

Kindness is an Australian virtue, as 89% of migrants can attest. Jasmeet, from India, now living in Brisbane, was profoundly impacted by the support extended to him during the COVID 19 pandemic, a sign of the nation's commitment to its migrant population.

Jasmeet's journey, originating from India and arriving in Australia just before the pandemic struck, is a powerful narrative of adaptability and service. Faced with the global health crisis, he pivoted from studying business to nursing—inspired by the unprecedented situation and his desire to contribute to the community that had welcomed him.

Australia's response to the pandemic, particularly the Government's financial support for international students, profoundly impacted Jasmeet. Such acts of systemic kindness and the community's inclusivity reinforced his decision to move into the healthcare sector, where he could directly be involved in aiding others.

The transformation from a stranger in a new land to a neighbour and friend is a journey shared by many. Stories from the focus groups, such as that of Laura from Brazil, who arrived in 2017 and has since seen tremendous personal and professional growth, underscore the welcoming spirit of Australia.

When Laura arrived in Australia from Brazil in 2017 to learn English, she immersed herself in the culture and language by taking jobs that required her to speak English and deliberately avoiding speaking her native Portuguese to improve her proficiency. Her determination to learn the language and adapt to the culture led her to significant personal and professional development.

She pushed herself out of her comfort zone, engaging with people on the streets and in her job as a bartender, and later moving in with an Australian family to further her cultural immersion. This led to a better job opportunity due to her improved language skills. Laura's journey highlights the positive impact of embracing the local language and culture, the kind of supportive environment that Australia offers to migrants, and the professional and personal growth that can result from such a supportive atmosphere. Her story is a testament to Australia's opportunities for advancement to migrants willing to integrate and contribute to their new home.

Giving Back to the Community

Migrants are not only recipients of goodwill but active contributors to the fabric of Australian society. The desire to give back is strong, with 89% of work visa holders eager to contribute. More than one in ten migrants have taken the step to volunteer, finding in service a path to deeper integration and understanding of Australian values.

Many of the migrants we met through our focus groups have used volunteering to help build connections and give back. Procurements specialist Irina from Russia volunteers as a St John's First Responder in Victoria; Swedish Finance Manager Sarah volunteers at Oxfam, having signed up during Victoria's COVID lockdowns as a way to help support better integration, and Columbian-born chef and restaurateur Jhon volunteered during the Queensland floods supporting the Red Cross in collecting food and clothing donations for the community.

89%

of skilled visa holders want to contribute to community.

89%

of respondents reported experiencing acts of kindness.





Case Study

Bruno

Post Graduate Student / Academic

Country of Origin: Nigeria

“

For Nigerian academic Bruno, Australia is the kind of country he has always yearned to live in – a place where opportunities can be unlocked and dreams realised.

For most Australians, having to jump on a bus when the train breaks down is annoying – but for Bruno, it is the marker of a highly functional society where communities are valued and systems work.

A specialist in collaborative education, Bruno came to Australia to learn and explore how our education systems work. Originally coming to Australia to attend a conference, he has since been learning and engaging with academics across Australia, including those at the University of Sydney.

Coming from a nation with one of the world’s youngest populations, for Bruno, Australia sets a benchmark for general education within the English-speaking world, providing strong foundations for young Australians to realise their dreams and aspirations.

Following his time in Sydney, he will further his knowledge through post-graduate study with the University of Adelaide, focussing on public policy. Within this course, he is especially interested in the degree to which Australian policymakers leverage participatory democracy and community engagement as a foundation for decision-making.

Back home, his wife works as a medical doctor, and he would love the opportunity to bring his family to Australia to enable them to experience this country for themselves. In the long run, he knows his heart and life belong in Africa. But he doesn’t intend to return empty-handed. He wants to spend his time in Australia growing his knowledge and skills so that when he does go back – he can take a little bit of Australia home with him and apply these learnings to help make Nigeria a better place.

”

Advocacy: Voicing The Dream – Migrants Championing The Australian Narrative

Snapshot of findings from the Pearson Migrant and Student Study

- **9 out of 10** recommend Australia to others.
- **84%** have had positive experiences they want to tell their families about.
- **81%** have had opportunities they or their family would not have had if they weren't in Australia.
- **7 in 10** want to stay in Australia.

The global competition for skilled migrants and international students is increasingly fierce, with nations vying to attract the best and brightest to enhance their economic and cultural vitality.

A strong group of supporters

The *Pearson Migrant and Student Study* paints an optimistic picture: 9 out of 10 migrants would recommend Australia to others, with 84% having positive experiences they are eager to share with families back home. An impressive 81% have accessed opportunities that would have eluded them had they not been in Australia. These statistics alone speak volumes, but it is the personal narratives that truly bring the Australian Dream to life.

Anika, who first arrived in Australia from Bangladesh to study and now works in aged care, found solace and support in an unexpected encounter on a train. A moment of distress was transformed into a touching demonstration of empathy when a stranger offered not just help but a human connection. This act of kindness left Anika with a lasting impression of Australia as a society where compassion and support are readily extended to those in need, reflecting the strong community ethos that 84% of migrants wish to tell their families about.

Parents like Pakistani IT professional Maaz, now living in Victoria, identified the supportive public school system, where concepts like the 'special bench' and 'buddy system' ensure no child feels alone or unsupported. This nurturing environment indicates a society that values inclusivity and community support. Like one in ten respondents, Australia's education system was a key driver in his migration decision.

In Brisbane, Indian-born Rohan's transition from a student to a mechanical engineer was marked by the locals' simple yet significant morning greetings. These daily interactions, symbolic of the Australian lifestyle, reinforced his sense of integration and acceptance. Rohan's experience highlights how such small gestures of kindness contribute to the overall positive migrant experience in Australia.

Chinese national Roslyn, who lives in Sydney, liked Australia so much that she migrated twice – once for study and a second time for work. In Australia, she could combine her academic pursuits with a search for balance and belonging. The difference in work-life culture, plus the welcoming smiles she encountered, made her realise the value Australia has to offer.



#PTEAustralianDreams



Case Study

Gladys

Student and Aged Care Worker

Country of Origin: Philippines

While many others at her Australian University's Orientation Day were clustering in small groups, nursing student and part-time aged care support worker Gladys was on the move, forging connections with domestic and international students alike, making the most of every new opportunity in her life in Australia.

For Gladys, boarding a plane from the Philippines to embark on a new adventure in Australia was just the start. She's already completed one qualification and in just seven months, she'll finish her studies at Deakin University, ready to practice as a nurse in Australia.

Growing up in the Philippines, the allure of the American Dream, not the Australian one, captivated most of her family and friends. The nation's nearly fifty-year history as a US colony has left a lasting impression. The lure of better opportunities in the U.S. is strong, driving many to pursue the American Dream for their families.

Yet, a chance sighting of recruitment ad for Australia changed Gladys's path and set her eyes on a dream that was a little closer to home. After just a short time in Australia, Gladys has become a fervent advocate for the Australian experience, eager to share it with anyone who'll listen.

At the heart of this advocacy is the richness of Australian society, and, as a healthcare worker, the high quality of the nation's health system.

One of the things that has struck Gladys in coming to Australia is the strength of its multiculturalism. For a person coming from overseas, this diversity offers both opportunity and the ability to blend in. In multicultural Melbourne, being different doesn't feel so different at all.

After a first job in hospitality, where she had to adjust her ears to the local accent and the Australian love for chit-chat, Gladys quickly completed training to enable her to work in aged care. In this work, she has been impressed by Australia's commitment to client-centred care, something she feels she has strengths in, having worked as a nurse back home in the Philippines for more than three years.

Between work and study, life has been busy, but Gladys has built her networks and found friends. In her downtime, she's even taken up a particularly Melbourne hobby – perusing the op-shops of the city's inner north.

And once her studies are finished? Gladys dreams of taking her skills on the road, working as a travelling nurse, exploring all that Australia has to offer. Because when it comes to living life to the full, she likes to grab opportunity with both hands.



Focussed Voices

Throughout this report, we have featured the voices of individual migrants we met through focus group sessions held in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in December 2023.

Here is a snapshot of their history and experiences in Australia:

Chandrika

Student Country of Origin: India Place of Residence: Sunnybank, QLD

Chandrika embarked on her Australian journey from India to pursue a master's in IT. Drawn to Australia by the educational system and the presence of her relatives, she arrived with high hopes of enhancing her academic credentials and living standards. Chandrika's positive experiences in Australia reflect her successful integration into the local culture and her appreciation for the country's balance between work and life, which aligns with her aspirations for a fulfilling personal and professional life.

Charlie

Accountant Country of Origin: China Place of Residence: Ashfield, NSW

Charlie made her way from China to Australia to complete her master's degree. Her journey in Australia has been significantly shaped by the supportive environment of her new workplace, where she was welcomed warmly by her team members. This positive experience made her feel at home and reinforced her decision to pursue her studies and career in Australia.

Eric

Secondary School Teacher Country of Origin: Philippines Place of Residence: Warwick Farm, NSW

Eric, from the Philippines, came to Australia to pursue his master's in secondary education. Motivated to contribute to the educational field, he views Australia as a melting pot of opportunities that could foster his career and personal development. His journey is marked by an astute appreciation for Australia's diverse culture and quality education system, hoping to leverage these experiences to make a meaningful impact in his field.

Gladys

Student Country of Origin: Philippines Place of Residence: Coburg North, VIC

Gladys's reflection on her migration experience is a narrative of conviction and discovery. Her advocacy for the Australian dream over the American one is rooted in her appreciation for the quality of life, safety, and opportunities Australia has provided her, transforming her initial hesitation into a passionate endorsement of her new home.

Mark

Student Country of Origin: Philippines Place of Residence: Clayfield, QLD

Originally from the Philippines, Mark moved to Australia after working for six years in Dubai. Seeking a future filled with promise and stability, he chose Australia for its favourable weather and the opportunity to secure permanent residency. Mark's aspirations for a prosperous life in Australia are grounded in his desire to achieve professional growth and personal happiness in a country known for its high living standards and welcoming community.

Jasmeet

Student Country of Origin: India Place of Residence: Park Ridge, QLD

Jasmeet from India arrived in Australia in 2020, just before the pandemic hit. Originally pursuing a degree in business, he was inspired by the global health crisis to switch his focus to nursing, aiming to contribute positively to the community. His experience in Australia has been profoundly shaped by the support offered to international students during the pandemic, including government assistance and scholarships. Jasmeet's story is a testament to his adaptability, resilience, and drive to give back to the society that welcomed him in challenging times.

Moyo

Student Country of Origin: Nigeria Place of Residence: Labrador, QLD

Moyo's journey from Nigeria to Australia was driven by her pursuit of higher education and a brighter future for her family. Arriving as a student in 2019, she has since embraced Australia's safety, inclusivity, and supportive environment, especially valuing the healthcare system and educational opportunities for her 18-month-old child born in Australia. Moyo's story is about hope, success, and the aspiration to build a secure life in her new home.

Jhon

Chef Country of Origin: Colombia Place of Residence: Clayfield, QLD

Jhon's move from Colombia to Australia in 2016 marked the beginning of his pursuit of a career as a chef. His experiences since arrival, including the immediate support and close relationships formed with co-workers and the opportunity to live with an Australian family, have deeply impacted his integration and language acquisition. Jhon's aspirations to grow within the culinary industry have been realised through his ability to establish his own restaurant, a dream made possible by the welcoming and supportive Australian community that embraced him from the start.

Laura

Pharmacist Country of Origin: Brazil Place of Residence: Glebe, NSW

Originally from Brazil, Laura moved to Australia in 2017 to learn English and further her pharmacy education. Her journey has been one of significant personal and professional growth, driven by her determination to immerse herself in the English language and Australian culture. Laura's experiences reflect her initial purpose and the opportunities Australia has provided to enhance her language skills, achieve personal independence, and advance her career in a supportive and multicultural environment.

Irina

Procurement Specialist Country of Origin: Russia Place of Residence: Moonee Ponds, VIC

Russian-born and educated Irina's relocation from the bustling cities of the US to the welcoming shores of Australia was driven by a search for acceptance and community. What she discovered exceeded her expectations—a society where diversity isn't just tolerated but celebrated.

Mayur

IT Professional Country of Origin: India Place of Residence: Forest Lodge, NSW

Mayur, from India, arrived in Australia on a visa sponsorship, diving into the multicultural vibrancy of his new home. His story is a testament to the ambitions that drive many to Australia, seeking career progression and the opportunity to live in a society that values diversity and offers ample professional opportunities.

Nadia

Marketing Manager Country of Origin: Iran Place of Residence: North Sydney NSW

Originally from Iran, Nadia sought a new life in Australia, driven by the desire for freedom and opportunities not available in her home country. Transitioning to life in Australia, she embraced the chance to work as a marketing manager for a childcare organisation.

Naveen

Accountant Country of Origin: India Place of Residence: Brisbane City, QLD

Naveen, an Indian national, came to Australia four years ago on a work visa, transitioning to permanent residency last year. His move was fuelled by the search for professional opportunities and a secure environment to call home. Reflecting on his experiences, Naveen appreciates the sense of belonging and the fair chance at success Australia has provided, highlighting the country's capacity to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of its migrant community.

Saad

IT Professional Country of Origin: Pakistan Place of Residence: North Epping, NSW

Born in Pakistan and raised in Dubai, Saad made his way to Australia, bringing aspirations of a balanced life enriched with friendly interactions and leisure alongside his career as a data centre IT specialist.

Sarah

Finance Manager Country of Origin: Sweden Place of Residence: Thornbury VIC

Sarah chose Australia for its career opportunities and stayed for the warmth and inclusivity of its people. Her move was facilitated by the ease with which she could set up her new life. Sarah's positive experiences in Australia have been marked by the support and flexibility of her employer, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her aspirations for growth and success in Australia are buoyed by the strong sense of community and the safety net provided by the Government and her workplace.

Tuan

IT Professional Country of Origin: Vietnam Place of Residence: St Albans, VIC

Coming to Australia with his family from Vietnam, Tuan sought to provide them with the superior educational opportunities Australia is known for. His aspirations for his family's future and personal growth have been met with positive experiences, highlighting the supportive community and quality of life that have made his transition successful.



Conclusion

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural nations in the world. Against this landscape, migrants emerge as central figures, spinning their dreams, skills, and cultures into the very fabric of Australia's national identity. Their contributions are not just economic but make a lasting impact on society's vitality and diversity.

This narrative is powerfully intertwined with Pearson's mission, particularly through the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE). It serves as a gateway for migrants and international students, facilitating their integration and participation in Australian life.

Pearson is proud to be a pivotal partner in Australia's migration experience. We know that through the PTE platform's unbiased, accessible and rigorous approach to evaluating the English language capabilities of test-takers, we are creating a strong foundation for both successful visa recipients and the Australian migration program to achieve their goals.

As a business centred around helping people progress their lives through learning, we are committed to unlocking aspirations. And, while we play only a small part in the lives of the people we touch, we know that embracing this mission means supporting every individual's dream by providing a high-quality test that provides accurate results regardless of race, class, education or gender.

With each generation, the Australian dream evolves, supported by the hopes and aspirations of people seeking welcome, connection and opportunity, many of whom are migrants or children of migrants. The modern Australian dream is not static but an ever-expanding kaleidoscope of global talent, shared human values, and mutual aspiration.

As a nation, Australia stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity and a testament to the power of diversity. As a business, Pearson stands ready to work with decision makers to deliver the best solutions to ensure the ongoing success of Australia's migrations and study programs.

Through our study we found that only around a quarter of student visa holders made use of English language support services. More than a third noted that they were unsure of the availability or lacked English support services at their institutions. This suggests a strong strategic opportunity to increase awareness of, access to and the utilisation of these important services for helping international students maximise the positive impacts of their studies in Australia. As passionate advocates of the English language, Pearson stands ready to support the Australian Government in addressing this challenge.

We look forward to continuing to play our part in helping Australia build a future where every individual, regardless of their origin, can enjoy and contribute to the richness of Australian society and live their own unique interpretation of the Australian dream.





About Pearson

Learning is the most powerful force for change in the world. Pearson is the world's leading learning company, active in nearly 200 countries, helping everyone achieve their potential through learning. We do that by providing high-quality, digital content and learning experiences, as well as predictive technologies and assessments to help HR and business leaders understand what's coming, make data-backed decisions and upskill and reskill their people for the future.

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About PTE

PTE is a secure, computer based high stakes English language test accepted by universities and colleges around the world as well as for visa and migration applications for the UK, Canada and New Zealand. In Australia, PTE has been recognised by the Department of Home Affairs for all visa classes since 2014. Hundreds of thousands of tests are conducted in Australia each year across 32 test centres.

PTE assesses reading, writing, speaking and listening with fair and impartial results. The test can be taken to meet the English requirements of 99% of UK universities, 100% of Australian and New Zealand universities, 90% in Canada and more than 2,000 institutions in the US including Harvard.

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