



# Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491)

## About this visa

This is a provisional visa. It allows skilled workers to live, work and study in designated regional areas of Australia for five years.

*This visa is open to new applications on 16 November 2019.*

Holders of this visa must live, work or study only in a designated regional area. Designated regional areas will include all of Australia except for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Applicants for this visa must be nominated by an Australian state or territory government agency or sponsored by an eligible family member residing in a designated regional area and be invited to apply for the visa, following submission of an EOI.

Holders of this visa will be eligible to apply for a Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191) from November 2022 if they have:

- earned a minimum taxable income for three years as the holder of a regional provisional visa, and
- complied with the conditions of the regional provisional visa, particularly the requirement to live, work and study only in a designated regional area of Australia for at least three years.

Dependent children are required to study in a designated regional area in order to meet visa conditions.

Visa holders will be required to report any change of circumstances to the Department of Home Affairs within 14 days. Visa holders may be required to attend an interview or provide supporting evidence to demonstrate that they are living and working in regional Australia.

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

- have an occupation on the relevant skilled occupation list
- have a suitable skills assessment for the occupation
- meet the points test pass mark of 65 points
- be under 45 years of age at the time of invitation
- have Competent English language skills
- submit an Expression of Interest via SkillSelect
- be nominated by a state or territory government agency or be sponsored by an eligible relative
- be invited by the Department to apply, and
- meet health, character and national security requirements.

## Cost

The cost for this visa is AUD4,045 for the main applicant. There is a charge for each family member who applies for the visa.

There may be an extra charge of AUD4,890 for any applicant 18 years or older who does not meet 'functional' English. This charge is only payable if the visa is going to be granted.

## How to apply

An Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in SkillSelect. An EOI is an indication that the applicant would like to be considered for a skilled or business visa.

An EOI is not a visa application and there is no fee. It is valid for two years.

If a person's occupation appears on the relevant list of eligible skilled occupations, then a skills assessment and suitable English language test are required prior to submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) in SkillSelect.

After the EOI has been submitted, the applicant must wait for an invitation to apply for a Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491) and then apply within 60 days. The invitation letter will provide instructions on how to lodge the application.

It is recommended that a person contacts the State or Territory Government from whom they are seeking nomination to discuss their nomination process and requirements, as each jurisdiction has its own requirements.

An applicant may be in or outside Australia at the time of application, but not in immigration clearance. If in Australia an applicant must hold a substantive visa or a Bridging A, B or C visa.

### **More information**

More information is available on our website [immi.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au). Search for 'regional migration'.