



Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494)

About this visa

This is a provisional visa. It allows skilled workers to work 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 include all of Australia except for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Applicants for this visa must be nominated by an Australian business in regional Australia.

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:

- be sponsored by an Australian business in a regional area to fill an identified vacancy
- have an occupation on the relevant skilled occupation list
- demonstrate skilled work experience
- have evidence of employment in the nominated occupation for at least three years on a full time basis
- be under 45 years of age
- have competent English language skills, and
- satisfy public interest criteria including health, character and national security.

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.

The sponsoring employer may also be required to pay a sponsorship application fee and a Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy. See www.education.gov.au/skilling-australians-fund.

How to apply

There are three stages in the application process.

Sponsorship stage

The Australian business must be approved as a standard business sponsor or have entered into a Labour Agreement that authorises nominations for a Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa.

Note: Australian businesses who are already approved standard business sponsors in the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) program do not need to apply for a separate sponsorship to nominate workers for this visa.

Nomination Stage

The approved sponsor nominates the position. The approved sponsor will need to meet the following requirements:

- the position must be located in a designated regional area
- the occupation must be on the relevant skilled occupation list or specified in a labour agreement
- labour market testing must have been conducted to ensure there are no Australian workers available to fill the position
- the position must be genuine, full-time and likely to exist for at least 5 years
- the salary for the position must be at least the annual market salary rate for that occupation in that location (and this must be certified by the relevant Regional Certifying Body)
- the employment conditions must be no less favourable than those for an Australian worker in an equivalent position
- the nominee must be engaged as an employee under a written contract of employment
- the sponsor must not have engaged in discriminatory recruitment practices.

Nominations must be lodged electronically through ImmiAccount – using form 494N.

Visa Application Stage

Applicants must apply for the visa electronically through ImmiAccount using form 494V(Internet).

More information

More information is available on our website immi.homeaffairs.gov.au. Search for 'regional migration'.