



# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION, MIGRATION SERVICES TO AUSTRALIA INFORMATION BRIEF, OCTOBER 2019

## Announcements/Updates

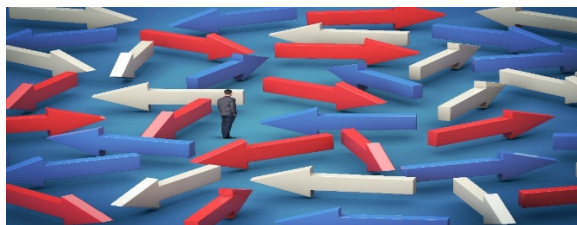
### Regional Settlement Priority

The Australian Government is implementing new visa classes incentivizing regional settlement. The policy may provide new opportunities for permanent migration for individuals or families and support economic growth in regional locations. Effective 16 November 2019 the following new visas come into effect:

#### **Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) Visa**

The visa requires applicants to live and work in a regional area and will be valid for up to 5 years. This provisional points-based visa promises access to significantly greater occupations than non-regional visa(s). Details are yet to be released; however, initial indications suggest up to 70 additional occupations may be available.

This visa offers a potential pathway to permanent residency after 3 years through Subclass 191 Permanent Resident (Skilled Regional) Visa. This represents an increase from the two years pathway opportunity under its predecessor subclass 489. Lodgements close on 15 November 2019 for the subclass 489 to effect the transition.



#### **Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Visa**

This visa is similar to the 491 in its regional focus and with the same pathway opportunity for permanent residency. Distinguishing this visa from the subclass 491 is that eligibility is dependent upon employer sponsorship. It also

promises access to significantly greater occupations than non-regional equivalent visa(s). Initial indications provide for up to 450 additional occupations.

## Helpful Hints



Education Agents often work in partnership with academic institutions and students to facilitate student visas for study in Australia. Education agents are not necessarily Registered Migration Agents.

A Registered Migration Agent has a comprehensive knowledge of Australian migration pathways and the potential impact of applications on subsequent opportunities. If you have an intention to remain in Australia beyond study, plan as early as possible. Consider seeking advice from a Registered Migration Agent to develop a migration plan appropriate to your circumstances.

## Occupational Ceiling Data

During the recent September invitation round for Subclass 189 and Subclass 489 visas, 100 Subclass 189 visas and 100 Subclass 489 visas were issued. Minimum points score for Subclass 189 was 85 points. Accountants' minimum points score was 95 points<sup>1</sup>.

***IOM can provide advice on your migration pathway options by calling 1300 921 811***

<sup>1</sup> <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds>

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