



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

MIGRATION SERVICES TO AUSTRALIA INFORMATION BRIEF

MAY 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

On the 4th April 2019 legislation for the new Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa Subclass 494, came into force. The new visa is designed to replace Subclass 187 (RSMS) and criteria includes; meeting market rate requirements, age limit of 45 years and English competency. The new visa opens for applications on 16th November 2019.

The Subclass 494 has two streams; employer sponsored and labour agreements. The position must be filled in a designated regional area in Australia.; i.e. all areas outside Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Perth. Employers must make available the position for five years.

The Subclass 494 allows for transitional arrangements from Subclass 457/482 and requires three years of work experience, after which applicants may be eligible for permanent residency.

Skilled Points Changes

The Government has announced that from 16th November 2019, changes to the points system for skilled visas will be implemented, with a priority listing to include priority for single applicants and those couples who have a partner with a positively skills assessed occupation.

Parent Visas

The Subclass 870 Temporary Parent Visa sponsorship applications were opened on 17th April 2019. Applications for visas to open on 1 July 2019. 15,000 visas will be granted annually, each with either a three or a five-year visa validity.

The cost of the visa is \$5,000 for three-year visa and \$10,000 for five-year visa, with an initial charge of \$1,000, and remainder to be paid prior to determination of the visa. Only two parent visas can

be granted to the same child at any one time and the visa is not a pathway to permanent residency.

The minimum taxable income threshold of the child is \$83,454,80, and sponsor must have no debts to the Australian Government. For more information contact iomausmigrationservices@iom.org

HELPFUL HINTS

If you're a Subclass 457 or 482 sponsor looking to change business structures or sell, you should consider the potential impact to your current employees and reporting obligations to the Department of Home Affairs. Likewise, if you are a sponsored employee you should be aware of your visa and permanent residency options in this scenario. IOM can provide advice to both employers and employees on 1300 921 811.

OCCUPATIONAL CEILING DATA

On 11th April 2019, 100 Subclass 189 invitations and 10 Skilled Regional Subclass 489 invitations were issued.¹ These figures do not include state nomination under Subclass 190 or 489. All occupations are currently still open for invitations, with no occupations having reached the programme year ceiling. The new programme year begins 1 July 2019, and those occupations that reached the ceiling prior to this, open again for those Expressions of Interest in the pipeline.

Currently, minimum points for skilled occupations is 80 points for both Subclass 189/489. April's invitation points mark for accountants was 90 points and for Business Analyst it was 85 points. This points level is increasingly competitive as the programme year concludes at the end of June 2019.

¹ These invitations happen once a month.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skillselect/invitation-rounds-16/5/2019>

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