

Important updates

April 8th, 2019

Changes to the points test from 16th November 2019

Changes to the points test from November 2019 –

The amendments introduce a revised points system for the subclass 491 visa as well as existing General Skilled Migration (489,189,190) visas. Points are awarded for attributes that are linked with the applicant's ability to make the greatest economic contribution, as the key purpose of the skilled migration program is to maximise the economic benefits of migration to Australia.

The changes to the points test are to introduce:

- more points for having a skilled spouse or de facto partner (10 points);
- more points for applicants nominated by a State or Territory government or sponsored by a family member residing in regional Australia (15 points);
- more points for having certain STEM qualifications (10 points);
- points for applicants who do not have a spouse or de facto partner (10 points); and
- points for applicants with a spouse or de facto partner who has competent English (5 points).

To later obtain Permanent Residence (visa 191) you will need to :

- hold a regional provisional visa when they apply for the Subclass 191 visa, and have held that visa for at least three years;
- have earned a minimum income for at least three years as the holder of a regional provisional visa; and
- have complied with the conditions of the regional provisional visa.

There will be a NEW ordering system for ALL points test applicants as follows ...

If all other points claims are equal, invitations for points tested visas will be ranked by the Migration Points Test as described below:

- First – primary applicants with a skilled spouse or de facto partner
- Equal First – primary applicants without a spouse or de facto partner

- Second – Primary applicants with a spouse or de facto partner who can demonstrate competent English but does not have the skills for skilled partner points (age and skills)
- Third – Primary applicants with a partner who is ineligible for either competent English or Skilled partner points. These applicants will be ranked below all other cohorts, if all other points claims are equal.

Other Notes

If you are granted this New Regional visa you cannot be granted any other permanent visa of any skilled category for 3 years.

You are free to move to other states but you must reside in Regional Australia until qualifying for Permanent Residence

Full details are here –

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L00578/Explanatory%20Statement/Text>

Partner visas requiring sponsorship approval prior to visa lodgement – not commencing now

Partner visa changes requiring sponsorship approval before a visa lodged is NOT going ahead now on the 17th April 2019 ...

The MIA has been provided with the following information by the Department:

The Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016, passed by Parliament on 28 November 2018, will provide a framework to separate sponsorship assessments from visa application assessments for Family visas.

The separate sponsorship framework will first be implemented in the new Sponsored Parent (Temporary) visa which will be open for sponsorship applications from 17 April 2019.

Further regulation and system changes are required for the new framework to apply to other visas. At this stage, there is no timeframe for expansion of the new sponsorship framework to other family visas and therefore the current arrangements for existing visas, including partner visas, will continue to operate

[491 – Skilled Worker Regional Provisional visa](#)

- Points tested , (commences 16th November 2019)
- 16,000 places allocated each year , 500 different occupations
- Replaces 489 family and state sponsored visas
- Must be sponsored by an eligible relative or state authority
- Points test here www.iscah.com/november-2019-points-test-new/
- Visa will be granted for initially 5 years
- Must live and work for 3 years in regional areas to get Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) 191 Visa
- Will need to earn for those 3 years a minimum income each year (not announced yet) (possibly 50-60k)
- Can move between regions and change occupations
- Cannot apply for any other skilled PR or 820 partner visa for 3 years
- Regional Australia is everywhere except Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Gold Coast

Regional 491 and 494 visa details published

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/regional-migration/news/overview>

Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs) are tailored agreements between the Commonwealth and regional or state or territory authorities that facilitate access to a broader range of overseas workers than is available through the standard skilled migration programs. This provides the flexibility to enable designated regions to respond to their unique workforce shortages in designated regions by accessing experienced overseas workers for vacant skilled or semi-skilled occupations where suitably skilled Australian workers are not available from the local labour market.

On 21 March 2019, the Government has agreed to establish DAMAs in the following regional locations:

- Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia (Goldfields)
- Regional South Australia
- Adelaide City
- Great South Coast, Victoria (which was announced late last year on 10 December 2018).

The Northern Territory DAMA has been operating successfully since 2015, and on 2 January 2019, a further five year agreement between the Northern Territory government and the Commonwealth commenced.

June 3rd, 2019

Orana (NSW) reopens open for 489 State Sponsorship

https://www.iscah.com/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Orana-Reopen-Subclass-489-Visa.pdf