Important Updates

DHA have announced that the salary required on a 491 visa for 3 years financial years is at least $53,900 per year. This is required to then apply for the permanent 191 visa after 3 years.

This seems a very high figure given that the previous 489 regional visa had no minimum salary amount, and skilled work in regional areas is much more difficult to attain. We are interested in your opinion on this salary figure and intend to write a report to DHA about it.

Changes to the Graduate Stream of the State Nomination Migration Program

17 October 2019

The State Nomination Migration Program (SNMP) Graduate stream will soon be more accessible for international students who study in Western Australia.

On 16 October 2019 Premier Mark McGowan announced that the Graduate Stream of the SNMP will be extended to include vocational education and training (VET) graduates who complete a qualification in Western Australia at Certificate III level or above, excluding trade occupations (unless approved for delivery to international students).

The first invitation round to include VET graduates will be issued in December 2019.

Other changes to the SNMP Graduate stream are:

- Studies in Higher Education, VET and/or English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) will all count towards the requirement to study for two years in Western Australia.
- Work experience and job offer requirements will also be reduced. Graduates will need to either demonstrate six months of work experience or a six month employment contract, but not both. Currently, international students need to have 12 months of work experience plus a job offer for 12 months.

A new Graduate Occupation List and updated eligibility criteria for the Graduate stream will be published on the Migration portal prior to the December invitation round.

October 26th, 2019

Perth and Gold Coast !! become regional areas from 16/11/2019

PERTH GOLD COAST !!!

Awesome news, Perth and Gold Coast have just been designated as regional areas

Perth/Gold Coast regional

We expect this will mean

– 5 extra points for study in Perth/GC (not sure if that is past students as well)
– Perth/GC can be used for the new 491 state sponsored and 494 visas
– Perth/GC can be used for relative sponsored 491 visas
– And a third year for some 485 graduates (again we do not not know if this is for the future or can include existing 485s as well)

Immigration today released the list of Australian postcodes that make up the regional areas for migration purposes. As previously reported in our blog, postcodes for Perth and the Gold Coast are included.

Please note the below postcodes only apply to new visa applications, so current Subclass 489 Regional visa holders cannot move to the newly announced regional locations.

Regional Postcodes

State or Territory	Category	Postcodes
New South Wales	Cities and major regional centres	2259, 2264 to 2308, 2500 to 2526, 2528 to 2535 and 2574
New South Wales	Regional centres and other regional areas	2250 to 2258, 2260 to 2263, 2311 to 2490, 2527, 2536 to 2551, 2575 to 2739, 2753 to 2754, 2756 to 2758 and 2773 to 2898
Victoria	Cities and major regional centres	3211 to 3232, 3235, 3240, 3328, 3330 to 3333, 3340 and 3342

Victoria	Regional centres and other regional areas	3097 to 3099, 3139, 3233 to 3234, 3236 to 3239, 3241 to 3325, 3329, 3334, 3341, 3345 to 3424, 3430 to 3799, 3809 to 3909, 3912 to 3971 and 3978 to 3996
Queensland	Cities and major regional centres	4207 to 4275, 4517 to 4519, 4550 to 4551, 4553 to 4562, 4564 to 4569 and 4571 to 4575
Queensland	Regional centres and other regional areas	4124 to 4125, 4133, 4183 to 4184, 4280 to 4287, 4306 to 4498, 4507, 4552, 4563, 4570 and 4580 to 4895
Western Australia	Cities and major regional centres	6000 to 6038, 6050 to 6083, 6090 to 6182, 6208 to 6211, 6214 and 6556 to 6558
Western Australia	Regional centres and other regional areas	All postcodes in Western Australia not mentioned above
South Australia	Cities and major regional centres	5000 to 5171, 5173 to 5174, 5231 to 5235, 5240 to 5252, 5351 and 5950 to 5960
South Australia	Regional centres and other regional areas	All postcodes in South Australia not mentioned above
Tasmania	Cities and major regional centres	7000, 7004 to 7026, 7030 to 7109, 7140 to 7151 and 7170 to 7177
Tasmania	Regional centres and other regional areas	All postcodes in Tasmania not mentioned above
Australian Capital Territory	Cities and major regional centres	All postcodes in the ACT
Australian Capital Territory	Regional centres and other regional areas	None
Northern Territory	Cities and major regional centres	None
Northern Territory	Regional centres and other regional areas	All postcodes in the NT
Norfolk Island	Cities and major regional centres	None
Norfolk Island	Regional centres and other regional areas	All postcodes in Norfolk Island

Other Territories	Cities and major regional centres	None
Other Territories	Regional centres and other regional areas	All postcodes in a Territory other than the ACT, NT, or Norfolk Island

485 Graduate Visa Changes

Our understanding is that from 16 November, International Students who complete their studies in the 'Cities and major regional centres' listed above will be able to obtain an **additional one year** on their Graduate visa.

Students who complete their studies in the 'Regional centres and other regional areas' could obtain an **additional two years** on their Graduate visa.

Which visas does this apply to?

The new definition of 'regional Australia' also applies to the following visa types, for applications **made on or after 16 November 2019**:

- Subclass 189 Skilled Independent visa (points for regional study)
- Subclass 190 Skilled Nominated visa (points for regional study)
- Subclass 482 Temporary Skills Shortage visa
- Subclass 491 Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa
- Subclass 494 Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa
- Subclass 888 Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa
- Subclass 892 State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner visa

With the opening of the new Subclass 491 Regional Work visa only a day away, the Australian States and Territories are getting ready for the influx of EOI applications expected after 16 November.

The following information has been made available so far.

Victoria

The Victorian Government will accept applications for state nomination for the 491 visa from 9am on Monday 18 November 2019. There is no fee to apply for nomination, and they can use any occupation on the Immigration skilled occupation lists.

However, all applicants for the 491 visa are required to provide evidence of a current job offer in their nominated occupation, located in regional Victoria. Evidence of the

employment offer, business operations, recruitment efforts, and genuine need must be provided with the application for state nomination.

Queensland

The state nomination program for General Skilled Migration remains closed, with advice that this will reopen 'in the coming weeks'. A number of occupations have been removed from the QSOL, including:

Onshore and Offshore - IT

- ICT Business Analyst ANZSCO 261111
- Systems Analyst ANZSCO 261112
- Developer Programmer ANZSCO 261312
- Software Engineer ANZSCO 261313
- Software and Applications Programmers nec ANZSCO 261399
- ICT Security Specialist ANZSCO 262112
- Computer Network and Systems Engineer ANZSCO 263111
- Analyst Programmer ANZSCO 261311

Onshore - Accounting

- Accountant (General) ANZSCO 221111
- Management Accountant ANZSCO 221112
- Taxation Accountant ANZSCO 221113
- External Auditor ANZSCO 221213
- Internal Auditor ANZSCO 221214

Offshore - Engineering

- Civil Engineer ANZSCO 233211
- Mechanical Engineer ANZSCO 233512
- Electrical Engineer ANZSCO 233311
- Engineering Technologist ANZSCO 233914

Tasmania

The requirements for state nomination for the 491 visa are not yet available, but should appear shortly after 16 November.
From this date, applicants for both the 491 and 190 visa will be required to pay a $220 (incl. GST) application fee for nomination applications. This must be made via credit card (Visa or MasterCard) and is not refundable regardless of application outcome.

South Australia

Migrate SA closed their state nomination system for 190 visas from 11am on 15 November 2019, in order to make changes for the 491 visa. The system will reopen in the first week of December (exact date to be determined). Applicants for the 491 visa will open at the same time.

Further information will be published in late November.

New South Wales

The NSW Government states that it will 'shortly advise' when they will open for 491 nominations, however, Regional Development Australia Northern Inland NSW, one of the regional bodies of the NSW State Government announced in a recent newsletter that a start date for 491 nominations 'will not begin until early 2020, hopefully January'.
Specific details regarding eligible occupations and postcodes designated as regional areas will be also released in due course.

Northern Territory

The Territory page states that the 491 nomination system will be available from 16 November 2019, however, no further information on this process is available at the time of publishing.

Western Australia

The WA government has advised that EOIs for the 491 visa can be submitted from 16 November, however, the invitation process will not commence until 21 November 2019.

Australian Capital Territory

The ACT has advised that applications for nomination can only be submitted from 1 January 2020. This is following a release of new eligibility criteria for both the 491 and 190 visas, due on or before 28 November 2019.