



Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

# Visas and migration programs supporting regional settlement

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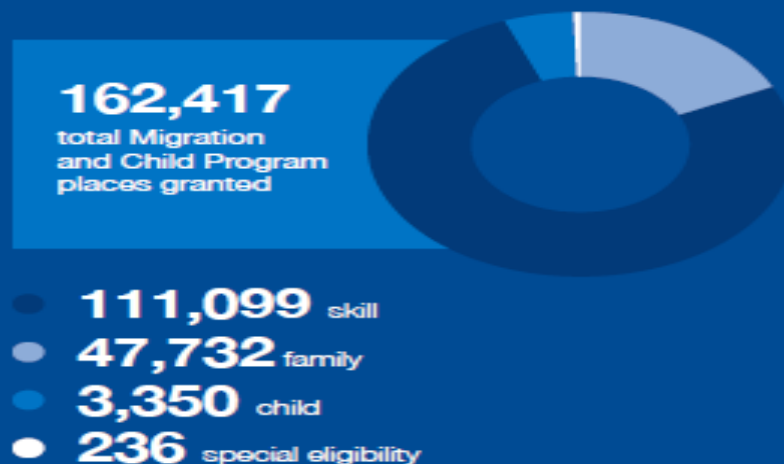
## Purpose 2 at a glance – 2017–18

Figure 7 – purpose 2 at a glance

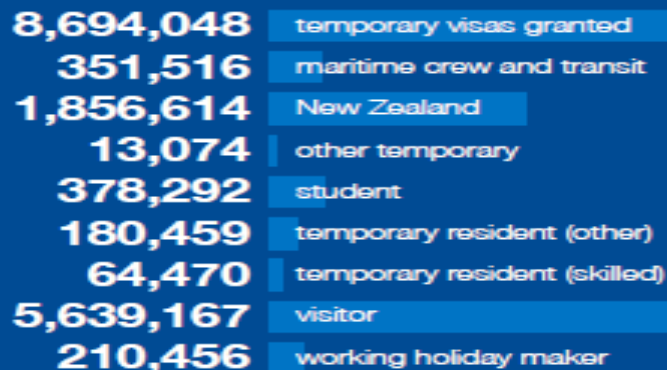
### PEOPLE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP



### PERMANENT MIGRATION PROGRAM



### TEMPORARY VISAS GRANTS



### Australian citizenship in Antarctic Territory

With icebergs as a backdrop and curious penguins watching on, plumber Terry Barrell became an Australian citizen on 24 January 2018 at Davis research station in the Australian Antarctic Territory. Mr Barrell, who was born in the United Kingdom, has been working at Davis station since November 2017. Terry Barrell was one of more than 12,000 new citizens welcomed at more than 350 citizenship ceremonies as part of Australia Day celebrations. It's only the second time in history that someone has become an Australian Citizen in Antarctica.



# Hon. David Coleman MP.

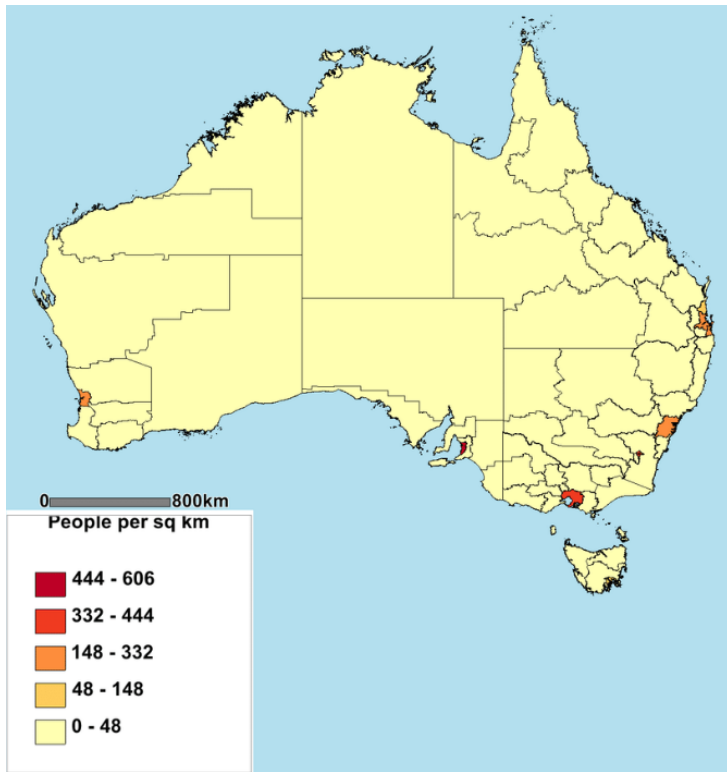
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs.

“We will continue to progress initiatives that better match our immigration programmes to the differing needs across our regions. We will implement our reduced cap on permanent migration to take pressure off our cities, while offering more opportunities for skilled migration in regional Australia”



# Home Affairs definition of regional?

- The Government is simplifying the definition of Regional Australia across all skilled visas. The definition of Regional Australia will be simplified and expanded in November 2019 to include all of Australia except for the following metropolitan areas: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Perth.



Australia population density map (number of people per square kilometre)

# What does the department offer to encourage regional migration?



# New Regional Visas

On 20 March 2019, the Australian Government announced changes to the immigration program to strengthen Australia's economy and boost regional areas.



- Two new Skilled Regional Provisional visas will be introduced by **November 2019**, along with other incentives such as priority processing for applicants and sponsors.
- **Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491)**, for skilled people who are nominated by a State or Territory government or sponsored by an eligible family member to live and work in regional Australia. (**Supersedes s/c 489**).
- **Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494)**, enabling an Australian business to sponsor skilled workers to work in their business (**Supersedes s/c 187**)
- A key feature of the new visas is a requirement for regional migrants to **live and work in a regional area for three years** before being eligible for permanent residence (s/c 191 visa).
- This will support businesses in regional areas to get the skills they need quickly, with faster visa processing for regional employer sponsors.
- There will be greater incentives for regional employers to nominate skilled workers, including access to additional regional occupations. There will also be additional points for certain points-tested migrants who are sponsored to settle in regional Australia.

# New Regional Visas

## cont'd



- International students studying in regional areas will have also access to an additional year on a post-study work visa. Temporary Graduate visa (Subclass 485).
- Employers in regional Australia, as well as State and Territory governments, who sponsor regional skilled migrants will have access to more occupations than equivalent non-regional visas.
- Based on current occupation lists, the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa will have access to over 450 more occupations than closest non-regional equivalent visa, and the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa will have access to over 70 more occupations than the closest non-regional equivalent visa.



# State Government sponsored



## Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 489)

- Provisional means that it is a 4 year temporary visa, that leads to The Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887) (Permanent) visa
- This is a points tested visa where the pass mark is 65 points
- When nominated by the State Government the applicant receives **10** points towards the 65 points required.
- Additional **5** points if study completed in a regional area
- Must submit a Expression of Interest on the Department's SkillSelect website
- The State Government must then nominate the individual. The lists of jobs they are prepared to nominate are:

[https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/147267/Tasmanian\\_Skilled\\_Occupations\\_List\\_TSOL\\_Jan\\_2019\\_update.pdf](https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/147267/Tasmanian_Skilled_Occupations_List_TSOL_Jan_2019_update.pdf)



# Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 489) – Points Test – 65 pass mark

Age	Points	Educational Qualifications	Points
18 to 25 -	25	Australian Doctorate, or overseas equivalent –	20
25 to 33 -	30	Australian Batchelor degree, or overseas equivalent -	15
33 to 40 -	25	Australian diploma or trade qualification -	10
40 to 45 -	15	A recognised (skills assessment by relevant assessing authority) qualification for a nominated skilled occupation -	10
<b>English</b>		<b>Specialist education qualification</b>	
Competent (6) -	0	Australian Masters degree by research or a Australian Doctorate that included 2 academic years of study in relevant field -	5
Proficient (7) -	10	*Must be in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or ICT.	
Superior (8) -	20	<b>Australian Study Requirement</b>	
<b>Skilled Employment Experience</b>		Have completed a 2 year CRICOS approved qualification -	5
<b>Overseas</b>		<b>Professional Year in Australia</b>	
Less than 3 years -	0	Completed an approved professional year -	5
3 to 5 years -	5	<b>Credentialed Community Language</b>	
5 to 8 years -	10	NAATI accreditation in a language other than English -	5
Over 8 years -	15	<b>Study in Regional Australia</b>	
<b>In Australia</b>		Completed a qualification from a Regional Institution -	5
Less than 1 year -	0	<b>Partner Skills</b>	
1 to 3 years -	5	Your partner meets all the points test requirements too -	5
3 to 5 years -	10	<b>Nomination or Sponsorship</b>	
5 to 8 years -	15	State government nomination or sponsored by a eligible family member -	10
Over 8 years -	20		
*maximum combined points is set at 20			

# State Government sponsored

## Invitations Issued via SkillSelect by Tasmanian Government

Visa Subclass	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 to 30/04/2019
190*	58	88	221	416	784	606
489 (STN)	129	31	86	489	630	997

\* Skilled Nominated Visa subclass 190- receive an additional 5 points toward points assessment if they obtain a degree, diploma or trade qualification while living and studying in regional australia

# Temporary Skill Shortage visa (TSS) (subclass 482)

Superseded the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457)

## Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa (subclass 482)

- This visa lets an employer sponsor a suitably skilled worker to fill a position they can't find a suitably skilled Australian to fill
- **Short-term stream – up to 2 years**
- **Medium-term stream – up to 4 years**
- Labour agreement stream
- Must be nominated for a skilled position by an approved sponsor (Can only work for that sponsor)
- Must have the right skills to do the job
- Must meet the relevant English language requirements [5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for MT stream]
- **Additional occupations for employers in regional areas**



Vehicle Painter (s/c 482 MT- Regional only)

# Employer Sponsored

## Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187)



- This visa lets skilled workers, who are nominated by their employer in regional Australia, live and work in Australia permanently;
- Must be nominated by an approved Australian employer for a job in regional Australia; There are currently 673 jobs listed on the relevant Skilled Occupation Lists (Migration Instrument LIN 19/047) for this visa;
- The nomination application must be “Certified” by the local Regional Certifying Body;
- Proposed rate of pay must be at least the “Annual Market Salary Rate (AMSR)” and at least the “Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT)”, currently \$53,900;
- Must be under 45 years of age;
- Must have a “Competent” IELTS test result of 6 in each of the 4 components;
- Must meet the skills and qualifications requirements (including 3 years experience), and it may require a formal skills assessment;
- Must remain working with sponsoring employer for at least 2 years or will be subject to visa cancellation.

# Labour Agreements

- Labour agreements enable approved businesses to sponsor skilled overseas workers when there is a demonstrated need that cannot be met in the Australian labour market and standard temporary or permanent visa programs are not available.
- Labour agreements are developed between the Australian Government (represented by the Department) and employers. They are generally in effect for five years and provide for visas to be granted under one or both of the following visa programs:
- [Temporary Skill Shortage \(TSS\) visa \(subclass 482\)](#)
- [Employer Nomination Scheme visa \(subclass 186\)](#)
- **Types of labour agreements**
- There are five types of labour agreements:
- [Company specific labour agreements](#)
- [Designated area migration agreements](#)
- [Project agreements](#)
- [Global Talent Scheme \(GTS\) agreements](#)
- [Industry labour agreements](#)
- There are a number of industry agreements in place, for example –
- dairy
- fishing
- meat
- minister of religion
- on-hire
- pork
- restaurant (fine dining)

# Designated area migration agreements (DAMA's)

- A Designated Area Migration Agreement provides flexibility for states, territories or regions to respond to their unique economic and labour market conditions through an agreement-based framework.
- Under the DAMA framework, employers in designated areas experiencing skills and labour shortages can sponsor **skilled and semi-skilled** overseas workers.
- DAMAs are designed to ensure employers recruit Australians citizens and permanent residents as a first priority and prioritise initiatives and strategies to facilitate the recruitment and retention of such workers.
- The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs has the power to enter into a Designated Area Migration Agreement subject to their authorisation and any conditions or parameters to be set.
- The **Designated Area Representative (DAR)** is the co-signatory to the agreement and is responsible for the broad oversight and endorsement of sponsors under this agreement. This includes monitoring and reporting on issues and activity under the DAMA including labour market patterns.
- There is currently one DAMA in place to cover the Northern Territory, but others have been entered into for the Great South Coast region, VIC; Kalgoorlie-Boulder, WA; Regional South Australia; Adelaide City, SA; Orana, NSW; Far North Queensland.

# Northern Territory DAMA



The new Northern Territory Designated Area Migration Agreement (NT DAMA) lets the Northern Territory (NT) employers sponsor skilled and semi-skilled overseas workers for positions they are unable to fill with local workers. It is the second version of the NT DAMA and applies to the whole of the NT and is tailored to address current and emerging labour market shortages and local terms and conditions of employment.

NT DAMA utilises the labour agreement stream of the [Temporary Skill Shortage visa \(subclass 482\)](#), businesses enter into a labour agreement with the Australian Government and workers are then granted a subclass 482 visa.

**Note:** The NT DAMA is an **employer-sponsored** visa program and individual workers **cannot** apply for a visa independently.

The key elements of NT DAMA are:

- pathways to permanent residency for NT DAMA visa holders (including transitional arrangements for existing visa holders)
- a broad range of occupations that reflect NT skilled and semi-skilled shortages, with no caveats to apply
- English language concessions for some occupations
- salary concessions that reflect NT market rates, ensuring that worker terms and conditions of employment are not eroded, and NT businesses and consumers are not subjected to inflationary costs
- a range of risk and integrity actions to ensure that the rights of both employees and employers are protected
- a five year agreement to reduce red tape.

<https://business.nt.gov.au/business/migration-information-for-business/northern-territory-designated-area-migration-agreement/introduction>



# Working Holiday Visas

## The Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) and The Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462)



- These are visas that allow people aged 18-35 from particular designated countries to come to Australia and do work to subsidise their holiday here.
- A visa for a second year can be obtained if the visa holder undertakes three months of specified work in regional Australia, which can include work in plant and animal cultivation, fishing, mining, tree planting/felling and construction.
- From 5 November 2018, the period in which subclass 417 and 462 visa holders can stay with the same agricultural (plant and animal cultivation) employer, increased from 6 to 12 months.
- **NEW!** The option of a third-year for subclass 417 and 462 visa holders who, **after 1 July 2019**, undertake 6-months of specified work in a specified regional area during their second year.

# Seasonal Visas

## Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) Seasonal Worker Program stream

- Allows a 9 month visa to work as a seasonal labourer in selected industries for Australian employers who can't source local labour
- These can include the Australian agriculture sector, accommodation sector in selected locations and tourism sector (the Northern Australia tourism pilot).
- Must be invited by an Australian employer who is a [Temporary Activities Sponsor](#)
- Must be a citizen of and resident in Timor-Leste, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu or Vanuatu



# Seasonal Visas



## Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) Pacific Labour scheme stream

- This maximum 3 year visa gives eligible Pacific Island nations (Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) the opportunity to send labourers to work in regional Australia on the endorsement of the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT)
- Must be aged at least 21 and under 45 when applying
- Must be invited by an Australian employer endorsed by DFAT who is a Temporary Activities sponsor



# Refugee Visas



## Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV)(subclass 790)

- This is a 5 year temporary visa for people who arrived in Australia illegally and have applied for protection
- Provided they are granted a SHEV, and then if they can meet the SHEV pathway, they will be able to apply for other visas in Australia
- To meet the SHEV pathway, they must for 3 & ½ years (42 months) be:
  - employed in [regional area](#) and have not received certain social security benefits (Special Benefit payments), or
  - enrolled and physically attending full-time study in [regional area](#), or
  - a combination of the above

# Links

- Eligible Regional Areas: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/regional-migration/eligible-regional-areas>
- Regional Migration Information: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/regional-migration>
- Skilled Migration Program: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/skilled-migration-program>
- Skilled occupation list: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skill-occupation-list>
- Migration Tasmania: [https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/skilled\\_migrants](https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/skilled_migrants)
- Proposed legislation- new regional visas: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L00578/Explanatory%20Statement/Text>
- <https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/planning-for-australias-future-population.pdf>
- [http://migrationcouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015\\_EIOM.pdf](http://migrationcouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015_EIOM.pdf)
- <https://www.migration.tas.gov.au/>

# Contacts



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DAMA's and Labour Agreements:

Email : [labour.agreement.section@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:labour.agreement.section@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Migration Agents:

Email: <https://www.mara.gov.au/>