

## Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) Visa (subclass 494)

**Note: replaces RSMS subclass 187 visa as of 16 November 2019**

The Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) Visa (subclass 494) is for skilled workers who want to work in regional Australia.

**This visa allows the visa holder and any family members who have been granted a visa to:**

- Live work and study in designated regional areas of Australia for 5 years;
- Only work for the nominating employer;
- Apply for permanent residence after 3 years (191 Visa);
- enroll in Medicare, Australia's scheme for health-related care and expenses;
- sponsor eligible relatives for permanent residence;
- travel to and from Australia for five years from the date the visa is granted.

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

### Key points

- In the dairy industry the visa is limited to high skill level Dairy Farmer – which means high level managers with a bachelor degree qualification or a minimum of at least 5 years' experience in the industry
- The overseas worker must be paid the **annual market salary rate** which must be at least as high as the **Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (the TSMIT)**. For further information about the salary requirements visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-employer-sponsored-regional-494/employer-sponsored-stream>
- The overseas worker can be in Australia or overseas when the application is made
- Two-step process – nomination of visa applicant and application.

### Eligibility Requirements

The Applicant must:

- have been nominated by an approved Australian employer in **regional Australia**;
- meet the Age requirements - be under the age of 45 at time of application lodgment,
- at time of application lodgment, have the required skills and qualifications (see below – Skills Assessment) for the position/hold any mandatory registration, license or professional membership, or already be fully assessed as suitable by the relevant body;
- at time of application lodgment, have competent English (see below – English Language Requirements)
- meet health requirements (see below)
- meet character requirements (see below)

## Age requirements

If the applicant is older than 45 years of age, they can still apply for this visa in certain circumstances. The circumstances relevant to the dairy industry are as follows:

- The overseas worker has been working for the nominating employer as the holder of a TSS visa for at least 3 years immediately before applying and that employer paid at least as much as the **Fair Work High Income Threshold** in each of the 2 years.

### ***Fair Work High Income Threshold***

In 2019, the Fair Work High Income Threshold was \$148,700.00. It **changes every year** on 1 July. Check the [Fair Work Commission](#) site to find the latest figure.

## Skills Assessment

The Applicant will need to obtain a skills assessment.

The skills assessment needs to demonstrate that the Applicant can perform the tasks listed in the ANZSCO framework as necessary to perform the occupation.

The ANZSCO standard classification for Dairy Cattle Farmer is available at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/A5F3A3E9DE8885E7CA2575DF002DA790?opendocument>

If the Applicant is the holder of a 457 visa or a 482 visa, skills do not need to be assessed as they will have been assessed for this visa and the applicant will have worked for the employer for 2 years in Australia.

## English language requirements – Competent English (IELTS 6)

The following evidence is required at the time of application:

- achieving the required International English Language Test Score (IELTS) of at least 6 for each of the 4 components in a test that has been conducted within three years immediately before lodgment of the application;
- scoring at least 'B' in each component of the Occupational English Test (OET) either for the Temporary Residence Transition stream or the Direct Entry stream in a test that has been conducted within three years immediately before lodgment of the application ;
- holding a passport from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, the Republic of Ireland or New Zealand.

## Health requirements

The Applicant must meet certain **health requirements**. This applies to all family members whether they are migrating or not. The results of health examinations are generally valid for 12 months. For further information about health requirements, visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-employer-sponsored-regional-494>

### **Character requirements**

The Applicant must meet certain character requirements. Applicants must be prepared to provide a police certificate from each country they have lived in for 12 months or more during the past 10 years after they turned 16 years of age.

This also applies to all dependent family members in the application who are 16 years of age or older. For further information about character requirements, visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-employer-sponsored-regional-494>

### **Lodgment of Applications**

Applications can be lodged online at <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-employer-sponsored-regional-494>