

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187) is for skilled workers who want to work in regional Australia. It is part of the Permanent Employer Sponsored Visa program and the visa is a permanent resident visa.

Applicants can be in or outside Australia when they apply. If they are in Australia, they must hold a substantive visa (subclass 457/482) or a bridging visa A, B or C.

This visa allows the visa holder and their family to live in Australia and work permanently in a **regional area**. For a definition of what amounts to a **regional area**, visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/regional-migration/eligible-regional-areas>

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

- stay in Australia indefinitely;
- work and study in Australia;
- enroll in Medicare, Australia's scheme for health-related care and expenses;
- apply for Australian citizenship (if eligible);
- sponsor eligible relatives for permanent residence;
- travel to and from Australia for five years from the date the visa is granted.

Key points

- In the dairy industry 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/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187/salary-requirements>
- Two step process – nomination of visa applicant and application under the nominated stream.

The visa has 2 streams:

- 1. Temporary Residence Transition stream** is for subclass 457 or 482 visa holders who have worked for at least 3 years, while holding a subclass 457 or 482 visa, in the same occupation with their nominating employer (who has lodged a valid nomination with the department under the Temporary Residence Transition stream and had that nomination approved within 6 months prior to the application), who wants to offer them a permanent position in that occupation.
- 2. Direct Entry stream** is for:
 - people who have been nominated by their employer under the Direct Entry stream;
 - people who have never, or only briefly, worked in Australia;
 - temporary residents who do not qualify for the Temporary Residence Transition stream
 - The applicant must agree to remain employed by the nominating employer for a minimum of 2 years.

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme

Visa (subclass 187) – updated April 2019



Eligibility Requirements

The Applicant must:

- have been nominated by an approved Australian employer in **regional Australia** within six months before the application is made;
- meet the Age requirements - be under the age of 45 at time of application lodgment, unless exempt (see below)
- 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 appropriate English language skills for Temporary Residence Transition (TRT) stream and Direct Entry (DE) stream unless exempt (see below – English Language Requirements)
- meet health requirements (see below)
- meet character requirements (see below)
- meet the requirements of the relevant stream.

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 applicant is applying through the Direct Entry stream and holds a Subclass 444 (New Zealand citizen) or Subclass 461 (New Zealand citizen's family member) visa and has been working for the employer who nominated them for at least two years in the last three years immediately before applying;
- the applicant is applying through the Temporary Residence Transition stream, and has been working for the nominating employer as the holder of a Subclass 457 visa for at least 2 years in the last 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 2018, the Fair Work High Income Threshold was \$145,000.00. 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 if they are part of the Direct Entry Scheme and are planning to work as a dairy cattle farmer. 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

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.
- Applicants may not need to show adequate English skills if they:
 - are applying through the Temporary Residence Transition stream, and
 - have completed at least five years of full-time study in a secondary or higher education institution, and
 - all of the tuition was delivered in English.

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/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187>

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/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187>

Lodgment of Applications

Applications can be lodged online at <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187>