

The Regional Development Australia Riverina is a Regional Certifying Body (RCB) for the Department of Home Affairs (DOHA).

DOHA rely on RCBs to provide an Assessment and Nomination to 2 visa categories being the individual Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) and the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494). The objectives of these visas are to encourage migration to areas outside the major metropolitan centers and to address the skill shortages regional employers are disadvantaged by.

The RDA-Riverina assists regional employers wishing to sponsor skilled migrants for skilled positions which cannot be filled using the local labour market.

The RDA-Riverina assists skilled people who wish to come to the region. Applicants must nominate an occupation which is in demand in the region.

The basic rules for Skilled Migration

Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) subclass 494 – Employer nomination –

- The business is actively and lawfully operating in regional Australia
- There is a need for a paid employee in the nominating business.
- The position is a skilled occupation and corresponds to an occupation specified by DOHA. This is an occupation that requires at least a diploma level qualification or trade certification and is listed as per the Migration Legislation at - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L00295>
- The position is full time and available for minimum 3 years as required by the visa.
- Annual Market Salary Rate (AMSR) and Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) - The terms and conditions of employment applicable to the position will be no less favorable than the terms and conditions provided to an Australian citizen or permanent resident who performs the same work in the nominee's workplace or regional area <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/regional-sponsor-migration-scheme-187/salary-requirements#content-index-2>
- Pay the Skilling Australians Fund Levy - <https://www.education.gov.au/skilling-australians-fund>
- The nominated position must be located in the Riverina region.
- Employer has attempted to fill the position using the local labour market.
- The nominated employee has minimum 'competent' English ability
- The nominated employee be less than 45 years of age. Some age exemptions are now available
- RCB assessment is required for SESR subclass 494 only
- The nominated employee is eligible for Medicare.

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Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) Visa (subclass 491) - skilled migrant nomination

- Be less than 45 years of age.
- Have minimum 'competent' English ability.
- Nominates a skilled occupation that is needed in the region.
- The nominated occupation corresponds to an occupation specified by DOHA and is listed on the NSW State Migration Plan
- Have skills assessed by an Australian Assessing Authority relevant to their nomination occupation.
- Pass the 65 points test as set by DOHA
- May need to provide evidence of experience in the nominated occupation.
- Applicants and their sponsored family members commit to live and work in a regional area for 3 years.
- Applicants place an "Expression of Interest" with SkillSelect on DOHA's website
- Applicants seek RCB nomination in the Region they wish to live and work in.
- Subclass 491 visa is valid for 5 years.
- Subclass 491 visa holders can apply for permanent residence after meeting the live and work requirements.

Assistance available to regional employers and skilled people includes:

- Advising of visa options and processes
- Searching the SkillSelect Database for suitable candidates
- Assisting employers and overseas skilled workers with information and guidance when applying for their visa
- Provide an Assessment to employer sponsorship nominations
- Nominating subclass 489 applications from overseas skilled workers
- Supply contacts of suitable skilled people to employers
- Assisting skilled people to settle into the region
- Maintaining a list of occupations in demand to attract the right skills. List is found on the NSW Department of Industry website http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/66879/NSW-489-list.pdf

Tracking Skill Shortages in the Riverina

Independent applicants to the Riverina region must nominate a skilled occupation which is in demand in the region. Skilled people can check if their occupation is needed by contacting the Skilled Migration Officer via email at migration@rdariverina.org.au

Regional representatives are invited to advise the RDA-Riverina of emerging skill shortages as they become known for inclusion in the list. The information required is as follows:

- Occupation & quantity needed
- Location - LGA, town & employer

For further information on the Riverina Skilled Migration Program or to discuss skill shortages, please contact:

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November 2019