



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs

## Check visa details and conditions

Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) tells you:

- Which visa
- Expiry date
- How long the visa holder can stay
- Conditions (what the visa holder can and can't do)

[www.homeaffairs.gov.au/vevo](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/vevo)

## Did you know there are penalties for employing illegal workers?

For more information:

- [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)
- [www.abf.gov.au](http://www.abf.gov.au)

For more information on visa options for employing workers in regional Australia visit:

[immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/  
visas/working-in-australia/  
regional-migration](http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/regional-migration)

and

[covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au)



**COVID-19 visa  
measures supporting  
regional Australia**

# The Australian Government is committed to supporting regional Australia following COVID-19

## COVID-19 visa measures supporting regional Australia

Visa options	Measures
<b>COVID-19 Pandemic event visa</b> Subclass 408	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary visa to work in critical sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– health care</li> <li>– aged and disability care</li> <li>– childcare</li> <li>– agriculture and food processing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remain in Australia for up to 12 months with no visa application charge.</li> </ul>
<b>Skilled regional provisional visa holders impacted by COVID-19</b> Subclass 489	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary arrangements to assist visa holders retain their eligibility for a Skilled Regional (Permanent) visa (Subclass 887).</li> <li>• Concessions include access to shorter residence and employment requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa</b> Subclass 417	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visa holders working in the agricultural sector can work for longer than six months with any one employer, and if they have completed three or six months of specified work, may be able to apply for a second or third WHM visa.</li> <li>• Visa holders can also count critical COVID-19 work in healthcare and medical sectors undertaken anywhere in Australia as specified work to apply for a second or third WHM visa.</li> <li>• Commencing November 2020, former WHM visa holders may count critical COVID-19 related work in the healthcare and medical sectors on a COVID-19 Pandemic event visa towards eligibility for a second or third WHM visa.</li> </ul>
<b>Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) and Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS)</b> Subclass 403	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SWP and PLS programs have restarted to assist harvest seasons.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All states and territories have indicated they will opt in.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Visa holders can extend their stay to continue to work in agriculture and can also work for more than one employer.</li> </ul>
<b>Labour Agreements and Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor skilled overseas workers when there is no Australian available.</li> <li>• Template Industry Labour Agreements are in effect to support regional and rural businesses including for Pork, Meat, and Dairy.</li> <li>• The Horticulture Industry Labour Agreement provides growers access to a skilled and semi-skilled horticultural workforce including 31 occupations.</li> <li>• DAMAs in place: Northern Territory; The Goldfields, WA; Great South Coast, VIC; Adelaide City and Regional SA; Orana, NSW; and Far North Queensland.</li> </ul>
<b>Business Innovation and Investment Program</b> Subclass 188	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those conducting business, investment or entrepreneurial activity in regional Australia.</li> <li>• Visa concessions relate to application requirements, specified periods of residence, specified levels of business and investment activity.</li> </ul>
<b>International students and temporary graduates</b> Subclass 500 and subclass 485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International students can work in regional Australia for up to 40 hours per fortnight during study period, and for an unlimited amount of hours during the term and semester breaks.</li> <li>• Temporary graduates can work in regional Australia.</li> </ul>
<b>Safe Haven Enterprise visa/ Temporary Protection</b> Subclass 790	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have work rights and can work in regional Australia.</li> </ul>
<b>Travel restrictions, including applying for exemptions and refunds and waivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some visa holders impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions will be able to access a refund or a waiver of their Visa Application Charge.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This includes WHMs, SWP and PLS, Temporary Skill Shortage visa, Temporary Work visa, and Prospective Marriage visa holders.</li> <li>– See: <a href="https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/refunds-and-waivers-visa-application-charges">covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/refunds-and-waivers-visa-application-charges</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Australia has strict border measures in place to protect the health of the Australian community.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– People planning to work in a critical sector, including agriculture and primary industry can apply for an exemption from Australia's travel restrictions.</li> <li>– See: <a href="https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel-restrictions">covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel-restrictions</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Relocation assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visa holders relocating to take up short-term agricultural work, including harvest work, may be eligible to receive relocation assistance of up to \$2,000.</li> <li>• Not restricted to an employer or a type of work.</li> </ul>