

Open letter to Employers

This letter has been provided to skilled migrants who hold a Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Subclass 489) and are seeking employment in Central West NSW. The information is provided to assist potential employers understand the visa and its associated conditions.

The visa holder has been nominated by the NSW Government under the Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Subclass 489) program. The program invited applications from skilled migrants, both onshore and offshore, to live and work in regional areas of Australia, to fill skill shortages and contribute to Australia's economic growth.

The term of the 489 visa is four years. A condition of the program is that the visa holder live and work for, at least, two years within a designated regional or low population growth metropolitan area. The visa is provisional but provides a pathway to permanent residence and securing a future for applicants in Australia.

The 489 visa has full work entitlements, and an employer need do nothing more than they would when employing a local Australian worker. Employment conditions are expected to be the same as normal Australian Fair Work and Taxation practices. 489 visa holders are Australian residents for taxation purposes.

To be eligible for permanent residency, a 489 visa holder has to meet their specified visa conditions; primarily, they must have lived for at least two years and worked full time for at least one year in a designated regional area. Full time work is classified as 35 hours per week.

The pathway to permanent residency provides the visa holder with a strong incentive to be committed to employment in the Central West region for at least two years.

I am happy to discuss the Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Subclass 489) program and the associated terms and conditions further if required. I can be contacted on 02 6369 1600.

Regards
Lynda Smart
Regional Visa Officer
Regional Development Australia Central West

