

## Open letter to Employers

This letter has been provided to skilled migrants who hold either a Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa (Subclass 489) or Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (Subclass 491) and are seeking employment in Central West NSW. The information is provided to assist potential employers understand the visas and their associated conditions.

The visa holder has been nominated by the NSW Government under the Subclass 489 or 491 programs. The programs invite 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.

A condition of the visa programs is that the visa holder live and work within a designated regional or low population growth metropolitan area. The visas are provisional but both the 489 and 491 provide a concrete pathway to permanent residence and securing a future for applicants in Australia.

The 489 and 491 visas have 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. The visa holders are Australian residents for taxation purposes.

To be eligible for permanent residency, the visa holder has to meet their specified visa conditions; primarily, they must have lived and worked full time in a designated regional area for the required time (dependent on the visa subclass). Full time work is classified as 35 hours per week.

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

I am happy to discuss the regional visa programs and associated terms and conditions further if required. I can be contacted on 02 6369 1600.

Regards  
Lynda Smart  
Operations and Migration Manager  
Regional Development Australia Central West

