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A teal-colored silhouette map of Australia and New Zealand is centered on the page. The text 'General Skilled Migration' is overlaid on the map in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## General Skilled Migration



**Australian Government**

**Department of Immigration and  
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs**

This booklet contains information on the Offshore General Skilled and Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories.

For information on the Onshore General Skilled categories and the Skilled Independent Regional visa categories see [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm). Information on these categories is not included in this booklet.

## About this booklet

This booklet is designed so that you can understand the steps for applying for **General Skilled Migration** to Australia, and complete the application form with minimal, if any, help.

This booklet is intended as a guide only. You should visit the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (the department) website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm) to obtain up-to-date information. New versions of this booklet are published each year in March, July and November.

This booklet is one of a series of booklets about migration to Australia. The other booklets are:

- 1 Partner Migration
- 2 Child Migration
- 3 Parent Migration
- 4 Other Family Migration
- 5 Employer Sponsored Migration
- 7 Business Skills Entry
- 8 Special Migration

For general information about migration to Australia, read information form 1126i *Migrating to Australia*, or visit the department's website [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

## Using a migration agent

You are not required to use a migration agent. However, if you intend to use a migration agent you are advised to use a registered migration agent.

Under Australian law, anyone who uses knowledge of migration procedures to offer immigration assistance to a person wishing to obtain a visa to enter or remain in Australia must be registered.

A list of registered migration agents is available from the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) website [www.themara.com.au](http://www.themara.com.au)

You can contact the MARA at:

PO Box Q1551  
QVB NSW 1230  
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 61 2 9299 5446

Fax: 61 2 9299 8448

E-mail: [themara@themara.com.au](mailto:themara@themara.com.au)

Registered migration agents are bound by the Migration Agents Code of Conduct and generally charge for their services. The MARA investigates complaints against registered migration agents and may take disciplinary action against them. If you have a concern about a registered migration agent, you should contact the MARA. You can also download a copy of the complaint form from the MARA website.

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Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

[www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

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This booklet contains information on the Offshore General Skilled and Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories.

For information on the Onshore General Skilled categories and the Skilled Independent Regional visa categories see [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm). Information on these categories is not included in this booklet.

The department offers internet services for applicants for Onshore General Skilled categories and the Skilled Independent Regional visa. See [www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visa/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/index.htm)

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# Introduction

This booklet is designed so that you can understand the steps for applying for General Skilled Migration to Australia, assess your eligibility to apply, and to complete the application form with minimal, if any, help.

Please ensure you read all parts of the booklet as they will help you understand the requirements for General Skilled Migration to Australia in the Offshore General Skilled and Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories.

Part 1 outlines the basic requirements that you must be able to satisfy in order to apply for General Skilled Migration. If you are unable to satisfy the basic requirements, you should not continue with a General Skilled Migration application.

If you satisfy the basic requirements you will need to select a General Skilled Migration category to apply under. The categories and the visas under the Offshore General Skilled and Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories are described in Part 2. You must select the visa which best suits your circumstances and gives you the best chance of success.

Some General Skilled Migration visas require an Assurance of Support. If you select a category which requires an Assurance of Support you must read about Assurances of Support in Part 2 for further details.

Once you have selected the visa that you wish to apply for, Part 3 will help you assess your eligibility for the visa. Please see page 48 for limitations on lodging a visa application.

If you have read this book and require further information on General Skilled Migration, please refer to the the department's website

**[www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm)**

or e-mail **[adelaide.skilled.centre@immi.gov.au](mailto:adelaide.skilled.centre@immi.gov.au)**

## Where to apply

**ALL** applications for General Skilled Migration from both outside of Australia and in Australia must be sent to the following address only:

By mail:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs  
GPO Box 1638  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
AUSTRALIA

By courier:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs  
1st Floor, 55 Currie Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
AUSTRALIA

Enquiries:

Telephone: 1 300 364 613 (if calling from outside Australia dial the international code +61)

Fax: 61 8 8237 6629

E-mail: **[adelaide.skilled.centre@immi.gov.au](mailto:adelaide.skilled.centre@immi.gov.au)**

# Terms you need to know

To understand the requirements for General Skilled Migration to Australia, you need to know these terms.

**Applicant**

The applicant is the person (or persons) applying to migrate to Australia.

**ASPC**

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre

**Assurer**

An assurer is a person usually living in Australia as an Australian citizen, permanent resident or Eligible New Zealand Citizen who signs a legal undertaking (an Assurance of Support (AoS)) so that the applicant and dependants will not have to rely on certain social security payments that can be recovered by the Commonwealth of Australia under the AoS scheme. Information about recoverable payments can be found on the Centrelink website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au). In the event an applicant or their dependants receive a recoverable benefit in the AoS period, the assurer is legally committed to repay them to the Commonwealth of Australia. The assurer and sponsor may be, but do not need to be, the same person. An assurance may be given by individuals acting alone or jointly, community groups or organisations.

More details about Assurance of Support are given in Part 2 (page 21).

**Australian mission**

An Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate or Consulate-Mission General or Australian Trade Commission.

**Certified copy**

Copy of a document authorised, or stamped as being a true copy of the original, by a person or agency recognised by the law of the person's home country. In Australia, this means a copy which is authorised as a true copy by a person before whom a Statutory Declaration may be made. Such authorised persons include the following: magistrate, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations, Commissioner for Affidavits, solicitor, registered medical practitioner, bank manager, postal manager, an Australian Public Service Officer with 5 years or more service.

**Date of completion**

The date of completion of an Australian qualification is the first date on which the tertiary institution publicly notifies the student that they have met the requirements for the award. This notification can occur by letter, on the internet, by publication in a newspaper, by e-mail, or by bulletin board at the tertiary institution.

**DIMIA/the department**

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

**Eligible New Zealand Citizen**

For sponsorship purposes, an Eligible New Zealand Citizen is one who held a Special Category Visa (SCV) on 26 February 2001; or held a SCV for at least one year in the 2 years preceding that date; or has a certificate, issued under the *Social Security Act 1991*, that states that the New Zealand citizen was, for the purposes of that Act, residing in Australia on a particular date. The SCV holder would also have needed to meet certain health and character requirements on last entry to Australia.

## Terms you need to know (continued)

<b>Eligible overseas student</b>	Refers to overseas students in Australia who are eligible to apply for the onshore students in Australia visa categories. For more details please refer to the Onshore General Skilled categories on the department's website <b><a href="http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm">www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm</a></b>
<b>Employment</b>	Having worked in paid employment for at least 20 hours a week.
<b>IELTS</b>	This refers to International English Language Testing System, the test required to assess your English language ability for migration purposes.  For more details about IELTS, please read form 1220i or visit the IELTS website <b><a href="http://www.ielts.org/">www.ielts.org/</a></b>
<b>OET</b>	This refers to the Occupational English Test. In some professions, applicants are required to sit this test as part of the qualifications assessment.
<b>Pass mark</b>	This is the total number of points you must score to pass the points test. You must reach the pass mark in effect on the day you lodge an application. If you pass, your application will be processed further.  Check the the department's website <b><a href="http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm">www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm</a></b> for the current pass mark.
<b>Points test</b>	For some categories, you must pass a points test. The pass mark changes from time to time. Before choosing a category to apply under, you should do a self-assessment. More details about the points test and self-assessment are given in Part 3.
<b>Pool mark</b>	If you do not achieve the pass mark, the pool mark is the total number of points you must score if your application is to be held in reserve for up to 2 years after it is assessed, in case a newer, lower pass mark is set.
<b>Regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas</b>	The list of regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas for the purposes of awarding points for studying and residence in regional Australia is available from the department's website <b><a href="http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm">www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm</a></b>
<b>Skilled Occupations List (SOL)</b>	If you are intending to apply under one of the General Skilled Migration categories, you must have a nominated occupation which is on the SOL at the time you apply.  For more details about the SOL, please read form 1121i included in the Skilled Migration pack or visit the department's website <b><a href="http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm">www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm</a></b>
<b>SIR visa</b>	This acronym stands for the Skilled Independent Regional (Provisional) visa.
<b>Sponsor</b>	For some categories you must be sponsored. A sponsor is a relative aged 18 years or over who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident or an Eligible New Zealand Citizen and is prepared to sponsor your application and who undertakes to assist the applicant, to the extent necessary, financially and in relation to accommodation for a period of 2 years.

## Terms you need to know (continued)

### Statutory Declaration

This declaration must be made before a person authorised by the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* and Regulations, which include the following: magistrate, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations, Commissioner for Affidavits, solicitor, registered medical practitioner, bank manager, postal manager, an Australian Public Service Officer with 5 years or more service.

### Substantive visa

A substantive visa means a visa other than:

- a bridging visa; or
- a criminal justice visa; or
- an enforcement visa.

### Sydney and Selected Areas Skilled Shortage List (SSASSL)

If you wish to apply for an offshore Skilled Australian Sponsored visa and your sponsor lives in Sydney or a Selected area (Gosford, Newcastle or Wollongong) as defined by postcode, you must nominate an occupation that is listed on the SSASSL at the time you apply.

AREA	POSTCODE
Sydney	1000-1920; 2000-2249; 2555-2574; 2740-2786
Gosford	2250-2263
Newcastle	2264-2279; 2280-2300; 2302-2310
Wollongong	2500-2530

For more details about the SSASSL please read form 1121i *Skilled Occupation List (SOL)*, *Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL)*, and *Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL)* available on the department's website

[www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)

### 2 years study in Australia

#### One Australian qualification

To meet the 2 years study in Australia requirement:

- you must have studied in Australia at one Australian educational institution for at least 2 years full time; **and**
- you must have completed during the 6 months immediately before lodging the application, an Australian degree, diploma or trade qualification at the institution where it was commenced; **and**
- all tuition for this study must have been conducted in English; **and**
- any qualification completed as a result of this 2 year study period must be relevant to the nominated occupation.

#### More than one Australian qualification

You can also meet the 2 year study requirement if:

- you have completed more than one Australian degree, diploma or trade qualification after at least 2 years of full time study; **and**
- you completed one of your qualifications within 6 months immediately before lodging the application, **and**
- you were physically present in Australia while undertaking this study, and the study for each qualification was full time, **and**



## Terms you need to know (continued)

- each qualification was completed at the institution where it was commenced; **and**
- all tuition for the courses was conducted in English; **and**
- all qualifications completed during this period are relevant to your nominated occupation.

### Forms associated with a General Skilled Migration application

#### Information forms

- Form 990i *Charges*
- Form 1121i *Skilled Occupation List (SOL), Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL), and Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL).*
- Form 1220i *IELTS test centres*
- Form 1071i *Health requirement for permanent entry to Australia*
- Form 47P *Character requirement: penal clearance certificates*

#### Application forms

- Form 47SK *Application for general skilled migration to Australia*
- Form 47A *Details of child or other family member aged 18 years or over*
- Form 40 *Sponsorship for migration to Australia*
- Form 26A *Medical examination for an Australian visa (for use in Australia only)*
- Form 160A *Radiological report on chest x-ray of an applicant for an Australian visa (for use in Australia only)*
- Form 80 *Personal particulars for character assessment*
- Form 1101 *Police records check – consent to obtain information*

**Note:** All forms can be downloaded free from the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm). Assurance of Support forms can be obtained from Centrelink.

# PART 1

## Basic requirements

For General Skilled Migration to Australia, you or your spouse must be able to satisfy the following basic requirements.

### Age

You must be **under 45** years of age when you apply.

### English language

You must have sufficient ability in the English language for working in Australia. This is known as '**vocational English**' (see page 27).

A higher level of English is required for certain occupations where English ability forms part of the skills assessment.

A lower level of English is required in:

- the Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored categories (see page 20 – **Exceptions to basic requirements for applicants in the Designated Area Sponsored categories**); and
- the Skill Matching visa category (see page 11 – **Exceptions to basic requirements for applicants in the Skill Matching visa category**).

You are encouraged to have your English language ability tested before you apply.

### Qualifications

You must have **post-secondary** (such as university or trade) **qualifications** and your skills must have been assessed by the relevant assessing authority as **suitable** for your nominated occupation.

**Note:** For some 60 point occupations substantial relevant work experience may be acceptable. For further information contact the relevant assessing authority.

### Nominated occupation

When you apply, you must nominate a skilled occupation which fits your skills and qualifications. Your nominated occupation must be on the **Skilled Occupations List (SOL)** (for more details about the SOL please read form 1121i available free from the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm) or included with Booklet 6 - *General Skilled Migration* package available for A\$20 from any office of the department in Australia or overseas.

**Note: If your nominated occupation is not on the SOL you cannot apply.**

### Recent work experience

This requirement is separate to the need to have your skills assessed as suitable for your nominated occupation before you apply.

If your nominated occupation is worth **60** points (see the points score for your nominated occupation on form 1121i *Skilled Occupation List (SOL)*, *Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL)*, and *Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL)*), you must provide evidence (see **employment references**, page 28) that you have been in paid employment in a skilled occupation (any occupation listed on form 1121i *Skilled Occupation List (SOL)*, *Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL)*, and *Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL)*) for **at least 12 of the 18 months immediately** before applying.

If your nominated occupation is worth **40** or **50** points, you must provide evidence (see **employment references**, page 28) that you have been in paid employment in a skilled occupation (any occupation listed on form 1121i *Skilled Occupation List (SOL)*, *Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL)*, and *Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL)*) for **at least 2 of the 3 years immediately** before you apply.

For certain occupations a longer period of specific work experience is required to obtain a suitable skills assessment (eg. Manager). If you nominate a 40 or 50 point occupation and are relying on a registered occupation usually worth 60 points (eg. Pharmacist) to meet the 'recent work experience' requirement you must submit 2 skills assessments. That is as well as an assessment for your nominated occupation you also need an assessment from the relevant assessing authority for the occupation in which you gained your work experience.

**In the Skill Matching or Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored categories you may be eligible with less work experience** (see **Recent work experience requirement** page 20).

#### **Recent work experience exemption**

- you do not need to meet the work experience requirement if you meet the **2 years study in Australia** requirement (see page 4) less than 6 months before lodging your visa application.

**Note:** This exemption **cannot** be used to waive any specific work experience requirement imposed by an assessing body as part of a skills assessment.

If you intend taking advantage of this concession you should note that the 6 month period begins from the **date of completion** (see page 2) of the qualification, and **not** from the date the qualification was conferred.

If you are using work experience obtained in Australia to meet this requirement, that work must have been undertaken while you were the holder of a substantive visa authorising you to work. Work undertaken in Australia while you are holding a bridging visa cannot be counted to meet this requirement.

## Skills assessment

Before you apply, you **must** have had your skills assessed by the relevant Australian assessing authority (as outlined on form 1121i *Skilled Occupation List (SOL)*, *Sydney and Selected Areas Skill Shortage List (SSASSL)*, and *Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL)*) for your nominated occupation.

To be granted a visa, your skills must have been assessed as **suitable** for your occupation. You also need to find out if the occupation you have nominated requires you to be registered, licensed, or be a member of a professional or industry organisation.

**Note:** These assessing authorities are responsible for undertaking skills assessment for migration purposes, and are **NOT** employment agencies. The assessing authorities will not reply to requests for job placement. Nor can they give advice on the allocation of points.

**Note:** **If you are not able to satisfy these basic requirements, you will NOT be eligible for General Skilled Migration.**

# PART 2

# Categories

## General Skilled Migration visa categories

To apply for General Skilled Migration you must first choose the most appropriate visa. There are a range of options including temporary and permanent visa categories. Once you have read Part 2 you will be able to select the category and the visa within that category which best suits your circumstances and gives you the best chance of success.

### This booklet provides information on the following categories:

#### Permanent visas

**Offshore General Skilled** page 10  
(for applicants generally outside Australia)

**Onshore New Zealand Citizen** page 16  
(for New Zealand citizens currently in Australia)

For information about the Onshore General Skilled categories and the Skilled Independent Regional visa see [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm)

### Within these categories, you may apply under the following types of visa classes:

#### Independent

For those who meet the basic requirements and do not have a family sponsor or who choose not to be sponsored by family, or who have been nominated by a State or Territory government.

#### Skill matching

For those wanting to be involved in the skill matching process (and who are seeking to be nominated by a State or Territory government or an employer).

If you are applying for the Onshore General Skilled or Onshore New Zealand Citizen visa categories you cannot apply under this category.

## Designated area sponsored

For those who have a sponsor and an assurer. Your sponsor must live in a **designated area** (see page 20) at the time of application and continue to reside there at the time of decision. You must be related to your sponsor as:

- a non-dependent child (a natural, adoptive or step-child);
- a parent;
- a brother or sister (including adoptive or step-siblings);
- a niece or nephew (including adoptive or step-niece or nephew);
- a first cousin; or
- a grandchild.

To ensure the processing of your application is not delayed, please include **a diagram of your family tree** with your application. Please include all relevant proof of relationship documents with your application.

**Note:** Even if you meet all the requirements for this category, you may still consider applying under the Independent category which does not need a sponsor or assurer.

If your sponsor is your **spouse's blood relative**, your spouse must complete form 47SK *Application for general skilled migration to Australia* **as the primary applicant**, even if you are the person satisfying the basic requirements.

## Australian sponsored

This category is designed for potential skilled migrants whose sponsor lives **outside** the **designated areas** listed on page 20. You must have a sponsor and an assurer. You must be related to your sponsor as:

- a non-dependent child (a natural, adoptive or step-child);
- a parent;
- a brother or sister (including an adoptive or step-sibling); or
- a niece or nephew (including adoptive or step-niece or nephew).

To ensure the processing of your application is not delayed, please include **a diagram of your family tree** with your application. Please include all relevant proof of relationship documents with your application.

**Note:** Even if you meet all the requirements for this category, you may still consider applying under the Independent category which does not need a sponsor or assurer.

If your sponsor is your **spouse's blood relative**, your spouse must complete form 47SK *Application for general skilled migration to Australia* **as the primary applicant**, even if you are the person satisfying the basic requirements.

# Offshore General Skilled categories

Applicants under these categories (and any dependants included in their application) may be in Australia at the time they lodge their application. However, they **must** be outside Australia at the time the visa is granted.

## Skilled—Independent (Class BN, subclass 136)

You must be highly skilled and have education, a high level of English language ability and employability which will contribute to the Australian economy.

To apply for this category you must:

- **satisfy the basic requirements** at page 6;
- **pass the points test** (see Part 3); and
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL.**

## Skilled—State Territory Nominated Independent (Class BN, subclass 137)

You must be highly skilled and have education, a high level of English language ability and employability that will contribute to the Australian economy, and be willing to settle in States and Territories where your skills are in demand.

To apply for this category you must:

- **satisfy the basic requirements** at page 6;
- **meet the pool mark for the points test** (See Part 3);
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL;** and
- **be nominated by a participating State or Territory** (currently, at time of publication, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania — please check on the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/sponsor/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/sponsor/index.htm) for the latest list).

Participating States and Territories will select nominees on the basis of occupations being in shortage in the particular State or Territory. Applicants are normally identified through the Skill Matching Database (see below). Interested migrants can also approach States/Territories directly. States and Territories have their own websites which are linked with the department's website.

States and Territories aim to select skilled migrants who have a sound chance of gaining employment in that State or Territory within a short time of their arrival. The State or Territory is not the employer and there is no employer nomination. As the occupation is in shortage, it is anticipated a job should be found quickly, but this is not guaranteed.

In accepting a nomination by a State or Territory, you will have a number of obligations you will be required to meet. This include amongst others:

- that you will remain in the State or Territory for a period of at least 2 years; and
- that you will keep the State or Territory informed of changes in address details before and after arrival, and be prepared to complete surveys and provide information as required; and
- meet any other requirements of the State or Territory.

## Skill Matching Database

If you are a Skilled-Independent applicant your details can be placed on the Skill Matching Database if you complete Part J of form 47SK. The database is sent regularly to certain Regional Certifying Bodies and State and Territory governments who may then nominate applicants to fill vacancies that cannot be filled through the local labour market. An abridged version of this database is also available on the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/skills/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/skills/index.htm). If nominated by a regional employer or a State/Territory government, your application will be given priority processing.

If you are a Skill Matching visa applicant, (see section immediately below) you must complete Part J 'Skill matching scheme' of form 47SK *Application for general skilled migration to Australia*. Your spouse should also complete Part I if he/she satisfies the basic requirements and wishes to be skill matched.

## Skill Matching (Class BR, subclass 134)

To apply for this category you must:

- **satisfy the basic requirements** for skill and age outlined at page 6, but **with functional English and a lesser recent work experience requirement**; and
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL**.

You must also complete Part J of form 47SK. If you meet the **basic requirements** (see page 6), the skill matching section (Part J of 47SK) will be used to include you in the Skill Matching Database.

This category **is not points tested**. You should consider this category if you are not certain or it is unlikely you will pass the points test.

### Recent work experience requirement

You must have been employed in a skilled occupation for at least 6 months in the 12 months before applying for migration.

You do not need to meet this work experience requirement if you meet the **recent work experience exemption** outlined at page 7.

### Exceptions to basic requirements for applicants in the Skill Matching visa category

#### English language requirement

If you have only functional English (ie. you have achieved an overall band score of 4.5 on the 4 components of the IELTS test) you can apply for this visa. However, if you are nominated from the Skill Matching Database by a State or Territory government you must then pay a tuition fee to upgrade your English language skills to the 'vocational English' level. The fee for this tuition must be paid to a designated English language provider before your visa can be granted. At the time of publication, these English language upgrade arrangements are in place in South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

Skill matching has been designed to help overcome regional skill shortages by helping some migrants to settle in parts of Australia where their skills and abilities are in demand. This is done by placing their details in a **Skill Matching Database**. The database is made available to State and Territory governments and employers who may then nominate an applicant for migration. An abridged version of the database is also available on the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/skills/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/skills/index.htm)

Skill Matching visa applicants may be nominated by a participating State or Territory government (see Skilled – State Territory Nominated Independent on page 10).

Skill matching visa applicants may be nominated by an employer under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) or a Labour Agreement (LA). Information on the RSMS and LA is available on the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/employers/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/employers/index.htm)

If a State or Territory government or employer wishes to nominate you, they will lodge a nomination form with an office of the department. That office will contact the ASPC with advice of the nomination, so that visa processing can be finalised.

For information about individual States and Territories, refer to the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/settle](http://www.immi.gov.au/settle)

## Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 139)

This category is for people who have skills and have a relative living in a designated area of Australia who is willing to sponsor them.

To apply for this category you must:

- **meet the basic requirements** on page 6 with certain exceptions (see page 20);
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL**;
- have a **sponsor who lives in one of the designated areas** listed on page 20. You or your spouse must be **related to the sponsor** as stated on page 9; and
- have an **assurer** (see page 21, **Who can give an Assurance of Support?**).

There is **no points test** under this category.

## Skilled–Australian Sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 138)

**Please note if your sponsor lives in Sydney, Gosford, Newcastle or Wollongong as defined by postcode (see page 21) you can only nominate a skilled occupation that is listed on the SSASSL.**

To apply for this category you must:

- **meet the basic requirements** on page 6;
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL** *or* if your sponsor lives in Sydney, Gosford, Newcastle or Wollongong (as defined by postcode) **nominate a skilled occupation from the SSASSL**;
- have a **sponsor**. You or your spouse must be **related to the sponsor** as stated on page 9;
- have an **assurer** (see page 21, **Who can give an Assurance of Support?**); and
- **pass the points test** (see Part 3).

### Options if you don't meet the Skilled Independent pass mark

If you meet the pool mark:

- you can still lodge an application and register for the Skill Matching Database. Once on the database you may be nominated by a State or Territory government under the State Territory Nominated Independent category or sponsored by an employer under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (see entry on Skill Matching Database on page 10). Note that you must pay the visa application charge on application;

If you are under 45, have vocational English and have a degree, diploma, or trade qualification you can apply for:

- the Skill Matching visa with no initial charge. Applicants are registered on the Skill Matching Database and may be nominated by a State or Territory government under the State Territory Nominated Independent category or sponsored by an employer under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (see entry on Skill Matching Database on page 10). This category is not points tested.

If you are under 45, have vocational English, a degree, diploma, or trade qualification and have a relative, as distant as a first cousin, living in a **designated area** in Australia, you may wish to consider:

- **Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored** category (above). Your relative must be willing to sponsor you and provide financial support. This category is not points tested.

**OR**

If you consider you can score 110 points:

- you may be eligible to lodge an application for a Skilled Independent Regional (Provisional) visa. See the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm)



# Lodging an application

It is important that you lodge your Offshore General Skilled migration application with all the documents necessary to assess your application. Lodging a complete application assists case officers in making a fair and complete assessment of your claims and results in faster processing times. Applications that are not complete may be refused.

## Submitting a valid Offshore General Skilled application

To make a valid **Offshore General Skilled** application, you **must** provide the following at the time you lodge your application, or it will be returned to you as invalid:

- Correctly completed form 47SK *Application for General Skilled Migration to Australia*;
- Correct application charge in Australian dollars payable to DIMIA.  
**Note:** If you are required to pay any other charges, you will be requested in writing by the ASPC;
- Full birth certificate or other evidence of age for **all applicants** included in the application;
- Skills assessment from a relevant assessing authority (including all documents provided to the assessing body with your application for assessment).  
**Note:** You may send a certified copy of your skills assessment, however, the department may request the original skills assessment at a later date;
- The address of where you intend to live while your application is being processed. A Post Office box address will **not** be accepted as your residential address; and
- Application sent by mail to ASPC, GPO Box 1638, Adelaide SA 5001 or sent by courier to ASPC 1st floor, 55 Currie Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

## Other requirements for submitting an application

- You **must nominate** your skilled occupation as specified in the Skilled Occupations List (or Sydney and Selected Areas Skilled Shortage List (SSASSL) if you are applying for a Skilled–Australian Sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 138) and your sponsor lives in Sydney, Gosford, Newcastle or Wollongong as defined by postcode);
- Complete the Checklists for **Additional documents** on page 14 and **Other documents** on page 15 and include each Checklist and the requested documents with your application.

If you apply for **Skilled–Designated Area sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 139)** or **Skilled–Australian Sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 138)** visas, you should also provide the following at the time you lodge your application:

### Sponsorship

- Correctly completed form 40 *Sponsorship for migration to Australia*;
- Evidence that your sponsor is an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand Citizen;
- Evidence of sponsor's relationship to the primary applicant;
- Full birth certificate or other evidence of age for your sponsor; and
- Evidence of your sponsor's residence in a **designated area** of Australia for at least the past 12 months if you are applying for the **Skilled–Designated Area sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 139)** visa;
- Evidence of your sponsor's residence if applying for a **Skilled–Australian Sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 138)**.

## Additional documents

The following documents will be requested during the processing of your application. Please include these documents at the time you lodge your application to ensure the processing of your application is not delayed.

- All family members (whether migrating or not) must include 4 recent passport photos each (45mm x 35mm). The name of the person and their date of birth must be printed on the back of each photograph;
- All applicants must include certified copies of pages in their passport that are not blank. If any applicant obtains a new passport after the application has been lodged, please send certified copies of all the pages of the new passport that are not blank;
- The primary applicant must provide evidence of:
  - recent work experience;

**or**

  - qualifying for the **recent work experience exemption** (see page 7) by meeting the **2 years study in Australia** requirement (see page 4);
- All applicants must include evidence of their English language ability. If IELTS tests are submitted, only **original** documents are acceptable;
- All applicants seeking to meet the points test must include a copy of their curriculum vitae (a statement of work and education history); and
- All applicants seeking to meet the **points test** must include a copy of any employment licence or association membership they hold.
- Each applicant aged 16 years or over, must complete a form 80 *Personal particulars for character assessment*. Include details of all addresses for the past 10 years. If you are a Malaysian Citizen born prior to 1978, please include your old and new National Registration Identity Card (NRIC) numbers.

You **must** include supporting evidence if you are claiming points for the following:

- Specific work experience;
- Job offer;
- Australian qualifications. You must also include certified copies of your degree and your academic record;
- Evidence of study and residence in regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan area;
- Your spouse satisfies the basic requirements; and
- Bonus points. (If you are seeking bonus points for capital investment in Australia, you must make this clear in your application).

▶▶ Please include this checklist with your application

## Other documents

Each dependant of you or your spouse aged 18 years or over (whether migrating or not) must include a completed form 47A *Details of child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or over*, which is available from the department's website

[www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm) or any office of the department.

- For each dependent aged 18 or over in your application, evidence of dependency on you;
- If your spouse does not intend to migrate with you, a note explaining why and whether your spouse intends to join you later;
- If anyone in your application is separated, you must include a Statutory Declaration that gives the name of their spouse, date of marriage and date of separation, and (if the separation is permanent) states that they are getting, or intend getting, a divorce;
- If anyone in your application is married or has been married, you must include a certified copy of the marriage certificate;
- If anyone in your application is in a de facto relationship, you must include evidence that their relationship is genuine and continuing, and they have a commitment to a shared life together;
- If anyone in your application has been divorced, you must include a certified copy of the divorce decree absolute;
- If anyone in your application has been widowed, you must include a certified copy of the death certificate of the deceased spouse;
- If anyone in your application has changed their name (for example, by marriage or deed poll), you must include a certified copy of evidence of the name change;
- If you or your spouse have any children who are not included in this application, you must include certified copies of documents to verify custody and access arrangements for children under 18 years of age;
- If any child under 18 years of age included in your application is adopted, you must include a certified copy of the adoption papers; and
- If your application includes dependent children from a previous marriage/relationship or current relationship of you/your spouse, you must include a copy of the court order showing that you/your spouse has sole custody.

# Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories

## Specific requirements for Eligible New Zealand Citizens in Australia

In addition to the basic requirements listed on page 6, to apply under the Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories you must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant seeking to satisfy the primary criteria must be the holder of a subclass 444 (Special Category) visa;
- The primary applicant and dependants must be in Australia at time of lodgement; and
- For grant of visa, all applicants included in the application must be in Australia.

## Skilled—Onshore Independent New Zealand Citizen (Class DB, subclass 861)

You must be highly skilled and have education, a high level of English language ability and employability which will contribute to the Australian economy.

To apply for this category you must:

- **satisfy the basic requirements** at page 6;
- **pass the points test** (see Part 3); and
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL.**

## Skilled—Onshore Designated Area Sponsored New Zealand Citizen (Class DB, subclass 863)

Under this category, the Australian Government is seeking skilled migrants to settle in certain regions of Australia.

To apply for this category you must:

- **meet the basic requirements** on page 6 with certain exceptions (see page 20);
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL;**
- have a **sponsor who lives in one of the designated areas** listed on page 20. You or your spouse must be **related to the sponsor** as stated on page 9; and
- have an **assurer** (see page 21, **Who can give an Assurance of Support?**).

There is **no points test** under this category.

## Skilled—Onshore Australian Sponsored New Zealand Citizen (Class DB, subclass 862)

This category is designed for potential skilled migrants whose sponsor lives outside the designated areas listed on page 20.

To apply for this category you must:

- **satisfy the basic requirements** on page 6;
- **pass the points test** (see Part 3);
- **nominate a skilled occupation from the SOL;**
- have a **sponsor**. You or your spouse must be **related to the sponsor** as stated on page 9; and
- have an **assurer** (see page 21, **Who can give an Assurance of Support?**).

# Lodging an application

It is important that you lodge your Onshore New Zealand Citizen migration application with all the documents necessary to assess your application. Lodging a complete application assists case officers in making a fair and complete assessment of your claims and results in faster processing times. Applications that are not complete may be refused.

## Submitting a valid Onshore New Zealand Citizen application

To make a valid **Onshore New Zealand Citizen** application, you **must** be in Australia and provide the following at the time you lodge your application, or it will be returned to you as invalid:

- Correctly completed form 47SK *Application for General Skilled Migration to Australia*;
- Correct application charge in Australian dollars payable to DIMIA.  
**Note:** If you are required to pay any other charges, you will be requested in writing by the ASPC;
- Skills assessment from a relevant assessing authority (including all documents provided to the assessing body with your application for assessment).  
**Note:** You may send a certified copy of your skills assessment, however, the department may request the original skills assessment at a later date;
- Full birth certificate or other evidence of age **for all persons included in the application**;
- Provide the address of where you intend to live while your application is being processed. A Post Office box address will **not** be accepted as your residential address; and
- Application sent to ASPC GPO Box 1638, Adelaide SA 5001 or sent by courier to ASPC 1st floor, 55 Currie Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

## Other requirements for submitting an application

- You **must nominate** your skilled occupation as specified in the Skilled Occupations List.
- Complete the checklists for **Additional documents** on page 18 and **Other documents** on page 19 and include each checklist and the requested documents with your application.

If you apply for **Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored New Zealand Citizen (Class DB, subclass 863)** or **Skilled–Australian Sponsored New Zealand Citizen (Class DB, subclass 862)** visas, you **must** also provide the following at the time you lodge your application:

### Sponsorship

- Correctly completed form 40 *Sponsorship for migration to Australia*;
- Evidence that your sponsor is an Australian citizen, permanent resident or Eligible New Zealand Citizen;
- Evidence of sponsor's relationship to the primary applicant;
- Full birth certificate or other proof of age for your sponsor; and
- Evidence of your sponsor's residence in a **designated area** of Australia for at least the past 12 months if you are applying for the **Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored New Zealand Citizen (Class DB, subclass 863)** visa.

## Additional documents

The following documents will be requested during the processing of your application. Please include these documents at the time you lodge your application to ensure the processing of your application is not delayed.

- All family members (whether migrating or not) must include 4 recent passport photos each (45mm x 35mm). The name of the person and their date of birth must be printed on the back of each photograph;
- All applicants must include certified copies of pages in their passport that are not blank. If any applicant obtains a new passport after the application has been lodged, please send certified copies of all the pages of the new passport that are not blank;
- The primary applicant must provide evidence of either:
  - recent work experience,
  - or**
  - qualifying for the **recent work experience exemption** (see page 7) by meeting the **2 years study in Australia** requirement (see page 4);
- All applicants must include evidence of their English language ability. If IELTS tests are submitted, only **original** documents are acceptable;
- All applicants seeking to meet the **points test** must include a copy of their curriculum vitae (a statement of your work and education history); and
- All applicants seeking to meet the **points test** must include a copy of any employment licence or association membership they hold.
- Each applicant aged 16 years or over, must complete a form 80 *Personal particulars for character assessment*. Include details of all addresses for the past 10 years. If you are a Malaysian Citizen born prior to 1978, please include your old and new National Registration Identity Card (NRIC) numbers;

You **must** include supporting evidence if you are claiming points for the following:

- Specific work experience;
- Job offer;
- Australian qualifications. You must also include certified copies of your qualification(s) and your academic record;
- Evidence of study and residence in regional Australia;
- Your spouse satisfies the basic requirements; and
- Bonus points. (If you are seeking bonus points for capital investment in Australia, you must make this clear in your application).

## Other documents

- Each dependant of you or your spouse aged 18 years or over (whether migrating or not) must include a completed form 47A *Details of Child or Other Dependent Family Member Aged 18 Years or Over*, which is available from the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm) or any office of the department;
- For each dependent aged 18 years or over in your application, evidence of dependency on you;
- If your spouse does not intend to migrate with you, a note explaining why and whether your spouse intends to join you later;
- If anyone in your application is separated, you must include a Statutory Declaration that gives the name of their spouse, date of marriage and date of separation, and (if the separation is permanent) states that they are getting, or intend getting, a divorce;
- If anyone in your application is married or has been married, you must include a certified copy of the marriage certificate;
- If anyone in your application is in a de facto relationship, you must include evidence that their relationship is genuine and continuing, and they have a commitment to a shared life together;
- If anyone in your application has been divorced, you must include a certified copy of the divorce decree absolute;
- If anyone in your application has been widowed, you must include a certified copy of the death certificate of the deceased spouse;
- If anyone in your application has changed their name (for example, by marriage or deed poll), you must include a certified copy of evidence of the name change;
- If you or your spouse have any children who are not included in this application, you must include certified copies of documents to verify custody and access arrangements for children under 18 years of age;
- If any child under 18 years of age included in your application is adopted, you must include a certified copy of the adoption papers; and
- If your application includes dependent children from a previous marriage/relationship or current relationship of you/your spouse, you must include a copy of the court order showing that you/your spouse has sole custody.

▶▶ Please include this checklist with your application

# Designated areas

Your sponsor must have lived, and still live, in one of the following designated areas for the last 12 months. For the most up-to-date information check the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm)

State or Territory	Designated area
Victoria	Anywhere
South Australia	Anywhere
Northern Territory	Anywhere
Tasmania	Anywhere
Australian Capital Territory	Anywhere
Queensland	Postcode areas 4019–4028, 4037–4050, 4079–4100, 4114, 4118, 4124–4150, 4158–4168, 4180–4899 (anywhere except Brisbane metropolitan area)
Western Australia	Postcode areas 6042–6044, 6051, 6126, 6200–6799 (anywhere except Perth metropolitan area)
New South Wales	Postcode areas 2311–2312, 2328–2333, 2336–2490, 2535–2551, 2575–2739, 2787–2898 (anywhere except Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong)

## Exceptions to basic requirements for applicants in the Designated Area Sponsored categories

### English language requirement

If you do not have **vocational English** as defined at page 27, you may qualify under this category if you have achieved an overall band score of 4.5 on the 4 components of IELTS test (functional English). To take up this option you must have made acceptable arrangements with a **participating State or Territory government** (at the time of publication the participating states are South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Tasmania) to upgrade your English skills to the 'vocational English' level. To access this option your sponsor must live in a **participating State or Territory**, and also must live in a **designated area**.

Such arrangements require a fee to be paid for this tuition to an agency in the participating State/Territory before your visa can be granted.

### Recent work experience requirement

If your nominated occupation is worth **60 points** for skill you must have been in employment in any occupation on the list of skilled occupations (see form 1121i) for at least 6 out of the 12 months before applying for migration.

If your nominated occupation is worth **40 or 50 points** for skill you must have been in employment in any occupation on the list of skilled occupations (see form 1121i) for at least 12 out of the 18 months before applying for migration.

You **do not** need to meet this work experience requirement if you meet the **recent work experience exemption** outlined at page 7.



# Sydney and selected areas

If you are applying for a **Skilled–Australian Sponsored (Class BQ, subclass 138)** visa and your sponsor lives in one of the following areas you **must** nominate an occupation listed on the Sydney and Selected Areas Skilled Shortage List (SSASSL) available on form 1121i. See [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)

Area	Postcode
Sydney	1000-1920, 2000-2249, 2555-2574, 2740-2786
Gosford	2250-2263
Newcastle	2264-2279, 2280-2300, 2302-2310
Wollongong	2500-2530

## Assurance of Support

### What is an Assurance of Support?

An Assurance of Support (AoS) is an undertaking to provide financial support to the person applying to migrate so that the migrant will not have to rely on certain social security payments that can be recovered by the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is also a legal commitment by a person or persons to repay to the Commonwealth of Australia any recoverable social security payments made by Centrelink to those covered by the assurance. The assurance is in force for 2 years. If you are applying under the Offshore General Skilled categories, your assurance will be in force from the date you arrive in Australia after your migrant visa is granted. If you are applying under the Onshore New Zealand Citizen categories, your assurance will be in force from the date you are granted permanent residence.

Assurances cover the primary applicant and the family included in the application.

### Who needs an Assurance of Support?

Applicants applying for migration under the **Skilled–Designated Area Sponsored** categories or **Skilled–Australian Sponsored** categories **must** provide an AoS. Applicants applying for migration under the Skilled Independent categories who are assessed by the department as being at risk of becoming a charge on the Australian social welfare budget may be requested to provide a discretionary Assurance of Support.

### Who can give an Assurance of Support?

For full details on who can give an assurance and the list of documents required to support this, please ring Centrelink on 132 850 or refer to AoS details on Centrelink's website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au). If overseas call 61 3 6222 3455.

### Giving an Assurance of Support

The department will advise you in writing when you should ask your prospective assurer to lodge an AoS application with Centrelink.

## What bonds and charges apply?

For required AoS cases, a bond applies for the primary applicant and for each person aged 18 years or over included in the application. For the bond amounts, see form 990i *Charges* or the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)

Centrelink will advise you on the process for depositing the bond.

## Costs and charges

All costs and charges are in Australian dollars (A\$). Payment must be made in Australian dollars.

Where it is a charge by the department (eg. application charge), you can check the amount listed in form 990i *Charges* which is available in the Forms section of the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)

### Skills assessment

Before you lodge an application for General Skilled Migration, there will be a charge for the assessment of your skills for your nominated occupation imposed by the relevant assessing authority. For information about the assessing authorities see form 1121i included in the General Skilled Migration pack or on the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)

### Application charge or first instalment

Payment must accompany your application and is generally not refunded if the application is unsuccessful. Please pay by any major credit card, debit card or by bank cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. **Please do not pay by cash or personal cheque.**

If members of your family unit are included in your application, only one application charge is payable for the entire family unit. If a separate application is made by them at a later date, a separate charge is payable.

If you are applying for the Skill Matching category there is no initial application charge.

### Second instalment visa application charge (English language tuition)

Members of your family unit aged 18 years or over included in your application who have been assessed as not having functional English language skills will be required to pay a second instalment charge (see form 990i *Charges*) which entitles them to English language tuition in Australia to achieve functional English. The full amount of this charge must be paid before a visa can be granted to you. Members of your family unit who are able to demonstrate functional English ability (eg. obtain an overall band score of 4.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)) do not have to pay this charge. Applicants who pay this charge will receive information about the Adult Migrant English Program and where they can receive their tuition when the visa is granted.

## Assurance of Support Bond

If you are applying for the following visas, a refundable 'Assurance of Support' bond must be paid before a visa can be granted:

- Skilled-Australian Sponsored;
- Skilled-Onshore Australian Sponsored New Zealand Citizen;
- Skilled-Designated Area Sponsored; or
- Skilled-Onshore Designated Area Sponsored New Zealand Citizen.

The bond amounts are listed in form 990i *Charges*. For more information on Assurance of Support see page 21 of this booklet.

## English proficiency testing

You may need to sit an IELTS test to demonstrate your English ability. For test centres see form 1220i. Health professions require an Occupational English Test, (OET) as part of the qualification assessment. The cost for these tests is a matter between you and the provider.

For more information on the OET you should contact Language Australia, GPO Box 372F, Melbourne VIC, 3001 (website [www.oet.com.au](http://www.oet.com.au))

## Medical costs

You and members of your family may be required to undergo a medical and x-ray examination. The cost of the examination is a matter between you and the doctor undertaking the examination.

## Other costs

You should also be prepared to pay other costs associated with your application, such as those required to obtain a character clearance (see page 38) from authorities in your country, and the cost of certified translations of some documents.

### Skill Matching category only

If you are applying under the Skill Matching category there is no initial application charge.

If you are subsequently nominated by either a State/Territory government or an employer, you will be required to pay the visa application charge. In addition to this charge you will also be required to pay an English language charge for every dependant aged 18 years or over who is assessed as not having a functional level of English. You must also pay any other charges incurred in meeting the requirements for this visa. However, if you are not nominated within a 2-year period, your application will be refused and you will not be required to pay any additional charges. For further details, see form 990i *Charges*, check on the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm) or contact any office of the department.

# PART 3

## Points test and self-assessment

### About the points test

If you apply under the:

- **Skilled—Independent**; or
- **Skilled—Australian Sponsored**;

categories, you will be assessed against a **points test**.

#### You are awarded points for:

- skill;
- age;
- English language ability;
- specific work experience;
- occupation in demand (and job offer);
- Australian qualifications;
- Regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas – study and residence;
- State/Territory sponsorship (for Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) (Subclass 495) visa applicants only);
- spouse skills;
- relationship (for Skilled–Australian Sponsored only).

You may also receive bonus points for **one** of the following:

- capital investment in Australia; **OR**
- Australian work experience; **OR**
- fluency in one of Australia’s community languages (other than English) (see page 35).

#### Pass mark and pool mark

**You must gain sufficient points to reach the pass mark in effect on the day you lodge your application.** The pass mark changes from time to time. Check the department’s website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm) for the current pass mark.

Applications which achieve a score below the pass mark (but above another mark, known as the ‘pool mark’) will be held in reserve for up to 2 years after assessment.

If the pass mark is lowered at any time in that 2 year period, and your score is equal to, or higher than, the new pass mark, your case will be processed further.

For options if you do not meet the pass mark see page 12.

#### Points allocation/pre-assessment requests

The department will **not** provide individual advice to applicants regarding their points score or ability to meet the pass mark.

## Self-assessment

Complete the Self-assessment form as you go through the rest of this section. This will give you an indication of how successful your application might be.

If you have a **spouse**, it may be worthwhile to also obtain a skills and English language assessment for your spouse to see whose application may have the best chance of success. When making your assessment remember that either you or your spouse must meet the pass mark individually.

If your spouse's skills are to be used for the skills component of the points test (see below), a skills assessment for your spouse **must** be lodged when you apply, otherwise they cannot be taken into account.

## Self-assessment form

### Complete this form as you go through the rest of this section

It will give you an indication of how successful your application might be.

**Note:** A self-assessment should not be seen as a guarantee of success. Your actual application will be rigorously assessed on the information and evidence you provide, using the pass mark which applies at the time of lodgement.

	Points	
	Self	Spouse
Skill		
Age		
English language ability		
Specific work experience		
Occupation in demand/job offer		
Australian qualifications		
Regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas		
State/Territory sponsorship points [Skilled-Independent Regional (Provisional) visa applicants ONLY]		
Spouse skills		
Bonus points		
<b>Total points for the Skilled-Independent categories</b>		
<b>Relationship-add 15 points to the higher score above</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Total points for the Skilled-Australian Sponsored categories</b>		



## points for Skill

The occupation you nominate must be on the Skilled Occupations List current at the time you apply (see form 1121i), and should be one which fits your skills and qualifications.

You receive the points allocated for your nominated occupation as long as the relevant assessing authority for your nominated skilled occupation determines that your skills are suitable.

**60 points** – for most occupations where training is specific to the occupation.

In most cases, you must have a qualification (such as a degree or trade certificate) and experience which meets the relevant Australian standards and which is specifically related to your nominated occupation and be able to meet any registration requirements in Australia. In some cases, experience without formal qualifications may be acceptable.

**50 points** – for more general professional occupations.

You must have a qualification equivalent to an Australian bachelor degree or higher qualification (but it need not be specifically related to your nominated occupation).

**40 points** – for other general skilled occupations.

You must have a qualification equivalent to an Australian diploma or advanced diploma (but it need not be specifically related to your nominated occupation).

**A 'Preparing for your application' box (such as the one below) appears on each of the following pages in this section. They are not necessary for your self-assessment but are important steps to take before completing your application form.**

### Preparing for your application

1. Before you apply, you and/or your spouse **must** have your skills **assessed** by the relevant assessing authority for your nominated occupation. (Form 1121i tells you what you have to do.) The assessment will determine if your skills are suitable for your nominated occupation.
2. Your skills assessment **must be included with your application**. You **cannot** lodge a valid application without including a skills assessment from the Australian assessing authority for your nominated occupation.
3. You **must** also include with your application certified copies of all the documents provided to the assessing body.

## points for Age

Age at time of application	Points
18–29 years	<b>30</b>
30–34 years	<b>25</b>
35–39 years	<b>20</b>
40–44 years	<b>15</b>

### Preparing for your application

1. Obtain your **birth certificate** or other proof of age.
2. Proof of age should be **included with your application**.

## points for English language ability

English language ability	IELTS Standard	Points
<p><b>Competent English</b></p> <p>You must have a generally effective command of the language. You must be able to use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.</p>	<p>IELTS score of at least 6 on <b>each</b> of the 4 components of the test—speaking, reading, writing and listening.</p>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>Vocational English</b></p> <p>You must have a reasonable command of the English language, coping with overall meaning in most situations. You must be able to communicate effectively in your own field of employment.</p>	<p>IELTS score of at least 5 on <b>each</b> of the 4 components of the test—speaking, reading, writing and listening.</p>	<b>15</b>

### Preparing for your application

1. Before you apply, you are encouraged to obtain proof of your English language ability.

#### Competent English

You must provide evidence that:

- (i) you are a **native English speaker**; or
- (ii) you have a band score of at least 6, from a maximum of 9, for all 4 components (speaking, reading, listening and writing) of the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** test.

#### Vocational English

You must provide evidence that:

- (i) you have undertaken **post-secondary studies at an institution where all instruction was in English**; or
- (ii) you have a band score of at least 5, from a maximum of 9, for all 4 components (speaking, reading, listening and writing) of the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** test.

#### Occupational English

If requested by the assessing authority for your nominated occupation, you must pass an **occupational English** test (or equivalent). This will give you points for **competent English** enabling you to score the maximum 20 points for English language ability.

2. IELTS has an academic test and a general training test – **you need only take the general training test** (unless otherwise advised by your skills assessing authority). IELTS test centres are listed on form 1220i. Further information relating to IELTS testing is on the website [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)
3. If there is any doubt about your ability in the English language, we may ask you to undertake an IELTS test, if you have not already done so. Waiver of the IELTS test is at the **discretion of the migration officer** processing your application.
4. You should include evidence of your ability in the English language **with your application**. If you are providing IELTS test results as evidence of your English language ability, you need only provide the Test Report Form (TRF) Number that is included on your IELTS certificate.

## points for **Specific work experience**

This is different to **recent work experience** (see page 7) which is a basic requirement for the General Skilled Migration categories.

	Points
If your nominated occupation is worth <b>60 points</b> under Skill and you have worked in your <b>nominated occupation</b> , or a closely related 60 point occupation, for at least 3 of the 4 years <b>immediately</b> before you apply	<b>10</b>
If your nominated occupation is worth <b>40, 50 or 60 points</b> under Skill, and you have worked in <b>skilled employment</b> (any occupations listed on the Skilled Occupations List, see form 1121i) for at least 3 of the 4 years <b>immediately</b> before you apply	<b>5</b>

If you are using work experience obtained in Australia to meet this factor, that work must have been undertaken while you were the holder of a substantive visa authorising you to work.

### Preparing for your application

1. Obtain evidence such as **employment references** and detailed duty statements covering the required period. (These documents may also be required in order to satisfy the recent work experience basic requirement). Employment references must:
  - be written on the official letterhead of the company or government department providing the reference;
  - The letterhead should indicate clearly the full address of the company and any telephone, fax numbers, e-mail and website addresses;
  - The name and position of the person authorised to sign the employment reference should be typed or stamped below that person's signature – a reference with an illegible signature will not be accepted;
  - The contact telephone number of the person writing the reference should be included in the letter;
  - The letter should indicate the exact period of employment (including whether permanent or temporary, full or part-time), position/s held, the 5 main duties undertaken and the salary earned – positions should not be described by generic titles (eg. research officer, public servant) but according to the nature of the duties undertaken (eg. research chemist, accounts clerk);
  - A payslip from your current employment should also be included – this is especially important from applicants working in government departments.
2. For you to receive these points, documentary evidence should be **included with your application**.



## points for Occupation in demand/job offer

The Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) is a list of occupations that have been identified as being in demand in Australia. The occupations on the MODL change from time to time. Check the department's website

[www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm) for the current occupations.

	Points
If your <b>nominated occupation</b> is in demand (on the MODL current at the time your application is assessed) and you have a <b>job offer</b> for full time employment in Australia in your nominated occupation from an organisation that has employed at least 10 people on a full time basis for the 24 months immediately prior to the date your application was lodged	<b>20</b>
If your <b>nominated occupation</b> is in demand (on the MODL current at the time your application is assessed) but you do not have a job offer	<b>15</b>

## Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL)

The MODL is current at the time of publication of this booklet. Before you lodge your application, **check the latest MODL** on the department's website

[www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm) as the MODL is subject to change.

Please note your occupation will need to be on the MODL at the time your application is assessed **in order to be awarded points**.

Occupation	ASCO Code
<b>Professionals</b>	
Accountant	2211-11
Medical Practitioner – General Medical Practitioner	2311-11
– Anaesthetist	2312-11
– Dermatologist	2312-13
– Emergency Medicine Specialist	2312-15
– Obstetrician and Gynaecologist	2312-17
– Ophthalmologist	2312-19
– Paediatrician	2312-21
– Pathologist	2312-23
– Specialist Physician	2312-25
– Psychiatrist	2312-27
– Radiologist	2312-29
– Surgeon	2312-31
– Specialist Medical Practitioners (not elsewhere classified)	2312-79
Registered Nurses	2323
Registered Midwives	2324
Registered Mental Health Nurses	2325
Hospital Pharmacists	2382-11
Retail Pharmacists	2382-15
Occupational Therapists	2383
Physiotherapists	2385
Medical Diagnostic Radiographers	2391-11

Occupation	ASCO Code
<b>Professionals (continued)</b>	
Radiation Therapists	2391-13
Sonographers	2391-17
<b>Associate professionals</b>	
Chefs (excluding Commis Chef)*	3322 (part)
<b>Tradespersons</b>	
Automotive Electrician	4212-11
Fitter	4112-11
Furniture Upholsterer	4942-11
Hairdresser	4931-11
Metal Fabricator (Boilermaker)	4122-11
Metal Machinist (First Class)	4112-13
Motor Mechanic	4211-11
Panel Beater	4213-11
Pastry Cook	4512-13
Refrigeration and Airconditioning Mechanic	4312-11
Sheet Metal Worker (First Class)	4124-11
Toolmaker	4113-11
Vehicle Painter	4214-11
Welder (First Class)	4122-15

\*Chefs would normally be expected to have a relevant trade level (or higher) qualification, and at least 3 years relevant experience following the completion of that formal qualification.

### Preparing for your application

To receive extra points for a job offer, **documentary evidence** of the job offer should be **included with your application**. The organisation making the job offer must also indicate the number of people it has employed on a full time basis for the previous 2 years. Please note that the department will check to ensure this information is correct.

## points for Australian qualifications

Applicants with Australian qualifications have a greater chance of employment in Australia.

You may receive points for **one** of the following Australian qualifications that was completed whilst present in Australia and where all the instruction was in English:

	Points
<p>You have completed an Australian doctorate at an Australian educational institution after a period of at least 2 years full time (2 academic years) while in Australia</p> <p><b>OR</b></p>	<b>15</b>
<p>You have completed an Australian Masters or Honours degree (at least upper second class level) as a result of at least 1 year of study at an Australian educational institution while in Australia, <b>and</b></p> <p>before completing your Masters or Honours degree, you completed an Australian Bachelor degree as a result of at least 1 year of study at an Australian educational institution while in Australia, <b>and</b></p> <p>the total period of Australian full time study completed for the award of these qualifications was at least 2 years (2 academic years).</p> <p><b>OR</b></p>	<b>10</b>
<p>You have completed an Australian degree, diploma or trade qualification while in Australia, <b>and</b></p> <p>you have studied full time in Australia for a total of at least 2 years (2 academic years) towards the award of a degree, diploma or trade qualification.</p>	<b>5</b>

### Preparing for your application

1. For you to receive these points, a **certified copy of your qualifications** and/or a certified copy of notification of your results and a transcript of your academic record (degree, diploma, certificate, etc.) should be **included with your application**.
2. You do **not** need to meet the recent work experience requirement if you have completed your Australian qualification **less than 6 months** before lodging your migration application (see page 6, **Basic requirements**).

If you intend taking advantage of this concession you should note that the 6 month period begins from **the date of completion** of the qualification, and **not** from the date the qualification was conferred.

## points for regional Australia

Applicants who are claiming points for Australian qualifications may also claim points for having lived and studied for at least 2 years in regional Australia or low population growth metropolitan areas:

	Points
You have lived and studied for at least 2 years in one or more areas in regional Australia or low population growth metropolitan areas	5

### Regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas

You must have lived and studied for at least 2 years in one or more regional areas or low population growth metropolitan areas to meet the 'lived and studied in regional Australia/ low population growth metropolitan areas' requirement.

For details about the regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas and campuses check the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm) or contact the ASPC.

### Preparing for your application

- Obtain evidence that you have lived and studied in regional Australia/low population growth metropolitan areas:
  - you will need evidence of residency which spans the 2 year period – this will usually include documents such as rental agreements and gas, power and telephone bills; and
  - you may need to provide supplementary evidence of studying at a campus in regional Australia or a low population growth metropolitan area if your academic transcript does not identify the campus.
- To receive these points, documentary evidence should be **included with your application**.

## points for State/Territory sponsorship

You are only eligible to be awarded these points if you are applying for the Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) (subclass 495) visa, and have obtained sponsorship from an authorised State or Territory government agency.

Detailed information on eligibility requirements for the Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) (subclass 495) visa is available from the department’s website at

[www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/sir\\_495/about\\_495.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/sir_495/about_495.htm)

The table below sets out the points available under this part of the points test.

	Points
If you are sponsored by an authorised State or Territory government agency for the Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) (subclass 495) visa	10

### Preparing for your application

You must provide evidence that you have been sponsored for the Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) (subclass 495) visa with your application. Usually this evidence will be form 1244 *State/Territory Sponsorship: Skilled Independent Regional (Provisional) class*, completed by an authorised State or Territory government agency.

Other evidence to confirm sponsorship may be acceptable but only if it has been supplied by an authorised signatory from a participating State or Territory government agency.

Further information regarding the sponsorship process for the Skilled–Independent Regional (Provisional) (subclass 495) visa is available from the department’s website at

[www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/sir\\_495/about\\_495.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/sir_495/about_495.htm)

## points for Spouse skills

	Points
You may receive points if your spouse is also able to <b>satisfy the basic requirements</b> of age, English language ability, qualifications, nominated occupation and recent work experience and has obtained a suitable skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority for their nominated occupation (see form 1121i).	5

### Preparing for your application

1. Obtain evidence that your spouse satisfies the basic requirements:

- a suitable skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority for your spouse’s nominated occupation (see ‘Self-assessment’ on page 25);
- evidence of age (see ‘points for Age’ on page 26);
- evidence of English language ability (see page 27); and
- evidence of recent work experience (see page 7) or recent Australian qualifications (see page 31).

2. Your spouse should provide a positive skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority **at the time of application**.

## Bonus points

You may receive points for **one** of the following:

- capital investment in Australia; **OR**
- Australian work experience; **OR**
- fluency in one of Australia's community languages (other than English).

### Capital investment in Australia

You must have invested a minimum of \$100,000 in an approved government investment for a term of at least 12 months. To be awarded points for this factor you need to make this clear in your application. However, **you should wait until you receive written advice from the migration officer processing your case, before you proceed with your investment.**

Enquiries should be directed to one of the following authorities that offer this approved investment facility:

#### New South Wales Treasury Corporation Registry

GPO Box 7045  
SYDNEY NSW 1115  
AUSTRALIA  
E-mail: [nswtcorp@computershare.com.au](mailto:nswtcorp@computershare.com.au)

#### Northern Territory Treasury Corporation

GPO Box 2035  
DARWIN NT 0801  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 61 8 8999 7745  
E-mail: [territory.bonds@nt.gov.au](mailto:territory.bonds@nt.gov.au)  
Website: [www.territorybonds.nt.gov.au](http://www.territorybonds.nt.gov.au)

#### Queensland Treasury Corporation

Level 14  
61 Mary Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 61 7 3842 4642 or 61 7 3842 4644  
Fax: 61 7 3221 2486  
E-mail: [smoore@qtc.com.au](mailto:smoore@qtc.com.au), or  
[pmclaran@qtc.com.au](mailto:pmclaran@qtc.com.au)  
Website: [www.qtc.qld.gov.au](http://www.qtc.qld.gov.au)

#### South Australian Government Financing Authority

Level 5  
200 Victoria Square  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: 61 8 8226 9428  
Fax: 61 8 8226 9496  
E-mail: [SAFA.mail@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:SAFA.mail@saugov.sa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.safa.sa.gov.au](http://www.safa.sa.gov.au)

#### Western Australia Treasury Corporation

PO Box 7282  
Cloisters Square  
PERTH WA 6850  
AUSTRALIA  
E-mail: [settlements@watc.wa.gov.au](mailto:settlements@watc.wa.gov.au)

### Australian work experience

You must have been employed in Australia in a skilled occupation listed on the Skilled Occupation List in form 1121i for a period(s) totalling, at least 6 months in the 48 months immediately before the day on which your application was made while holding a substantive visa authorising you to work. Work undertaken in Australia while you are holding a bridging visa cannot be counted for claiming these points.

## Fluency in one of Australia’s community languages (other than English)

The language must be on the list of community languages below. You must have professional level language skills (written or oral) as evidenced by a qualification (of equivalent standard to an Australian degree) gained from a university where instruction was in one of the listed languages or by accreditation with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) at the professional level (Translator/Interpreter Level).

NAATI can provide tests in a wide range of languages both within Australia and at many overseas locations. For further information please refer to the NAATI website

[www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au)

*Afrikaans	Korean
Albanian	Lao
Arabic/Lebanese	*Latvian
*Armenian	*Lithuanian
Bangla (Bengali)	Macedonian
Bosnian	Malay
Bulgarian	Maltese
Burmese	*Norwegian
Chinese-Cantonese	Persian
Chinese-Mandarin	Polish
Croatian	Portuguese
Czech	Punjabi
*Danish	Romanian
Dutch	Russian
*Estonian	Serbian
Fijian	Sinhalese
Filipino (Tagalog)	Slovak
Finnish	*Slovene
French	Spanish
German	*Swedish
Greek	Tamil
*Hebrew	Thai
Hindi	Turkish
Hungarian	Ukrainian
Indonesian	Urdu
Italian	Vietnamese
Japanese	*Yiddish
Khmer	

\* Testing by NAATI unavailable. Bonus points will need to be based on tertiary qualifications as specified above.

	Points
You cannot receive more than 5 points for this factor. If you are able to satisfy more than one of the above, you receive only 5 points.	5

### Preparing for your application

To receive these points, you must include **with your application** a copy of your degree, academic transcript, and a letter from the university stating the language in which your course was conducted, or evidence of your NAATI accreditation.

## points for Relationship

Applies only to applicants under the **Skilled—Australian Sponsored** categories.

	Points
<p>You may receive points if you or your spouse have a relative who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is an Australian citizen or permanent resident; and</li> <li>• is willing to sponsor you.</li> </ul> <p>You or your spouse must be related to the sponsor as either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a non-dependent child (a natural, adoptive or step-child);</li> <li>• a parent;</li> <li>• a brother or sister (a natural, adoptive or step-sibling); or</li> <li>• a niece or nephew (a natural, adoptive or step-niece or nephew).</li> </ul>	<b>15</b>

### Preparing for your application

1. Obtain evidence that you or your spouse are related to the sponsor, such as **birth certificates, marriage certificates and family registers**.
2. Obtain a **Sponsorship for Migration to Australia** (your sponsor should complete form 40 *Sponsorship for Migration* and return it to you).
3. The completed form 40 and supporting documentation must be **included in your application**.



# PART 4

## Health and character

### Health

#### Strict health standards

You and all dependent family members must meet strict health standards designed to protect Australia from high health risks and costs, and overuse of scarce health resources such as organs for transplant.

Form 1071i *Health requirements for permanent visas* provides additional information on Australia's visa health requirements. This form is available from the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)

#### Health examination

You will be asked to undertake an examination by a doctor, selected by Australian authorities. Usually, a chest x-ray, medical examination, some laboratory or specialist tests and referral to Medical Officers of the Commonwealth for final decision will be required. This can be a lengthy process and the costs will be your responsibility. **All** members of your immediate **family** must meet the standards for your application to be successful. Dependants who are not planning to migrate must also be examined.

Forms for your medical examination, together with directions to listed doctors, will be provided by staff processing your migration application. If you are pregnant, you are advised not to be x-rayed until after the birth of your baby, meaning that your application may not be finished until then. Alternatively, although not preferred by the Australian Government, you may care to discuss with your radiologist the use of a lead shielded x-ray.

#### Health conditions of concern

In view of the World Health Organisation's declaration of a global epidemic of tuberculosis, particular care is taken to screen for this disease including stringent treatment recommendations where signs of earlier infection, however small or old, are apparent.

Australia has one of the lowest rates of tuberculosis in the world and maintains one of the strictest regimes for screening and treatment. Detection of the disease will not lead to automatic rejection, but your application may only continue after recommended treatment and successful retesting.

Other health conditions of concern are those where a person is assessed by Australian authorities as requiring treatment, support or assistance which are considered to be in short supply, or which cost a significant amount. This may differ from treatment in your country.

The department is authorised to collect information under the *Migration Act 1958*. The information, including the results of any tests for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), will be used to assess you and your family's health for an Australian visa. A positive HIV or other test result will not necessarily lead to a visa being denied. Your result(s) may be disclosed to the relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory Health agencies.

## Doctors

Doctors may charge you in accordance with their usual practice. They may recommend that you undertake other treatment or specialist consultations. This may be in your own interest because listed doctors know what is required for the assessment of your examination results in Australia. Listed doctors complete the examination form in English.

## Basis for decision

A decision is made on, first, any detection of tuberculosis, however old or small, and then, of medical conditions which are likely to result in significant health treatment and community service costs in Australia, or which may use treatment or services in short supply. Some allowance is made for normal health and welfare costs (calculated as a multiple of average annual costs for an Australian). When the Medical Officer of the Commonwealth is of the opinion that an applicant's costs are beyond these and are therefore significant, this generally leads to refusal. The cost assessment takes no regard of whether a person has or intends to take private health insurance or make other financial or nursing arrangements to lessen the claim on public funds.

# Character

To enter Australia, applicants must be of good character.

In order for the Australian Government to determine whether you are of good character, you may be asked to provide police certificates for each country you have resided in for 12 months or more over the last 10 years, including Australia. Form 47P *Character requirements: penal clearance certificates* contains information about how to obtain these certificates and is available free from the department's website

**[www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)**

**Note:** Some penal checks from some countries may take up to 12 months to obtain. The department is unable to accelerate this process.

In some instances, applicants may also be required to provide personal details to enable additional character checks to be undertaken. Please complete and include with your application, a form 80 *Personal particulars for character assessment* for each applicant aged 16 years or over included in your application. This form is available free from the department's website **[www.immi.gov.au/forms\\_booklets/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/forms_booklets/index.htm)**

Applicants for **Offshore General Skilled** and **Onshore New Zealand Citizen** categories who have lived in Australia for 12 months in the last 10 years are not required to lodge Australian Federal Police (AFP) clearances with their application, **however**, they are encouraged to do so. Applicants who lodge complete applications receive faster processing.

# PART 5

## General information

### Dependants

Your application may cover a family unit; a primary applicant and, if applicable, spouse and dependants.

#### Spouse

Your spouse is the person with whom you live as husband and wife, either legally married or in a de facto (common law) relationship. If you are married, you must include a certified copy of your marriage certificate. If you are in a de facto relationship, you must include evidence that your relationship is genuine and continuing, and you have a commitment to a shared life together.

#### Dependent children

A dependent child may be your natural, adopted or step child. 'Step-child' means a natural or adopted child of your current spouse or a natural or adopted child of your former spouse where the child is under 18 and you have a legal responsibility to care for them (for example, where your former spouse is deceased and you have legal custody of the child). You will need to provide a certified copy of the overseas or Australian court order which you have in relation to the child.

A child of any age is not considered dependent if he or she is married or in a de facto/common law relationship or is engaged to be married.

A child aged 18 years or over will not be considered dependent unless you can show that they are wholly or substantially reliant on you for financial support for their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing. You must also show that you have provided that support for a substantial period and that the child is more reliant on you than on any other person or source. Unless you can provide evidence of this, they should apply separately. You should also be aware that a child aged 25 years or over will generally not be considered dependent.

Children of any age who have a total or partial loss of bodily or mental functions which stops them earning a living are regarded as dependent and part of the family unit (whether or not they migrate with you). Give details of such children and whether they are in your care or in an institution.

**In all cases you should attach evidence of your child's dependency on you.**

## Other dependants

You may include other relatives in your application if they are wholly or substantially reliant on you for financial support for their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing and they have been reliant on you for that support for a substantial period. They must also be more reliant on you for support than on any other person or source.

A relative may also be considered dependent on you if they are reliant on you for financial support because they have a mental or physical disability which stops them from earning a living to support themselves.

Other relatives dependent on you or your spouse may include, for example, an aged, unmarried relative.

**If you have dependants who are aged 18 years or over, please obtain a form 47A *Details of child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or over*. A form 47A must be completed for each dependant aged 18 years or over, whether migrating or not.**

## Custody requirement

The department will seek to ensure that allowing a child to migrate is not in contravention of Australia's international obligations in relation to the prevention of child abduction. If your application includes a child under 18 and the child's other parent is not migrating with you or there is any other person who has the legal right to determine where the child can live, you will need to provide a Statutory Declaration from each of them giving permission for the child to migrate. Alternatively, you can provide a certified copy of a valid court order showing that you/your spouse has the legal right to remove the child from the country.

# Living in Australia

The following information is about some of the important things you should consider before deciding to apply to migrate to, or remain permanently in, Australia. You should remember that it is entirely your own responsibility to investigate your settlement prospects in Australia.

## Cost of living in Australia

The cost of living in Australia, compared to many other countries, is high. It is essential that you think about how you will provide for yourself and your family for at least the first 2 years. Do not assume you will find a job quickly.

Remember too, the cost of relocating is high. There are significant costs involved in travelling to Australia, moving household goods and setting up a new home.

## Two-year wait for social security

Most newly arrived migrants have to live as permanent resident visa holders in Australia for 2 years before they can get most social security payments, including unemployment assistance such as Newstart Allowance or Sickness Allowance, student assistance such as Austudy or Youth Allowance and other assistance such as a Health Care Card. To be eligible for Age and Disability pensions, you generally have to live as a permanent resident visa holder in Australia for 10 years.

It is very important to understand that you should have enough money to support yourself (and your dependants) for at least your first 2 years in Australia. There is no alternative government support program for people who cannot get social security payments. If you have a sponsor, or assurers, you should ask them about the support they are willing and able to provide.

## Waiting period exemptions

A payment called Special Benefit may be available during the waiting period, if you are in hardship because you have suffered a substantial change of circumstances beyond your control. This payment is only available in very limited circumstances. Inability to find a job or running out of money are not sufficient reasons, of themselves, to qualify for Special Benefit.

If you become widowed, disabled or a sole parent after commencing to live in Australia as a permanent resident visa holder, you may be eligible for an allowance or pension. You may also be able to get a pension without having lived in Australia for 10 years if you are covered by an international social security agreement. Australia has social security agreements with 16 countries.

If you are a migrant who is a refugee, or partner or dependent child, of a refugee; an Australian citizen or partner or dependent child of an Australian citizen; or a permanent resident who has lived in Australia for 2 years, at any time, you may be exempt from the 2 year waiting period for most social security payments.

A payment called Carer Payment may also be available during the waiting period if you are a special need relative or carer.

## Help for families with children

New migrants with dependent children may be able to receive Family Assistance payments to help with the cost of raising children. Generally, you must hold a permanent visa in order to be eligible, but there are some exceptions. There is no waiting period for these payments. Family Assistance payments are intended only as an income supplement and do not provide enough to live on.

There are 3 Family Assistance benefits. They are Family Tax Benefit A, Family Tax Benefit B and Child Care Benefit. The amount of Family Tax Benefit you may get depends on the age and number of children in your family and on your family's total annual income over the current income (financial) year. Child Care Benefit may be paid to help with the cost of putting your child into child care. How much you may receive will depend on your family's annual income over the current income (financial) year, the type of child care you choose and how many hours of child care services you use.

There are also 2 other forms of extra assistance for families with babies. Maternity Payment provides money to help with the extra costs of a new baby. Maternity Immunisation Allowance is a separate payment for families with children who have been fully immunised between 18 and 24 months of age or are exempt from the immunisations requirements.

The Family Assistance Office can help you with details about Family Assistance payments and any exemptions. You can find more information on their website at **[www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au)** In Australia, you will find the Family Assistance Office in all Medicare offices, Centrelink Customer Service Centres and ATO shopfronts or you can telephone 13 6150. For information about family assistance payments in languages other than English, please telephone 13 1202.

## Further information on social security

Centrelink delivers social security payments and related services in Australia. There are many rules which affect all Centrelink administered entitlements. The information provided here is a general guide only and you must discuss your specific needs with Centrelink.

You can find Centrelink offices and telephone numbers in the local telephone directory, or call 13 1021 to make an appointment. You can speak to Centrelink staff and have your questions answered in languages other than English by calling 13 1202. This is not an interpreter service. Calls to 13 numbers cost 25 cents from anywhere in Australia. Calls from public pay phones or mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate.

If you need more information about social security payments or international agreements before arriving in Australia, you can look on the internet site **[www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)** or write to:

Manager  
International Services  
Centrelink  
GPO Box 273  
HOBART TAS 7001  
AUSTRALIA

## Health

The Australian Government provides help with medical expenses and hospital care through a scheme called Medicare. The government also subsidises the cost of many medications under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Medicare and the PBS are administered by the Health Insurance Commission (HIC).

As a new Australian resident you may be eligible to join Medicare and gain immediate access to health care services and programs. To find out if you are eligible and to enrol in Medicare, you should wait approximately 10 days after you arrive in Australia and then go to a Medicare office with your passport or travel documents. If all eligibility requirements are met, you may be advised of your Medicare card number and your card will be posted to you approximately three weeks later.

HIC also administers the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). If you have a child, please make sure that you bring their immunisation records to help your doctor in Australia determine if their immunisation is up-to-date. This is a requirement for some government payments.

HIC has a welcome kit which is translated into 17 languages and is available online. The welcome kit is also available in English large print, braille and audio CD. The kit explains HIC services and the eligibility requirements for benefits and payments. They are available at the HIC website at **www.hic.gov.au** or from Medicare offices and Migrant Resource Centres in Australia.

Further information can be obtained from the website, by e-mail to [medicare@hic.gov.au](mailto:medicare@hic.gov.au) or by writing to:

Medicare Eligibility  
HIC  
PO Box 1001  
TUGGERANONG DC ACT 2901  
AUSTRALIA

When in Australia, you can also telephone 13 2011 for information about Medicare, 1800 020 613 for the PBS, and 1800 653 809 for the ACIR.

## Private health insurance

Many Australians have private health insurance. This covers some or all of the cost of treatment as a private patient in private or public hospitals, and can extend to some services that Medicare does not cover, such as dental and optical services.

The government has introduced financial incentives aimed at encouraging people to take out private health insurance, such as a 30% Rebate on private health insurance premiums, and an additional 1% tax levy on high income earners who don't take out private health insurance.

There is also Lifetime Health Cover under which the cost of private health insurance differs depending on the age at which people first take out hospital cover. People who take out hospital cover by 1 July following their 31st birthday, and maintain their membership, will pay lower amounts throughout their lifetime compared to people who take out hospital cover when they are older. People who delay taking out hospital cover pay an extra 2% loading for each year they delay joining after the age of 30, up to a maximum loading of 70% that applies to someone who first takes out hospital cover at age 65.

Special conditions apply for new migrants. Generally, migrants do not pay a loading if they purchase hospital cover by either (whichever is the later):

- the 1 July following their 31st birthday; or
- the first anniversary of the day they became eligible for Medicare.

After these dates, normal Lifetime Health Cover loadings apply.

More information about private health insurance can be obtained from the Department of Health and Ageing's internet site at **www.health.gov.au/privatehealth/consumer.htm** or you can e-mail [privatehealth@health.gov.au](mailto:privatehealth@health.gov.au), or you can write to:

Private Health Insurance Branch  
Department of Health and Ageing  
GPO Box 9848  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
AUSTRALIA



## Employment in Australia

The Australian labour market is very competitive. Employment in Australia depends on economic factors, the type of work sought and specific circumstances which may affect the availability of work in different parts of the country. **Approval to migrate does not guarantee a job**, even for applicants assessed as highly skilled and certainly not for their dependants.

In November 2004, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Australia was 5.2%. Unemployment rates for recently arrived migrants are much higher. Migrants who arrived in the period from January 2001 to November 2004 have an estimated unemployment rate of 8.5% (original data). The unemployment rate for those recently arrived migrants born in the main English-speaking countries was 5.3%, but the rate for those born in other countries was 10.4%. After these early months in Australia the unemployment rate generally decreases, with migrants in Independent and other skilled categories generally having lower unemployment rates than migrants in other categories.

To find out about your work prospects, read Australian newspapers, especially the Wednesday and Saturday editions, which have job vacancies.

Before leaving you should find out if any special requirements or conditions apply to the work you wish to do. For many jobs in Australia, applicants must be able to be registered or licensed with an Australian State authority, and/or be eligible for membership of a professional or industry organisation.

You should find out if any restrictions apply to your job. Dependants should make similar enquiries about their job prospects, whether or not they intend to seek work immediately on arrival.

Migrants who do not have a job should register with Centrelink as soon as possible after arrival. As most newly-arrived migrants are generally not eligible for income support payments for 2 years, they may only have access to a limited range of Government-funded job search support services through Job Network members. However, migrants who are permanent residents and meet other eligibility criteria may be able to access the full range of Job Network services.

Employment program, job search and skills recognition information is available on the following internet sites:

- Australian Jobsearch (for information on jobs, employment prospects, skills shortages and careers in Australia)  
**[www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)**
- Australian Workplace (for recognition of trade qualifications)  
**[www.workplace.gov.au/tra](http://www.workplace.gov.au/tra)**
- National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR, for recognition of overseas qualifications and skills)  
**[aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/QualificationsRecognition/](http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/QualificationsRecognition/)**

## Need more information or advice

The department's *Life in Australia* website at **[www.immi.gov.au/settle/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/settle/index.htm)** provides information about services for newly-arrived migrants, useful links and multilingual State/Territory booklets called *Beginning a Life in Australia*.

# PART 6

## Processing visa applications

Part 6 explains how to make visa applications and how they are processed.

**Once you have decided to lodge an application using the forms enclosed with this booklet, lodgement and enquiries must be directed to the Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre — see contact information under *Where to apply* on the following page.**

### It is important that you read this information

**Please read this information – it may affect whether you are granted a visa or whether a visa you are granted may subsequently be cancelled.**

You should read all information and instructions about the category of visa you want to apply for and make sure you provide the right information and documents when applying. This will avoid delays in processing your application. If you do not think you qualify for a visa, you may wish to reconsider whether to apply because any visa charge paid may not be refunded if you are unsuccessful.

While you may be asked to complete a number of steps during the processing of your application, it does not mean your application will be successful. Do not anticipate a successful outcome and sell your house or other property until you have been advised **in writing** that you have been granted a visa.

### You must have a visa to travel to and stay in Australia

The Australian Government decides who should be granted a visa. Your application will be decided on the basis of the information you give and generally, the law at the time you apply.

**Note: The government may change the criteria for awarding points, the pass mark, or the pool mark at any time and this may affect your application.** Check the department's website [www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/migration/skilled/index.htm) for the latest information.

### Where to get information

For general information about visas, charges and forms, consult the department's website [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au). If you are in Australia you can call **131 881**.

## Where to apply

**ALL** paper based applications for General Skilled Migration from both outside of Australia and in Australia must be sent to the following address only:

By mail:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs  
GPO Box 1638  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
AUSTRALIA

By courier:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs  
1st Floor, 55 Currie Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
AUSTRALIA

Enquiries:

Telephone: 1300 364 613 (if calling from outside Australia dial the international code +61)

Fax: 61 8 8237 6629

E-mail: **[adelaide.skilled.centre@immi.gov.au](mailto:adelaide.skilled.centre@immi.gov.au)**

Alternatively, the department offers internet services for applicants for Onshore General Skilled categories and the Skilled Independent Regional visa. For details on internet lodgement see **[www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visa/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/index.htm)**

## How to apply for a visa

To make a valid paper based application you must:

- indicate the class of visa that you want;
- use the correct form;
- provide your residential address;
- pay the required visa application charge (where applicable);
- satisfy any other requirements; and
- mail or courier your application, and payment in Australian dollars, to the ASPC.

**Note: If you are required to pay any other charges, you will be requested in writing by the ASPC. An application sent to the wrong address will be returned to the applicant or the migration agency.**

You must also:

- complete the application in English;
- answer all questions truthfully—if you provide incorrect information or documents, a visa may not be granted; and
- provide certified copies of any required documents unless the ASPC advises otherwise.

For information on how to make a valid internet application for an Onshore General Skilled category visa or a Skilled Independent Regional visa see **[www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visa/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/index.htm)**

## Complete applications

It is important that you lodge your migration application with all the documents necessary to assess your application. Lodging a complete application assists case officers in making a fair and complete assessment of your claims and results in faster processing times. Applications that are not complete may be refused.

## Original documents

The department requires you to provide the following **original** documents:

- evidence of English language proficiency (IELTS);
- police clearance; and
- health reports.

**Note:** You may send a **certified copy** of your skills assessment, however the department may request the original skills assessment at a later date.

## Certified copies

Do not supply original documents with your application other than those listed above. The department will request other original documents as necessary.

You **must** provide 'certified copies' of original documents. **Photocopies of certified copies are not acceptable.** 'Certified copies' means copies authorised, or stamped as being true copies of originals, by a person or agency recognised by the law of the person's home country. In Australia, this means a copy which is authorised as a true copy by a person before whom a Statutory Declaration may be made. Such authorised persons include the following: magistrate, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Declarations, Commissioner for Affidavits, solicitor, registered medical practitioner, bank manager, postal manager, an Australian Public Service Officer with 5 years or more service.

## English translations

Documents in languages other than English **must be accompanied by an English translation** completed by a translator accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) or by a translation service that has been approved by the relevant government authority in your country. In Australia, please refer to the Yellow Pages or consult the NAATI website [www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au) for a list of the available translation services in your State or Territory.

**Note: You must include both a certified copy of the original language document and a certified copy of the translated document with your application.**

## Passport details

During the processing of your application you and all family members included in the application will need to satisfy identity requirements. The standard method for this is by using a current passport. The passport should be the passport you will use to travel to Australia if a visa is granted and should be valid for an adequate period (it is recommended this be at least 2 years). You should use this passport to evidence identity in connection with any aspect of this application. In particular, you will need to present your passport and those for all family members included in your application to the doctor when you have your medical examination.

You will need to provide the department with a copy of the personal particulars page of the passport(s) and of any stamps or authorisations that amend these details (such as passport validity extensions). If you or any family member, do not currently hold a passport, or need to extend or renew a passport, please do so now and provide copies of the relevant pages.

## Family members

For most visas, family members (spouses, dependent children or dependent relatives) who apply at the same time can apply on the same form and pay one charge. A child who is born after an application is made (but before it is decided) will be included in the parent's application. This will be done automatically once the department is notified **in writing** of the details of the newborn child together with a certified copy of the child's full birth certificate. In some circumstances, a spouse or dependent child can be added to an application. Members of your family unit included in your application must also meet certain visa requirements.

## Limitations on applications

**If you are in Australia**, you may be prevented from making further applications if, for example:

- you do not hold a substantive visa (which is any visa other than a bridging visa, a criminal justice visa or an enforcement visa) and have had a visa cancelled or refused since you last arrived in Australia;
- your last visa was granted on the condition that you would not be granted a substantive visa while you remain in Australia;
- you hold a sponsored visitor visa;
- you are in immigration detention in Australia;
- you have previously applied for a protection visa.

In these cases the department can provide you with information about which visas, if any, you can apply for.

## More than one application

If you apply for more than one visa, the visa granted last will generally be the visa in effect, and the visa granted first will no longer be valid. You can get advice about your situation from any office of the department in Australia or overseas. If you are in Australia you can call **131 881**.

## Communicating with the department

Communication with the department about your application should generally be in writing. Send the communication to the ASPC.

You must correctly identify yourself.

If you communicate with the ASPC about your application, you must:

- include your full name (as in your application);
- include your date of birth;
- include the client ID if it has been given to you or, if you do not have a client ID, the file number, or the application receipt number; and
- if your application is later transferred to an office outside Australia, you must communicate with that office.

## Withdrawal of applications

You can withdraw your application by advising the ASPC in writing at any time before a decision is made. Charges that you paid at the time of application are not usually refunded.

## Let the department know if you change your address

If you change your residential address for more than 14 days while your application is being processed, you must advise the ASPC of your new address and how long you will be there. The ASPC will send communication about your application to the latest address you have provided and it will be taken that you have received it:

- 7 working days after the date of the letter (if sent in Australia); or
- 21 days after the date of the letter (if sent outside Australia).

Communication about your application can be sent to another person that you have authorised, but it will be taken that you have received the communication that the department sends to that person. You **must** inform the department **in writing** of any change of address for either you or your authorised person.

If you have provided a fax number or e-mail address the department may use these to communicate with you. If you change your fax number or e-mail address you **must** inform the department.

In addition to the above requirement if you are a **Skill Matching** visa applicant, or a Skilled-Independent visa applicant participating in the skill matching scheme, and any of your contact details change you must advise the ASPC so your entry on the Skill Matching Database can be updated.

### Extra information about your application

Additional information can be provided (in writing) at any time until a decision is made on your application. All relevant information is taken into account.

If you are invited to give additional information or comment on information, you will be given a date by which to do so. After that date the department can continue processing your application whether you provide the information or not. You cannot delay a decision by saying that you might give more information later.

### Interviews

If you are invited to attend an interview, you must attend on the date and time agreed with the department. If you do not, the department can process your application and make a decision on the basis of the information it already has.

### Invitation to comment

If another person gives the department information that could result in you being refused a visa, the department may give you an opportunity to comment on the information. You will need to comment by a set date.

### Advise the department if your circumstances change

If any of your circumstances change, such that any answer in your application or information given to the department is no longer correct, you must inform the department **in writing** as soon as practicable.

You must continue to do this until a decision is made on your application (or, in the case of a visa granted outside Australia, until you travel to Australia and are cleared by immigration). Your visa may be cancelled if you give incorrect information or fail to advise the department that some information is no longer correct. However, if you advise the department of the correct information before your visa is granted (or, in the case of a visa granted outside Australia, before you are immigration cleared), your visa cannot later be cancelled on the basis of that incorrect information.

### Consent to communicate electronically

The department may use a range of means to communicate with you. However, electronic means such as fax or e-mail will only be used if you indicate your agreement to receiving communication in this way.

Electronic communications, unless adequately encrypted, are not secure and may be viewed by others or interfered with. If you agree to the department communicating with you by electronic means, the details you provide will only be used for the purpose for which you have provided them. They will not be added to any mailing list and will not be disclosed without your consent.

## Authorisation of a person to act and receive communication

You may authorise another person to receive all written communications about your application with the department. To do this, when completing your form *47SK Application for General Skilled Migration to Australia*, you will need to complete the parts *Options for receiving written communications* and *Authorised recipient details*. You can appoint only one authorised recipient at any time.

If you nominate an authorised recipient, the department will send to that person any written communications relating to your application that would otherwise have been sent to you. You will be taken to have received any documents sent to that person as if they had been sent to you.

If you decide to change the authorised recipient that you have nominated after you have lodged your application, you must promptly advise the department in writing of the details of that person.

## Processing applications

Processing of your application may be delayed if your application is 'pooled' (this only applies to points tested classes of visas) or if processing of the class of visa for which you have applied is suspended.

## Visa decisions

You will be notified by the department when a decision has been made on your application.

If you are refused a visa, you will be notified why you were refused and, if applicable, where you can apply for merits review of the decision. You will be notified of your time to seek review or your time to depart Australia.

When the department advises you, or a person you have authorised to act and receive communication on your behalf, of the decision on your visa application, you will be taken to have received the letter:

- 7 working days after the date of the letter (if sent in Australia); or
- 21 days after the date of the letter (if sent outside Australia).

If the letter is handed to you, you will be taken to have been notified at that moment.

If the letter is faxed or e-mailed to you, you will be taken to have been notified at the end of that day.

## You must abide by all conditions on your visa

If you are in Australia while your visa application is being processed you must continue to comply with the conditions on your current visa.

If your visa is granted subject to conditions (for example, restrictions on work or study) you must abide by those conditions or your visa may be cancelled. If you wish to change those conditions or stay longer than your visa allows, contact the department for information about how to do this.

## Application and grant of onshore and offshore visas

You should inform the department if you travel (either to Australia or from Australia) during processing of your application. This is because your application may be refused if you are in the 'wrong place' when a decision is made:

- If you are applying for an Offshore General Skilled visa, you must be **outside of Australia when the visa is granted**.
- If you are applying for an Onshore New Zealand Citizen visa, **you must be in Australia when you apply and when the visa is granted**.

## **Australian Government Websites**

assisting business entry and skilled migration

### **Commonwealth Government**

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

[www.immi.gov.au/business/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/business/index.htm)

#### **Including information on:**

- business entry and skilled migration
- contacts for Australian missions overseas
- business trips to Australia

With links to:

- Australian missions overseas
- Australian Government websites
- Useful business websites

### **Business Entry Point**

[www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)

### **Australian Taxation Office**

[www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

## **State/Territory Governments**

### **Australian Capital Territory**

Business Migration Section

Business and Tourism

Chief Minister's Department

[www.business.act.gov.au](http://www.business.act.gov.au)

### **New South Wales**

Department of State and Regional Development

[www.business.nsw.gov.au](http://www.business.nsw.gov.au)

### **Northern Territory**

Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development

[www.migration.nt.gov.au](http://www.migration.nt.gov.au)

### **Queensland**

Department of State Development and Innovation

[www.sd.qld.gov.au/migration](http://www.sd.qld.gov.au/migration)

### **South Australia**

Immigration South Australia

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet

[www.immigration.sa.gov.au](http://www.immigration.sa.gov.au)

### **Tasmania**

Tasmanian Government

[www.tas.gov.au](http://www.tas.gov.au)

### **Victoria**

Skilled Migration Unit

[www.migration.vic.gov.au](http://www.migration.vic.gov.au)

### **Western Australia**

Small Business Development Corporation

[www.sbdc.com.au](http://www.sbdc.com.au)



# General Skilled Migration