XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE



SKILLED MIGRATION | AUSTRALIA

Subclass 491 – Regional Skilled Work Visa

Live, work, and gain PR in regional Australia through a points-tested, state or family-sponsored visa.

TIMELINE	POINTS THRESHOLD	JOB OFFER	FAMILY
18 months (XIPHIAS average)	65	Not required	Spouse, children up to age 23

XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC
www.xiphiasimmigration.ae

Updated 1 October 2026
+971 52 727 5101 | dubai@xiphiasimmigration.com

At a glance

COUNTRY **Australia**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Points**
TIMELINE **18 months (XIPHIAS average)**	FAMILY MEMBERS **Spouse, children up to age 23**
LANGUAGE **Competent English (IELTS 6.0 each band or equivalent)**	JOB OFFER **Not required**
POINTS THRESHOLD **65**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

Overview

The **Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) Visa – Subclass 491** is an **Australia skilled migration program** offering a **pathway to permanent residency** for qualified professionals. It allows skilled workers to **live, work, and study in designated regional areas**, supporting Australia's **regional workforce needs** through **state nomination or family sponsorship**. The visa promotes long-term settlement and provides a clear route to permanent residency via **Subclass 191**.

Why Choose Subclass 491

- Regional nomination or family sponsorship for five-year stay
- Pathway to permanent residency via Subclass 191
- Priority for skills in demand across regional Australia
- Include eligible family members in one application
- Work, study, and live in designated regional areas
- Incentives for long-term settlement and citizenship

Visa application charge

The Home Affairs visa application charge for the primary applicant is **AUD 6,140** (as displayed on 29 September 2026). Additional charges apply for each family member included in the application.

{/ restored from the 2019–2026 site /}

Subclass 489 closed to new applications on 16 November 2019 and was replaced by the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa, subclass 491. The notes below describe the 489 as it operated.

Subclass 489 -Skilled Regional (Provisional) Visa Program

Skilled Regional (Provisional) Visa program or Subclass 489 has been designed for all those foreign skilled professionals who would want to explore the waters in sub-urban Australia. This program requires that the applicant's profile is part of the Skill Select portal and the applicant if successful would be awarded Permanent Residency in Australia. Such Sub-urban areas will have cleaner air and lesser population. You need to submit your Expression of

Interest into this portal.

From this pool of profiles in Skill select, based on the requirement in a particular sub-urban area, your profile would be selected for nomination for Australian PR.

Things apart you need to provide documents for

- Proving your work experience
- Education and skills evaluation
- Age
- Relationship certificates as need be
- Medical certificates
- Certificate from local police authorities to prove your pure background with zero crime

However, the biggest requirement would be that your job profile should be part of the current list of job openings in rural Australia.

Additional Notes

When your profile gets nomination from a particular region, and you choose to go with that nomination, you will be bound by an agreement that you will live and work in that province for a minimum recommended period.

It is important to cater to this rule, as this program was specially designed to fill in vacancies in sub-urban Australia.

The successful applicant becomes a qualified sponsor to invite qualified relatives/friends to Australia

On migrating, the applicant would get access to all the provisions and benefits a citizen of Australia enjoys in fields like education, health care and residential utilities.

XIPHIAS Immigration, DMCC is registered with MARA. We help our clients, right from application stage to documentation stage till the stage of settling down in Australia.

What XIPHIAS Immigration will do for you

- Profile assessment
- Submission of application and documents
- Application preparation
- Guidance about the applications and documents required
- Language proficiency tests
- Help till the point of getting your PR Visa
- Post landing counseling
- Post landing Job search assistance

Requirements

- Be under 45 years old at the time of invitation.
- Hold a positive skills assessment in an eligible occupation.
- Score at least 65 points including 15-point nomination bonus.
- Be nominated by a state/territory or sponsored by an eligible relative in a regional area.
- Demonstrate Competent English and meet health and character standards.

When this route may not fit

- Failing to meet regional nomination or family sponsorship criteria.
- Not achieving 65 points (including bonus).
- Incorrect or incomplete skills assessment.

Skills, language and points

ACCEPTED TESTS
IELTS, PTE, OET, TOEFL iBT

MINIMUM LEVEL
Competent English (IELTS 6.0 each band or equivalent)

Job offer: Requires nomination by a state/territory or sponsorship by an eligible family member residing in regional Australia.

Points factor	Maximum	Notes
Age	30	
English language	20	
Skilled employment (overseas/Australia)	20	
Qualifications	20	
Nomination or sponsorship	15	
Other factors (Aust. study, partner, CCL, regional study)	25	

Common eligible occupations (examples)

- Software Engineer (ANZSCO 261313)
- Civil Engineer (ANZSCO 233512)
- Registered Nurse (Medical) (ANZSCO 254412)
- Psychologist (ANZSCO 272499)

Costs and government fees

Programme costs

Item	Amount	Notes
Visa application charge (primary applicant)	AUD 6,140	Home Affairs VAC as displayed on 29 September 2026. Additional applicant charges apply.

Government fees

Fee	Amount	Notes
Subclass 491 — primary applicant visa application charge	AUD 6,140	

How the process works

1. **Skills Assessment**
   Obtain a positive skills assessment in your occupation.
2. **English Test**
   Meet minimum Competent English through IELTS/PTE/OET.
3. **Expression of Interest (SkillSelect)**
   Submit EOI and indicate Subclass 491 with state or family sponsorship preference.
4. **Nomination/Sponsorship**
   Secure state nomination or eligible family sponsorship.
5. **Visa Application**
   Apply for Subclass 491 within 60 days of invitation.
6. **Residence & PR Pathway**
   Live and work in a regional area for 3 years; later apply for Subclass 191 permanent residency.

Questions clients ask

What is the duration of the 491 visa?

It is valid for 5 years and provides a pathway to PR through Subclass 191 after 3 years of regional residence.

Who can sponsor me for 491?

An eligible relative living in a designated regional area — for example a parent, sibling, aunt or uncle — can sponsor you through the Family Sponsored pathway.

Can I move to a non-regional city?

No. You must live and work in regional areas defined by the Department of Home Affairs.

Can I include family members?

Yes, partners and dependent children can be included.

How many points does state nomination add?

15 points for state nomination or eligible family sponsorship.

Important notes

- This is a provisional visa, not permanent residency. It lasts 5 years, and you can apply for the subclass 191 permanent visa after holding it for 3 years.
- State and territory nominated 491 invitations come from the states, not from departmental SkillSelect rounds. Only the Family Sponsored pathway is invited in departmental rounds.
- In the last departmental round that included 491 Family Sponsored (13 November 2025), 300 invitations were issued with minimum scores from 65 to 95. None were issued in the 4 June 2026 round.
- You must live and work in a designated regional area. Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane do not count.

Compliance

- Home Affairs published service standards: State or Territory Nominated stream 5 months for 50% of applications and 18 months for 90%; Family Sponsored stream 4 months and 7 months. The headline timeline on this page is XIPHIAS's own observed average from our case files.
- Nomination by a state or territory, or sponsorship by an eligible relative, adds 15 points. You still need 65 points in total including those 15.
- Occupation lists: the State or Territory Nominated pathway draws on MLTSSL and STSOL; the Family Sponsored pathway on MLTSSL only. Both lists were last re-issued effective 28 March 2026.
- Applications are processed in the order set by Ministerial Direction No. 122. Queue positions: March 2025 for priority sectors, February 2025 otherwise.
- You must be under 45 at the time of invitation, and hold at least Competent English.



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

Plan your Australia application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **Subclass 491 – Regional Skilled Work Visa** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

CALL OR WHATSAPP	+971 52 727 5101
EMAIL	dubai@xiphiasimmigration.com
WEBSITE	www.xiphiasimmigration.ae
OFFICE	Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

This brochure is produced from the programme information published at www.xiphiasimmigration.ae/skilled/australia/skilled-work-regional-491 as at 1 October 2026. Rules, fees and processing times are set by the relevant government and can change, and approval is always the authority's decision. Please confirm the current position with us before you apply. XIPHIAS provides immigration consulting and documentation support. It is not a law firm, and nothing in this brochure is legal advice.