





WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

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This chapter contains information on all of the available work visas for Australia whether temporary or permanent.

If you want to work temporarily in Australia there are a number of temporary visas available through Employer Sponsored Temporary Visas. Employer Sponsored temporary visas are available for lawfully operating Australian and overseas employers to employ approved skilled workers for temporary vacancies in particular occupations required in Australia. Temporary visas can offer a pathway to a permanent visa.

There are a number of visas available if you want to work permanently in Australia. These visas fall into different categories for example Employer Sponsored visas and Skilled Worker visas. The following chapter covers all temporary and permanent visas available.

What options are available if I want to work temporarily in Australia?

- 1 Temporary Business Long Stay - Standard Business Sponsorship (Subclass 457)
- 2 Service Sellers
- 3 Medical Practitioners visa (Subclass 422)
- 4 Educational Visa (Subclass 418)
- 5 Labour Agreements
- 6 Invest in Australia Supported Skills Program

1 Temporary Business Long Stay - Standard Business Sponsorship (Subclass 457)

This is a multi-entry visa for employees want to work for an Australian employer. You apply for this visa to fill nominated skilled positions in Australia. The employer applies to be a sponsor to recruit overseas workers and the employer nominates the position/s they want to fill. The employer also acts as a sponsor for employees applying for a visa. The employee accepts the offer of employment from the employer. The employee applies for a visa. The employee must meet all conditions on their visa.

With this visa you can be sponsored by an Australian employer for a period of between 3 months and 4 years.

You would be entitled to apply to bring eligible secondary family members with you to Australia and they would be entitled to work and study in Australia.

You must pay a non-refundable visa application charge when you lodge your visa application.

The visa application charge is AUD \$190/€125 (2007 figure).

The nomination charge is AUD \$55/€40 (2007 figure).

The sponsorship charge is AUD \$280/€185 (2007 figure).

You will need to be approved as an eligible employer. You will also need an eligible nominated position or an eligible employee.

2 Service sellers

The purpose of this visa is to allow representatives of overseas suppliers of services to stay in Australia for between 6 and 12 months. The reason for the stay must be to negotiate or enter into, agreements to supply services in Australia.

This visa is for company representatives of overseas suppliers of services. You can only be selling or negotiating the sale of services - not products. If you enter Australia on this visa you can sell, or negotiate the sale of, services for a period of between 3 and 6 months.

You are entitled to bring any eligible family applicants with you to Australia and they will be entitled to work and study. After entering Australia there is no limit on the number of times you travel in and out of Australia.

There are no sponsorship or nomination requirements for this visa. All salaries and financial support must be paid by the overseas company for the entire length of stay in Australia. Service sellers must **not** be employed by a company based in Australia.

The total visa period granted for Service Sellers cannot be more than 12 months. Service Sellers wishing to stay longer should use Standard Business Sponsorship or Overseas Business Sponsorship

The application form is **Form 1066** - Application for a Temporary Business (long stay) Visa (Subclass 457). You should include all secondary applicants in your application as if secondary applicants apply separately they will have to pay a separate fee. Visa applicants should not make travel arrangements to Australia until after they have been granted your visa.

You must pay a non-refundable application fee of AUD \$190/€125 (2007 figure) when you lodge your application.

3 Medical Practitioners (Subclass 422)

The medical practitioner visa allows foreign nationals, who are medical practitioners, to work in Australia for a sponsoring employer for 3 months to 4 years. This visa is for doctors (general practitioners and specialists). The doctors can be either overseas-trained doctors or overseas students who have completed their medical degree in Australia. If you enter Australia on this visa you will be entitled to bring any eligible family members with them to Australia - family members can work and study.

After entering Australia there is no limit on the number of times you can travel in and out of Australia.

The Sponsoring Organisation:

- Finds an overseas doctor to fill their nominated position
- Provides an offer of full-time employment to the doctor
- Ensures the doctor meets the registration requirements
- Applies to sponsor the doctor for a medical practitioner visa.

The Doctor:

- Accepts the job offer
- Applies for a medical practitioner visa
- Applies to the relevant state or territory Medical Board for registration to practice in Australia
- Meets the obligations of their visa
- Applies to the Health Insurance Commission for a Medicare Provider Number (if required).

A Sponsoring organisation can be one of the following:

- An employer from the health industry
- State/territory health authorities
- Deputising services and locum agencies
- Communities, such as the local council, government regional health organisation or government regional medical centre.

The sponsoring organisation is usually the direct employer of the doctor. The sponsoring organisation must lodge a separate sponsorship application for each position they wish to fill. You must pay a non-refundable application charge.

The visa application charge is AUD \$190/€125 (2007 figure).

The sponsorship charge is AUD \$270/€180 (2007 figure).

4 Educational Visa (Subclass 418)

The Educational Visa which is a multi-entry visa allows people who are educational workers from outside Australia to go and work in Australia for a sponsoring employer for 3 months to 4 years at a time.

This visa is suitable for employees who have been offered temporary employment at an Australian tertiary education or research institution as an academic, a librarian, a technician, a laboratory demonstrator, a researcher or at a school or a technical college (that is not a tertiary institution) as a teacher.

With this visa you can work as an overseas educational worker in Australia for up to 4 years. You will be entitled to apply to bring any eligible family members with you to Australia. All family members should be included in your application and any family member accompanying you to Australia will be entitled to work and study.

The sponsoring organisation:

- Finds a suitable employee who is willing to work for them in Australia
- Applies to sponsor the employee to work in Australia
- Meets the costs and other obligations of the sponsorship.

The sponsoring organisation must be one of the following:

- An Australian tertiary education institution
- An Australian research institution
- An Australian school or an Australian technical college that is not a tertiary institution.

The employee:

- Applies for a visa
- Meets the conditions of their visa once approved.

The validity period of the sponsorship is 12 months. The visa is for between 3 months and 4 years. To renew the Educational visa a new sponsorship and visa application must be lodged.

You must pay a non-refundable application charge. The visa application charge is AUD \$190/€125 (2007 figure). The sponsorship charge is AUD \$270/€180 (2007 figure).

5 Labour Agreements

Labour Agreements are formal arrangements to recruit a number of overseas skilled workers. Both temporary and permanent visas can be granted under the agreement. Agreements are generally effective for 2 to 3 years. Situations where it could be advantageous for an employer to consider entering into a Labour Agreement include:

- An industry association has negotiated a wide agreement for the supply of needed skills
- Occupations are not on the list of approved occupations for the Temporary Business (Long Stay) Visa (Subclass 457) or permanent Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) yet a genuine skills shortage exists or occupations are not covered under the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)
- A large number of sponsored overseas workers is proposed (the department would usually want to discuss proposals for more than 50 overseas skilled workers)

- There is no charge for negotiating a Labour Agreement. You will have to pay a non-refundable visa application charge of AUD \$190/€125 (2007 figure). There is also a Nomination charge of AUD \$55/€40 (2007 figure).

6 Invest Australia Supported Skills Program

This program provides for entry of key personnel of overseas based international firms making a significant investment in Australia. With this visa those people employed from overseas can work in Australia for a period between 3 months and 4 years, bring any eligible secondary applicants with them to Australia (secondary applicants can work and study). After entering Australia there is no limit on the number of times you can travel in and out of Australia.

What options are available if I want to work permanently in Australia?

There are a number of visas available if you want to work permanently in Australia. These visas fall into different categories for example Employer sponsored visas and skilled worker visas. The following section covers all permanent visas available.

Employer Sponsored Permanent Visa options

- 1 Employer Nomination Scheme (Subclass 121/856)
- 2 Regional Sponsored Migration scheme (Subclass 119/857)
- 3 Labour Agreements
- 4 Invest Australia Supported Skills Program (Subclass 120/855)

1 Employer Nomination Scheme (Subclass 121/856)

The Employer Nomination Scheme allows Australian employers in metropolitan areas of Australia to fill a specific highly skilled vacancy through the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS). The employees can be either a highly skilled worker from outside Australia or a highly skilled temporary resident currently in Australia.

This visa allows you and any dependent family members included in your visa application to live as permanent residents in Australia. Australian permanent residents can:

- Live and work in Australia on a permanent basis
- Study in Australia at school or university
- Receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

- Access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- Be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- Sponsor people for permanent residence.

You must pay a non-refundable application charge. The 1st installment must be paid at the time of application.

The nomination (ENS only) fee is AUD \$365/€245 (2007 figure).

The 1st installment (If you are outside Australia when the visa is granted) is AUD \$1,390/€915 (2007 figure).

You may have to pay a 2nd visa application fee of AUD \$5,735/€3,775 (2007 figure).

2 Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (Subclass 119/857)

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) is for employers in regional Australia, to fill skilled positions they are unable to fill from the local labour market. Under the RSMS, employers are able to nominate staff from overseas or temporary residents currently in Australia to fill full-time, permanent vacancies. The employees applying for a visa can be either skilled worker from overseas or skilled temporary residents.

This visa allows you and any dependent family members included in your visa application to live as permanent residents in Australia. Australian permanent residents can:

- Live and work in Australia on a permanent basis
- Study in Australia at school or university
- Receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- Be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- Sponsor people for permanent residence.

You must pay a non-refundable application charge. The nomination (ENS only) fee is AUD \$365/€245 (2007 figure).

The 1st installment (If you are outside Australia when the visa is granted) is AUD \$1,390/€915 (2007 figure).

You may have to pay a 2nd visa application fee of AUD \$5,735/€3,775 (2007 figure).

3 Labour Agreements

This visa is for employers wanting to nominate applicants under a Labour Agreement. Labour Agreements are formal arrangements to recruit a number of overseas skilled workers. Both temporary and permanent visas can be granted under the agreement. Agreements are generally effective for 2 to 3 years. Situations where it could be advantageous for an employer to consider entering into a Labour Agreement include:

- An industry association has negotiated a wide agreement for the supply of needed skills
- Occupations are not on the list of approved occupations for the Temporary Business (Long Stay) visa (Subclass 457) or permanent Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) yet a genuine skills shortage exists or occupations are not covered under the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)
- A large number of sponsored overseas workers is proposed (the department would usually want to discuss proposals for more than 50 overseas skilled workers).

With this visa those people you employ from overseas and any dependent family members included in their visa application, can live as permanent residents in Australia.

There is no charge for negotiating a Labour Agreement. For **permanent visas** there is a non-refundable charge for each visa application. There is no charge for lodging nomination applications.

The 1st installment (If you are outside Australia when the visa is granted) is AUD \$1,390/€915 (2007 figure).

You may have to pay a 2nd visa application fee of AUD \$5,735/€3,775 (2007 figure).

4 Invest Australia Supported Skills Program (Subclass 120/855)

The Invest Australia Supported Skills (IASS) program is designed to encourage international firms to choose Australia as a location for direct foreign investment. The agreements are effective for 3 years and employers can sponsor employees for either a temporary or permanent visa. Visa applications under an Invest Australia Supported Skills program will receive priority processing.

There is no charge for negotiating an IASS Agreement or lodging nomination applications. There is a non-refundable charge for each visa application.

The 1st installment fee is AUD \$1,390/€915 (2007 figure). In some cases a 2nd installment fee will be required. This is AUD \$5,735/€3,775 (2007 figure).

With this program you be sponsored as an overseas employee to work in Australia on temporary and/or permanent visas. With a permanent visa you and any dependent family members included in your visa application, can live as permanent residents in Australia. Australian permanent residents can:

- Live and work in Australia on a permanent basis
- Study in Australia at school or university
- Receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- Be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- Sponsor people for permanent residence.

The overseas employer negotiates the agreement with the Australian Government through Invest Australia. The employer nominates the positions that they need to be filled. The employer identifies the person/s that they wish to bring to work in Australia. The Australian Government evaluates the proposal from the overseas employer and they also negotiate the agreement with the overseas employer.

The Australian Government is represented by Invest Australia. Invest Australia is the government agency that helps international companies build and establish their business in Australia. For more information on this please see the website www.investaustralia.gov.au

The Employee applies for the visa and must meet the conditions of their visa once it has been approved. Visas are processed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department). The department processes nomination and visa applications under the agreement.

To be eligible for the IASS program, overseas employers must meet at least one of the following requirements for investment projects of strategic significance. The investment project will boost Australian industry innovation through:

- Increasing research & development and commercialisation capability
- The new application of skills and knowledge
- Technology transfer
- Cluster development.

The investment project will have significant economic benefit to regional Australia taking into account a region's investment needs. The investment project's estimated value exceeds \$50,000,000

and makes a significant contribution to economic growth, employment and/or infrastructure. The company is establishing a regional headquarters or regional operating centre in Australia. The employee must be nominated to work in Australia by an overseas employer that has a current IASS agreement. The employee must have the relevant skills (including English language skills), qualifications and experience to fill the position.

The employee must meet mandatory licensing, registration or professional membership requirements (if applicable). The employee must be under 45 years of age (unless exceptional circumstances apply). The employee and their accompanying family members must meet the health and character requirements. For more information on the health and character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**.

Skilled Worker Permanent Visa options

What is the Skill Matching Database?

The Skill Matching Database is a web-based resource that helps match skilled people who have applied to migrate, with skilled vacancies or listed skill shortages in Australia. The Skill Matching Database contains the educational and employment details of skilled migrants and is accessed by both employers and State/Territory governments, who may then nominate a person for migration.

The advantage of the Skill Matching Database is that it can help you to find a job before you arrive in Australia and it can increase your chances of being offered a job in Australia, by having your qualifications and employment history listed on the Skill Matching Database.

To be included on the Skill Matching Database applicants must have a valid application for one of the following visa categories:

- 1 Skilled - Independent (Migrant) Visa (Subclass 175)
- 2 Skilled - Sponsored (Migrant) Visa (Subclass 176)
- 3 Skilled - Independent (Residence) Visa (Subclass 885)
- 4 Skilled - Sponsored (Residence) Visa (Subclass 886).

There is no application charge for applicant details to be listed on the Skill Matching Database. Applicants who have their details on the database are not guaranteed a job in Australia or of having their migration application approved. The Skill Matching Database is not a job search facility. For more detailed information please see the website www.immi.gov.au. To enter the Skill Matching Database please refer to the website www.econ.immi.gov.au

1 Skilled - Independent (Migrant) Visa (Subclass 175)

This is a permanent residence visa which is designed for people who want to travel to Australia and find their own employment. When you apply for this visa you must nominate a skilled occupation which fits with your skills and qualifications. Your nominated occupation must be on the Skilled Occupation list (SOL). For information on the SOL please see the website www.immi.gov.au. You will not need to be sponsored if you apply for this visa.

You need to be aware that:

- It can take up to 12-18 months for a Skilled - Independent (Migrant) visa application to be processed
- There are age restrictions for this visa. An applicant must be over 18 years of age and under 45 years of age
- You must pass a points test. The points test pass mark for this visa is 120 points. If you score less than 120 points but more than 100 points your application will be placed in reserve for 2 years. If the pass mark is lowered during the 2 year period and your score is equal to or higher than the new pass mark your application will then be processed further.

If you are not able to satisfy the basic requirements such as the age, point test and skills requirement you will not be eligible to apply for the Skilled - Independent (Migrant) Visa.

You will have to meet health and character requirements. For more detailed information on health and character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**.

You must have post-secondary (such as a trade or university) qualifications. Before you can apply for this visa you must have your skills assessed for your occupation by the relevant Australian Authority. You will also need to find out if the occupation you have nominated requires you to be registered, licenced or be a member of a professional or industrial organisation. For more detailed information on this please see the website www.immi.gov.au/asri/index.htm

With this you and any dependent family members included in your visa application can live in Australia as permanent residents. As a permanent resident you can:

- Live and work anywhere in Australia on a permanent basis
- Study in Australia at school or university
- Receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

- Access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- Be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- Sponsor people for permanent residence.

You will have to pay a non-refundable visa application charge when you apply for this visa.

The 1st installment fee is AUD \$2,060/€1,355 (2007 figure).

The 2nd installment fee of AUD \$2,860/€1,885 (2007 figure) is payable when your visa application is granted.

2 Skilled - Regional (Migrant) Visa (Subclass 176)

This is a permanent visa available to people who do not to meet the criteria for the Skilled Independent Visa. With this visa you must be sponsored by an eligible relative living in Australia or you must be nominated by a participating State or Territory government.

To be eligible to apply for this visa you must the following criteria. You must:

- Be under 45 years of age
- Have skills and qualifications in an occupation that is needed in Australia, listed in Australia's Skilled Occupation List (SOL)
- Pass a points test. The pass mark is for this visa is 100 points. If you score between 80 points but less than 100 points your application will be placed in a reserve pool. If you score less than 80 points your application will be refused.

Nomination by State/Territory government

State and Territory governments may nominate applicants who have the relevant skills/qualifications in occupations which are in demand in that particular State or Territory. The participating State or Territory governments for this visa are:

- South Australia - www.immigration.sa.gov.au
- Victoria - www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au
- Western Australia - www.migration.wa.gov.au
- Tasmania - www.development.tas.gov.au
- Australian Capital Territory - www.business.act.gov.au/investingincanberra/act_skilled_and_business_migration_program
- Northern Territory - www.migration.nt.gov.au
- New South Wales - www.business.nsw.gov.au
- Queensland - www.migration.qld.gov.au

You should look at the links listed above, beside each state or territory to check what skills are in demand before you make your application. Each State or Territory government website will also have information relating to housing, employment and schools in their region.

You must apply to a participating State or Territory government for a nomination. The participating State or Territory governments will assess your eligibility for nomination under this scheme.

If they decide to nominate you, they must complete **Form 1100** - State/Territory government nomination.

You must complete application **Form 1276** - application for general skilled Migration to Australia (You must complete Part J of **Form 1276** if you are seeking a nomination from a State or Territory government.) You must also complete **Form 47A** - Details of Child or other dependent Family members 18 years of age or over (whether they are migrating or not).

Sponsorship by a relative

You must be sponsored by an eligible relative if you are not nominated by a participating State or territory government. Your sponsor can be living anywhere in Australia.

Your sponsor must be:

- An Australian citizen
- An Australian permanent resident
- An eligible New Zealand citizen.

You or your spouse/partner must be related to your sponsor as one of the following:

- A non-dependent child, including an adoptive or step-child
- A parent, including adoptive or step-parent
- A brother or sister, including adoptive or step-sibling
- A niece or nephew, including adoptive or step-niece or nephew
- An aunt or uncle, including adoptive or step-aunt or uncle.

Your sponsor is required to sign a sponsorship agreement. They must agree to provide:

- Adequate accommodation and/or financial assistance as required to meet their relative's living needs during their first 2 years in Australia (the 2 year period begins from the date your visa is granted)
- Other support, such as child care, to enable you to attend English language classes (where applicable)
- Information and advice (including information about employment in Australia) to help you to settle in Australia.

You must complete application **Form 1276** - Application for General Skilled Migration to Australia (You must complete **Part J of Form 1276** if you are looking for sponsorship by an eligible relative sponsor). You must also complete **Form 47A** - Details of Child or other dependent Family Members 18 Years of Age or Over (whether they are migrating or not).

Your eligible relative sponsor must complete **Form 1277** - Application for Sponsorship Under General Skilled Migration.

Other general information

You will have to pay a non-refundable application fee when you apply for this visa.

The 1st installment fee is AUD \$2,060/€1,355 (2007 figure).

The 2nd installment fee of AUD \$2,860/€1,885 (2007 figure) is payable when your visa application is granted.

If you are granted this visa you and any dependent family members included in your visa application can live as permanent residents in Australia. As a permanent resident you can:

- Live and work in Australia on a permanent basis
- Study in Australia at school or university
- Receive subsidised healthcare through Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Access certain social security payments (subject to waiting periods)
- Be eligible for Australian citizenship (subject to the residency eligibility criteria)
- Sponsor people for permanent residence.

You and your accompanying family members must comply with all Australian laws as permanent residents.

You will have to meet health and character requirements. For detailed information on health and character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**.

3 Skilled - Regional Sponsored (Provisional) Visa (Subclass 475)

This is a 3 year provisional visa for skilled workers who are unable to meet the criteria for a Skilled - Independent Visa. This visa will give you the opportunity to eventually apply for permanent residence in Australia if you have lived for 2 years (worked at least 12 months) in a Specified Regional area of Australia.

For information on the Specified Regional areas designated for this visa please see the website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/specified-regional.htm

Applicants for this visa will require sponsorship by a participating State or Territory government or delegated Regional Certifying Body (New South Wales only).

To apply for this visa you must:

- Be nominated by a participating State or Territory government agency
- Be sponsored by an eligible relative living in a specified Regional area of Australia
- Be under 45 years of age
- Have good English language skills

- Have the skills and qualifications listed on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL)
- Pass a points test. The pass mark is for this visa is 100 points. If you score less than 100 points your application will be refused.

Sponsorship by a relative

You must be sponsored by an eligible relative if you are not nominated by a participating State or territory government. Your sponsor must provide evidence that, at the time the department receives the sponsorship application they have been living in a designated area for 1 year or longer. Additionally they must be able to demonstrate that you continue to live in a designated area until a decision is made on the visa application.

Australia's designated areas include:

- ACT
- South Australia
- Northern Territory
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Queensland - except Brisbane
- New South Wales - except Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong
- Western Australia - except Perth.

Your sponsor must be:

- At least 18 years of age and usually resident in Australia as one of the following:
 - An Australian citizen
 - An Australian permanent resident
 - An Eligible New Zealand citizen.

You or your spouse/partner must be related to your sponsor as one of the following:

- A non-dependent child - including an adoptive or step-child
- A parent - including adoptive or step-parent
- A brother or sister - including adoptive or step-siblings
- A niece or nephew - including adoptive or step-niece or nephew
- An aunt or uncle - including adoptive or step-aunt or uncle
- A first cousin
- A grandchild.

Your sponsor is required to sign a sponsorship agreement. They must agree to provide:

- Adequate accommodation and/or financial assistance as required to meet their relative's living needs during their first 2 years in Australia (the 2 year period begins from the date your visa is granted)
- Other support, such as child care, to enable you to attend English language classes (where applicable)
- Information and advice (including information about employment in Australia) to help you to settle in Australia.

Your sponsor will need to complete **Form 1277** - Application for Sponsorship Under General Skilled Migration and sign a sponsorship undertaking.

You must complete application **Form 1276** - Application for General Skilled Migration to Australia (You must complete Part J of **Form 1276** if you are looking for sponsorship by an eligible relative sponsor). You must also complete **Form 47A** - Details of Child or Other Dependent Family Members 18 Years of Age or Over (whether they are migrating or not).

Nomination by State/Territory government

State and Territory governments may nominate applicants who have the relevant skills/qualifications in occupations which are in demand in that particular State or Territory. The participating State or Territory governments for this visa are:

- South Australia - www.immigration.sa.gov.au
- Victoria - www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au
- Western Australia - www.migration.wa.gov.au
- Tasmania - www.development.tas.gov.au
- Australian Capital Territory - www.business.act.gov.au/investingincanberra/act_skilled_and_business_migration_program
- Northern Territory - www.migration.nt.gov.au
- New South Wales - www.business.nsw.gov.au
- Queensland - www.migration.qld.gov.au

You should look at the links listed above beside each state or territory to check what skills are in demand before you make your application. Each State or Territory government website will also have information relating to housing, employment and schools in their region.

If you are granted this visa:

- You can live and work in a regional or low-population growth area in Australia for up to 3 years
- Any accompanying family members can work and study but only in a regional or low-population growth area of Australia
- It may provide you with a pathway to permanent residence.

The participating State or Territory governments will assess your eligibility for sponsorship under this visa scheme. If a State or Territory government agrees to sponsor you for this visa they will notify the department of the sponsorship arrangement.

If they decide to nominate you, they must complete **Form 1100** - State/Territory Government Nomination.

You must complete application **Form 1276** - application for general skilled Migration to Australia (You must complete **Part J of Form 1276** if you are seeking a nomination from a State or Territory government.) You must also complete **Form 47A** - Details of Child or other dependent Family members 18 years of age or over (whether they are migrating or not).

Other general information

When you lodge your application you will have to pay a non-refundable application fee. The 1st installment fee is AUD \$2,060/€1,355 (2007 figure).

The 2nd installment fee of AUD \$2,860/€1,885 (2007 figure) is payable when the visa is granted.

If you are granted this visa you and any dependent family members included in your visa application can:

- Remain in Australia for up to three years (in a Specified Regional Area in Australia)
- Apply for a permanent visa after you have lived for 2 years in a Specified Regional Area and worked (including being self-employed) for 1 year.

You and your accompanying family members must comply with all Australian laws in order to apply for permanent residence.

You will have to meet health and character requirements. For detailed information on health and character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**.

4 Skilled - Graduate Visa (Subclass 476)

This is a temporary visa that allows recent graduates of selected overseas universities to gain up to 18 months of skilled work experience in occupations in demand in Australia.

If you are granted this visa you may apply for permanent residence at any time if you are able to meet the pass mark on the General Skilled Migration points test.

This visa is for you if you completed an Engineering Degree at a recognised overseas institution in the last two years. For more information on recognised overseas institutions please see the website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/476/recognised-institutions.htm

This visa allows you and any secondary applicants included in your visa application to remain in Australia for up to 18 months with no restrictions on work or study. During this period you can:

- Travel
- Work
- Undertake further professional studies
- Study to improve your English skills.

Other general information

- There are no conditions placed on this visa
- If you are granted this visa you are able to live and work in any part of Australia and engage in any type of employment
- You and any accompanying secondary applicants must however comply with Australian laws. Failure to do so may affect your ability to remain in Australia
- You must pay a non-refundable fee of AUD \$190/€125 (2007 figure) when you lodge your application
- You will have to meet health and character requirements. For detailed information on health and character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**.