

April 11th 2021

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The Monthly Newsletter from Australian Visa and Immigration Experts (AVIE)



NSW UPDATES OCCUPATION LIST FOR SUBCLASS 491

IS YOUR OCCUPATION THERE?

By Nicole Kirkwood

How does NSW 491 program work?

There are 14 regions which mean each has their own occupation list and assess their own applications. The regions are Central Coast, Central West, Far South Coast, Far West, Hunter, Illawarra, Mid North Coast, Murray, Northern Inland, Northern Rivers, Orana, Riverina, Southern Inland, Sydney.

You must meet the criteria of one of the following streams:

You must meet all criteria in **one of the following three streams** to be eligible for NSW nomination:

- **Living and working in regional NSW;**
- **recently completed study in regional NSW; or**
- **living and working outside of regional NSW (closed at present for most regions)**

Living and working in regional NSW

- a valid skills assessment that appears on your nominated regions occupation list.
- you are an NSW resident living in a designated regional area for at least 12 months, and
- you have been working in a designated regional area in NSW for at least the last 12 months and
- you have been working in your occupation or a closely related occupation for at least 12 months.

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Continued

Recently completed study in regional NSW:

- hold a valid skills assessment for an occupation that appears on your nominated region's occupation list;
- have completed study or education with an education provider, where:
 - the study was completed within the previous 24 months;
 - the education provider is located in a designated regional area in NSW;
 - the study meets the Australian study requirement, and
 - the qualification obtained from this study has been assessed as closely related to your nominated occupation by the relevant assessing authority; and
- have lived in a designated regional area of NSW while completing your study.

Living and working outside of regional NSW (including overseas) - Closed at present for most regions

To be eligible for NSW nomination under this stream you must meet all the criteria for at least **one of the following categories:**

a. Job offer in regional NSW

To be eligible for NSW nomination under this category you must:

- hold a valid skills assessment for an occupation that appears on your nominated region's occupation list;
- have an offer for ongoing employment that is:
 - in your nominated occupation, or a closely related occupation; and
 - for a minimum term of 12 months and 35 hours of work per week;
- have an offer for ongoing employment from an employer that is:
 - located in a designated regional area in NSW; and registered in Australia.

b. At least five years skilled employment experience (offshore Applicants)

If you reside outside of Australia, you must:

- hold a valid skills assessment for an occupation that appears on your nominated region's occupation list; and
- have at least five years of skilled employment in such nominated occupation or a closely related occupation.

c. Family ties in regional NSW

To be eligible for NSW nomination under this category you must:

- hold a valid skills assessment for an occupation that appears on your nominated region's occupation list; and
- have an immediate family member in a designated regional area in NSW who satisfies all of the criteria below:
 - is either your grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, brother or sister who is at least 18 years of age;
 - either an Australian Permanent Resident, an Australian Citizen or a NSW nominated provisional visa holder (489);
 - currently residing in a designated regional area in NSW and has been living in a designated regional area in NSW for at least the previous 24 months.

For the complete list of occupations, read the full article [here](#).

Do not miss out on another opportunity. [Book a consultation](#) with a Registered Migration Agent today to discuss your eligibility.

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JUST IN

FAMILY INVITATION
ROUND RELEASED FOR
JANUARY 2021

HOW MANY POINTS DO YOU NEED FOR YOUR VISA?

By Nicole Kirkwood

The January 2021 round has been released.

January 2021 200 invitations were issued for subclass 189 up from 30 in October 2020. Despite this increase many of those who have lodged their Expression of Interest (EOI) are still waiting for an invitation despite high point scores. 163 invitations were also issued in January 2021 for subclass 491 Family sponsored up from 80 in October 2020.

Why are there so few invitations?

The May 2020 to January 2021 rounds has been different from every round for the last few years. Government priorities have changed at least in the short term to address Covid-19 and economic response.

For the above listed visa subclasses, the current processing priorities (with the highest priority listed first) are:

1. Visa applications for any points tested subclass where the Department has determined that the applicant has an occupation within a Critical Sector.
2. Subclass 491 (non-Critical Sector) – applicants are in Australia
3. Subclass 491 (non-Critical Sector) – applicants are outside of Australia
4. Subclass 489 (non-Critical Sector)
5. Subclass 190 (non-Critical Sector)
6. Subclass 189 – Points tested stream only (non-Critical Sector)

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Continued

What scores did applicants need in the January 2021 round?

- For subclass 189 - in January the lowest score anyone required was 65 (that includes occupations in most need in Australia such as nurses, doctors and other allied health).
- For subclass 491 - Family - Most occupations required 65 points - that includes 15 points provided by family for these visas.
- Accountants, External Auditors and some Engineers and IT for 189 and 491 Family simply stated NA. That may mean that none of these occupations was invited.

How long did applicants wait from the EOI date of effect to the invitation?

- 189 – 9 months
- 491 – 2 months

Find the complete list of occupations [here](#).

How many places have been filled for 189?

- 1190 people have been invited

How many places are there for 189?

- There are 6500 places available for the 2020/2021 year.

It is important to note that some of these places will be filled by eligible 189 New Zealand passport holder who do not require an invitation for a visa.

I have a high point score will I receive an invitation if I do not work in a critical sector?

- While the priorities remain as they are above, and invitations are it is unlikely in the short term that a high point score will be sufficient for you to be invited.

What now for people that have high point scores but do not work in a critical sector.

- **Act** - While the places for 189 have decreased to 6500 places in the 2020/2021 year. There are 22,400 places for 491/190 this year. That means you may need to consider state or regional options.
- **Wait** - The migration year resets on 1 July each year. This year everything started a little later because of the delay in the Federal budget. - we will see changes again to skilled numbers and priorities at that time.
- **Understand all your visa options** - You may be eligible for other visas

Take action:

Hoping for the best is unlikely to get you anywhere. Get advice on your points scores or how to navigate your way through the migration maze. [Book a consultation](#) with a registered migration agent today.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

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IF YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN REGIONAL QUEENSLAND OR ARE A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER IN THE STATE, YOU MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS MIGRATION PATHWAY.

QLD 491 NOMINATIONS OPEN FROM 19-25 APRIL 2021

By Nicole Kirkwood

The QLD 491 Regional and 491 (SBO) Small Business Owner pathway is now open for 1 week only. You must have been living and working in a regional area (including the Gold Coast) in one of the following **critical skills or sectors** :

- Air Ambulance, Critical Medical, Medical Technology,
- Engineering, Critical Infrastructure, Supply Chain
- Telecommunications, Film & Television Production,
- Maritime Industry, Agricultural Technology Food Technology,
- Mining, Emerging Technology, Financial Technology, and
- Large Scale Manufacturing.

Hospitality occupations can also apply if they meet additional work experience requirements below:

- **Accommodation and Hospitality Managers** - 141999 - 3 years work experience post qualification, including 3 months in Queensland.
- **Café and Restaurant Managers** - 141111 -3 years work experience post qualification, including 3 months in Queensland.
- **Chef** - 351311 -3 years work experience post qualification, including 3 months in Queensland.
- **Cook** - 33 years work experience post qualification, including 3 months in Queensland.
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Unfortunately 190 will not open until the new migration year (after July 2021).

It is important to be prepared so you can take advantage of the windows that Queensland are open. Don't miss out next time. **For advice contact a Registered Migration Agent Australian Visa and Immigration Experts today.**