

December 23rd 2020

# #HELLOAVIE

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



## PTE ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO ITS ENGLISH SCORING

|NEWS UPDATE|

## WILL YOU NEED A NEW ENGLISH TEST?

By Nicole Kirkwood

Pearson (PTE Academic) have announced that their English scoring has changed to align more closely the IELTS scores. This has yet to take affect at skills assessor, state or DHA level.

What PTE score do you need? Pearson (PTE Academic) - Minimum score in each band at present:

- Competent 50 in each band
- Proficient 65 in each band
- Superior 79 in each band

Pearson (PTE Academic) - New minimum score in each band:

- Competent 46 in each band
- Proficient 66 in each band
- Superior 84 in each band

Our advice: If you do one thing over the holidays, it may be to sit a new test if you need a high score for Proficient or Superior level. You may also think about lodging a skills assessment sooner rather than later while the old scores are still in effect.

For advice on how the higher points scores may affect your eligibility for a visa or assistance with your skills assessment contact a Registered Migration Agent today on [www.avie.com.au](http://www.avie.com.au).

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## Update from Tasmania: Skilled Nomination Program receives full quota for 2020-2021



## HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE?

By Nicole Kirkwood

Tasmania's skilled visa nomination program (subclass 190 and 491) announces it has received its full quota and approximate open date for the rest of the 2020/2021 program. It opens in Late January 2021, with 1000 places available for Subclass 190 and 1400 places available for Subclass 491. 25% have already been allocated from August 2020 to date. More information will be release further details prior to opening in January.

What occupations are available at present? Critical skills and sectors as directed by DHA:

- directly assisting in Tasmania's COVID-19 response directly engaged by Tasmanian Government
- providing critical or specialist medical services or delivering medical supplies potentially associated with COVID-19 response. This includes all general nursing and medical positions with the Tasmanian Health Service
- directly involved in the supply of essential goods and services (medical technology, critical infrastructure, telecommunications, engineering and mining, supply chain logistics, agricultural technology, food production, and the maritime industry) including highly skilled and specialised roles in:
  - infrastructure engineering and maintenance such as dams, large-/high-complexity bridges, irrigation schemes, transport logistics planning and maintenance,
  - agriculture such as artificial insemination technicians, wool classers, livestock pregnancy scanners, the supply of essential goods and services which would be in jeopardy without the applicant
  - delivering services in sectors critical to economic recovery such as financial technology, large scale manufacturing, film and television production and emerging technology which: must be high-value/highly-skilled/specialised roles, would normally include a significant and recognised contribution to export income, significant flow-on employment and economic benefits, high-value national/ international exposure.
- skilled health and allied health occupations, including in private and not-for-profit sectors
- senior support workers/enrolled nurses/registered nurses in aged, disability and community care (minimum diploma qualified)
- Chef and cooks

The new list of occupations is not available as yet. For advice on your state options contact a registered migration agent today at [www.avie.com.au](http://www.avie.com.au)

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**JUST IN**  
**VICTORIA'S SKILLED**  
**NOMINATION**  
**PROGRAM TO OPEN**  
**ON 5TH JAN 2021.**



AUSTRALIAN  
VISA &  
IMMIGRATION  
EXPERTS

## HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE?

By Nicole Kirkwood

When does it open? 5 January 2021

How many places are available?

- Subclass 190: 1900
- Subclass 491: 843

What's new? You will need to Register your Interest before being invited to apply for consideration for Nomination in one of the five submission windows. There will be one submission window in each month January through to May.

Do you need to live in Victoria to be considered?:

- You must be living in regional Victoria to be considered for 491
- You must be living in Victoria to be considered for 190

What occupations are on the Victorian occupation list? There is no specific list.

Subclass 190: Your occupation will need to be in health or medical research or life sciences which supports Victoria's economic recovery and/or health response.

If you are a nurse your nominated occupation must be: Midwife - 254111, Registered Nurse (Aged Care) -254412, Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency) - 254415, Registered Nurse (Mental Health) - 254422, Registered Nurse (Perioperative) - 254423.

Do you need work experience? Yes, for the subclass 190 - you must be working for 6 months work experience in Victoria.

Subclass 491: Your occupation will need to be in health, medical research, life sciences, agri-food or digital sectors which supports Victoria's economic recovery and/or health response.

Do you need work experience? Yes, for the subclass 491 - you must be working for 3 months work experience in regional Victoria. To get advice on your state options contact a Registered Migration Agent at [www.avie.com.au](http://www.avie.com.au) today.

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*Important Update*

Regional changes to  
Subclass 485 Visas have  
been announced.



## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A SECOND VISA?

By Nicole Kirkwood

Are you eligible for an additional one or two year 485 visa?

Who is eligible for a second 485 Visa?:

- You must have completed study from regional education provider
- You must hold a 485 (Post Study Work) stream visa
- You must have lived, worked and studied only in a designated regional area for two years continuously on your first Post Study Work 485 immediately before applying for the second 485 visa
- You and your family must be in Australia to apply (No covid-19 concession)

When can you lodge a second 485 visa? From 20 January 2021 you can lodge a second Subclass 485 (Post Study Work stream)

How much will it cost? Base charge primary applicant - \$650, Additional applicant > 18 yo - \$ 325, Additional applicant < 18 yo \$165.

What if you hold an 18 month 485 Graduate visa that was granted on the basis of either Advanced Diploma level study or below (or first study before 5 November 2011)? Unfortunately, you are not eligible for an additional 485 visa.

Who is eligible for a second 2 year 485 visa? If you have graduated, held a Post Study Work 485 and only lived, worked and studied in a designated regional centre or other regional area you may be eligible for second two year Post Study Work 485.

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## Continued

Does it have to be the same designated regional area? No, you can live and work in a different designated regional area to which you studied.

What if you didn't work in a regional area but instead lived and undertook further study in the designated regional area? Yes, you may still be eligible for a second 485 visa.

Who is eligible for a second 1 year 485 visa? If you graduated, held a Post Study Work 485 and only lived, worked and studied in a designated city or major regional area you may be eligible for the grant of a subsequent one year Post Study Work 485.

Are you in a Designated regional area? Designated city or major regional centre means Perth, Adelaide, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Newcastle/Lake Macquarie, Wollongong/Illawarra, Canberra, Geelong and Hobart. Designated regional centre or other regional area means all other areas of regional Australia apart from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth, Adelaide, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast.

Category 2 - may be eligible for an additional 1 year 485. Category 3 - may be eligible for an additional 2 year 485. See the Department of Home affairs website to check if your post code is eligible. Contact a Registered Migration Agent today at [www.avie.com.au](http://www.avie.com.au) to discuss your eligibility for your first or second 485 visa.

December 18th 2020

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## IMPORTANT UPDATE

NSW has just released occupation lists for Subclasses 190 and 491.



## NSW RELEASES OCCUPATION LISTS

By Nicole Kirkwood

NSW have just released their occupation lists for NSW 190 and NSW 491. The list is small compared to previous years and indicate their occupation list is reduced at the direction of the Department of Home Affairs.

When will NSW nominations open? NSW 190 are expected to open January/February 2021. NSW 491 are expected to open February 2021.

For NSW 491 there are 13 different regions, it is important to confirm the region you are located has your occupation listed.

For those who have occupations that are not on this list, please keep in mind the migration year ends on 30/06/2021 and the lists may be reset again at that time. See the full lists [here](#).

It is important to get advice on your options for 2021 and beyond. [Book in](#) with an expert migration agent today to discuss your plans.

December 3rd 2020

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## WHAT ARE THESE NEW CHANGES?

By Nicole Kirkwood

NSW has announced they will be changing their program for the 2020/2021 year. The new program is really a hybrid of their previous program and the new one.

What has changed? After announcing last year NSW would centralise the program. NSW is reverting back to the previous program in which each region will set up their own occupation list and assess their own applications.

There are 13 regions: Central Coast, Central West, Far South Coast, Far West, Hunter, Illawarra, Mid North Coast, Murray, Northern Inland, Northern Rivers, Orana Riverina and Southern Inland.

What will remain the same? 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
- living and working outside of regional NSW.

Living and working in regional NSW:

- a valid skills assessment that appear on your nominated regions occupation list
- you are a NSW resident living in a designated regional area for at least 12 months
- 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.

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.

December 3rd 2020

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## Continued

Living and working outside of regional NSW (including overseas): To be eligible for NSW nomination under this stream you must meet all the criteria for at least one of the following categories:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

When do they open? When NSW receives its 2020/2021 allocation from the federal government. We are monitoring each of the regions and will post an update as they open.

Have you already received your skills assessment? Do not miss out on another opportunity. If you are considering regional options [book a consultation](#) with a Registered Migration Agent today.



December 2nd 2020

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## New changes announced to the Family visa program to support applicants impacted by COVID-19.

### WHAT ARE THESE NEW CHANGES?

By Nicole Kirkwood

In many cases when a visa that is lodged outside of Australia (offshore) the visa will need to be granted while the applicant is offshore.

As visa processing can take many years often applicants would travel to Australia during processing to be with their partner or family member.

In Pre-Covid-19 times departing Australia would be a quick flight offshore and then return back to Australia when the visa is decided. However due to COVID-19 travel is more problematic.

The Department of Home Affairs have announced temporary changes to allow the following Family visa subclasses to be granted in Australia from early 2021.

- Partner (subclass 309) visa
- Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visa
- Child (subclass 101) visa
- Adoption (subclass 102) visa
- Dependent Child (subclass 445) visa

To know more, visit [here](#).

To learn more about Partner or family visas [contact](#) AVIE to discuss your visa options.

December 1st 2020

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## Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**SOCIAL WORKER HAS NOW BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST OF OCCUPATIONS**

### WHAT ARE THE OCCUPATIONS ON THE PMSOL?

By Nicole Kirkwood

There are now 18 occupations on the PMSOL with the latest addition of Social Worker:

- Chief Executive or Managing Director (111111)
- Construction Project Manager (133111)
- Mechanical Engineer (233512)
- General Practitioner (253111)
- Resident Medical Officer (253112)
- Psychiatrist (253411)
- Medical Practitioner nec (253999)
- Midwife (254111)
- Registered Nurse (Aged Care) (254412)
- Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency) (254415)
- Registered Nurse (Medical) (254418)
- Registered Nurse (Mental Health) (254422)
- Registered Nurse (Perioperative) (254423)
- Registered Nurses nec (254499)
- Developer Programmer (261312)
- Software Engineer (261313)
- Social Worker (272511)
- Maintenance Planner (312911)

Occupations on this list are eligible for priority processing for employer sponsored visas and may be eligible for exception to the travel ban. [Contact AVIE](#) today to confirm your visa options.