

PROGRAMME BROCHURE

SKILLED MIGRATION | AUSTRALIA

Subclass 191 – Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional)

The permanent visa that subclass 491 and 494 holders convert to after three years in regional Australia. No sponsor, no nominator, and it costs from AUD 630.

TIMELINE

Home Affairs publishes no fixed standard

JOB OFFER

Not required

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At a glance

COUNTRY **Australia**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Points**
TIMELINE **Home Affairs publishes no fixed standard**	JOB OFFER **Not required**
LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**	

Overview

The **Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191)** is the permanent visa that holders of **subclass 491** and **subclass 494** convert to after three years in regional Australia.

Home Affairs' own description: it allows workers who hold an eligible visa and meet an income requirement to live and work in Australia permanently. **No sponsor and no nominator are required**, and the Regional provisional stream starts from **AUD 630** — a fraction of what Australia's other permanent skilled visas cost, because you already paid the full charge on your provisional visa.

The two streams

Regional provisional stream — for people who have lived and worked in designated regional areas on an eligible visa. You must have held that visa for **at least 3 years**, complied with its conditions, and had a **taxable income at or above a set threshold for at least 3 years** while holding it. From **AUD 630**.

Hong Kong stream — for Hong Kong or British National (Overseas) passport holders who have demonstrated commitment to Australia and meet certain visa and residence requirements. From **AUD 6,135**.

The income test decides the case

The requirement that decides your case is the **taxable income threshold, met for at least three years**. Home Affairs does not publish the amount on the visa page, so XIPHIAS confirms the current threshold for your case before you rely on it.

What this means practically: if you are about to accept a regional job offer on a 491 or 494, the salary is not just about living costs. It determines whether the permanent residency you are working towards is achievable at all. Get the current threshold checked against the specific offer **before** you sign, not three years later.

Keep every notice of assessment. They are the evidence.

Key benefits

- Permanent residency — live, work and study anywhere in Australia.
- No sponsor and no nominator required.
- The Regional provisional stream costs from AUD 630, a fraction of Australia's other permanent skilled visas.
- Partner and dependent children can be included.
- Pathway to Australian citizenship.

Requirements

- Regional provisional stream: hold an eligible regional visa for at least 3 years and comply with its conditions.
- Regional provisional stream: have had a taxable income at or above the relevant income threshold for at least 3 years while holding that visa.
- Regional provisional stream: have lived and worked in a designated regional area of Australia on that eligible visa.
- Hong Kong stream: hold a Hong Kong passport or a British National (Overseas) passport, and meet the visa and residence requirements.
- Meet health and character requirements.

When this route may not fit

- Fewer than 3 years holding the eligible regional visa.
- Taxable income below the threshold in any of the 3 required years.
- Breach of the conditions attached to the eligible visa.
- Living or working outside a designated regional area while holding the provisional visa.

Skills, language and points

Job offer: No sponsor or nominator is required for this visa.

Costs and government fees

Programme costs

Item	Amount	Notes
Visa application charge — Regional provisional stream	AUD 630	From AUD 630. Concessions apply in limited circumstances.
Visa application charge — HKSAR and BN(O) passport stream	AUD 6,135	From AUD 6,135. For HKSAR or British National (Overseas) passport holders. Concessions apply in limited circumstances.

Government fees

Fee	Amount	Notes
Subclass 191 — Regional provisional stream, primary applicant	AUD 630	
Subclass 191 — HKSAR and BN(O) passport stream, primary applicant	AUD 6,135	

How the process works

1. **Hold an eligible regional visa**
   Subclass 491 or subclass 494, held for at least 3 years.

2. **Live and work regionally**
   Remain in a designated regional area and comply with every condition on your provisional visa.

3. **Meet the income threshold**
   Have a taxable income at or above the threshold for at least 3 years while holding the visa. Keep your notices of assessment.

4. **Lodge the subclass 191 application**
   Apply directly — no sponsor or nominator is needed. The Regional provisional stream starts from AUD 630.

5. **Health, character and decision**
   Complete medicals and police checks, then await the decision.

Questions clients ask

Who can apply for subclass 191?

People who have held an eligible regional visa — subclass 491 or 494 — for at least 3 years, complied with its conditions, lived and worked in a designated regional area, and met a taxable income threshold for at least 3 of those years. There is also a separate Hong Kong stream.

How much does it cost?

From AUD 630 for the Regional provisional stream, and from AUD 6,135 for the Hong Kong stream. The Regional provisional figure is unusually low for an Australian permanent visa, because you have already paid the charge on your provisional visa.

Do I need an employer or state to sponsor me?

No. Home Affairs states plainly that you do not need a sponsor or nominator for this visa.

What is the income threshold?

Home Affairs does not publish the amount on the visa page. XIPHIAS confirms the current threshold against your tax assessments before you rely on it.

How long does processing take?

Home Affairs publishes no static figure for subclass 191 and directs applicants to its processing time guide tool instead. XIPHIAS checks the current position when you lodge.

Can my family be included?

Yes. Partner and dependent children can be included in the application.

Important notes

- The income test is where this visa is lost. You must have met the taxable income threshold for at least 3 years, and Home Affairs does not publish the amount on the visa page. Confirm the current threshold with an adviser before you rely on a regional salary offer.
- Home Affairs publishes no static processing time for subclass 191. Its page directs applicants to the processing time guide tool, and XIPHIAS checks the current position when you lodge.
- Complying with your provisional visa conditions matters as much as the income. A period living or working outside the designated regional area can end the pathway.

Compliance

- Two streams: Regional provisional, and Hong Kong.
- The Regional provisional stream requires holding an eligible visa for at least 3 years, complying with its conditions, and meeting a taxable income threshold for at least 3 years while holding it.
- Subclass 491 and subclass 494 are the two skilled regional provisional visas that lead here.
- No sponsor or nominator is required.
- From 1 July 2026 a lower visa application charge applies to eligible Pacific Island and Timor-Leste citizens.
- The taxable income threshold amount is not published on the Home Affairs visa page. XIPHIAS confirms the current threshold against your notices of assessment before you apply.
- Home Affairs page last updated 1 July 2026.



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 191 – Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional)** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

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