

XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE

SKILLED MIGRATION | AUSTRALIA

Subclass 187 RSMS – Closed to New Applications

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme closed on 16 November 2019. Only existing 457 and 482 holders can still use its Temporary Residence Transition stream. Subclass 494 replaced it.

JOB OFFER

Required

FAMILY

Spouse, children up to age 23

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At a glance

COUNTRY **Australia**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Employer**
FAMILY MEMBERS **Spouse, children up to age 23**	LANGUAGE **Competent English (IELTS 6.0 each band or equivalent)**
JOB OFFER **Required**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

Overview

The **Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) visa – Subclass 187** was a permanent residency visa for skilled workers nominated by employers in regional Australia. It is **closed to new applications**, and **subclass 494** replaced it for regional employer sponsorship.

This visa is closed to new applications

The **Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 187)** stopped accepting new applications on **16 November 2019**. Home Affairs states it plainly on its own page: *"This visa is closed to new applications."* The cost is listed as N/A.

The closure is written into law. The *Migration Amendment (New Skilled Regional Visas) Regulations 2019* inserted a rule into the Migration Regulations 1994 requiring that an application "must be made before 16 November 2019", with a matching bar on employer nominations.

The one exception

The **Temporary Residence Transition stream** is still open, but only to a narrow group. You must:

- be a **transitional subclass 457 worker or transitional subclass 482 worker** at the time you apply
- hold a substantive visa, or a Bridging visa A, B or C
- usually have worked for your employer **in regional Australia for at least 2 years full time**
- hold an **employer nomination approved in the 6 months** before you apply

No occupation list applies to this stream — eligibility follows the occupation on your most recently held temporary skilled visa. For those eligible, the Temporary Residence Transition stream visa application charge is **AUD 6,140**.

Home Affairs publishes **no processing time** for subclass 187. It does not appear in the processing-times tool at all.

What replaced it

The same 2019 regulations that closed the 187 created its replacements:

- **Subclass 494 — Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional)** — the direct replacement. A regional employer nominates you; 5-year visa.
- **Subclass 491 — Skilled Work Regional (Provisional)** — the points-tested regional route, nominated by a state or sponsored by family.
- **Subclass 191 — Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional)** — the permanent visa that both of the above lead to, after 3 years.

If you were looking at the 187 because you want regional employer sponsorship, **subclass 494 is the visa you want**.

Speak to a XIPHIAS adviser about which fits your situation.

{/ restored from the 2019–2026 site /}

Subclass 187 (Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme) closed to new nominations in November 2019; the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional visa, subclass 494, replaced it. Transitional 187 applications continue.

187 Regional Sponsored Scheme

Regional Sponsored Scheme or subclass 187 is just like the Subclass 186. However, this stream pertains to Regional areas of Australia.

A permanent Residency program through which successful candidates can live, work and study in Australia.

This subclass has 2 streams.

The Direct Entry Stream has been terminated since 2018. Watch this space for any further update in this stream.

All those employees, working in the regional area of Australia are qualified to apply under the Temporary Residence Transition Stream.

To qualify under this program, the applicant must hold one of the temporary visas or the bridging visas.

It is very important that the occupation of the applicant is listed in Australia's occupation demand list.

XIPHIAS, a MARA registered firm can help its clients through this program right from application process till the time of obtaining Australian PR.

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

Skills, language and points

ACCEPTED TESTS	MINIMUM LEVEL
IELTS, PTE, OET, TOEFL iBT	**Competent English (IELTS 6.0 each band or equivalent)**

Job offer: Requires full-time job offer and nomination from an approved employer in a regional area.

Questions clients ask

Can I still apply for the subclass 187 RSMS visa?

Not through the Direct Entry stream. Home Affairs closed it to new applications on 16 November 2019. The only remaining route is the Temporary Residence Transition stream, and only if you already hold a transitional subclass 457 or 482 visa.

What replaced the 187?

Subclass 494, the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa, together with subclass 491 for the points-tested route. Both lead to permanent residency through subclass 191 after three years.

I hold a 482 and work regionally — do I qualify?

Possibly. You need to be a transitional 457 or 482 worker, to have usually worked for your employer in regional Australia for at least 2 years full time, and to hold an employer nomination approved within the previous 6 months. Speak to an adviser about your specific case.

How long does the Temporary Residence Transition stream take?

Home Affairs publishes no processing time for subclass 187; the visa does not appear in its processing-times tool.

Why does the 187 still appear in older guides?

It was closed to new applications rather than formally repealed, so it still appears in older material. It has not accepted a new Direct Entry application since 2019.

Important notes

- The Direct Entry stream is closed. Home Affairs states on its own page: 'This visa is closed to new applications.' The cost is shown as N/A.
- XIPHIAS is not accepting new clients for subclass 187. If you are looking for regional employer sponsorship, subclass 494 is the visa that replaced it.
- Older guides may still describe the 187 as open. It has not accepted a new Direct Entry application since 2019.

Compliance

- Applications had to be made before 16 November 2019. The bar was inserted into the Migration Regulations 1994 by the Migration Amendment (New Skilled Regional Visas) Regulations 2019, which commenced on that date.
- One narrow exception remains: the Temporary Residence Transition stream, open only to a transitional subclass 457 worker or transitional subclass 482 worker at the time of application.
- Those applicants must hold a substantive visa or a Bridging visa A, B or C, must usually have worked for their employer in regional Australia for at least 2 years full time, and must hold an employer nomination approved in the 6 months before applying.
- No occupation list applies to the Temporary Residence Transition stream — eligibility follows the occupation on the most recently held temporary skilled visa.
- Home Affairs publishes no processing times for subclass 187. The visa does not appear in its processing-times tool.
- From 1 July 2026 a lower visa application charge applies to eligible Pacific Island and Timor-Leste citizens.



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 187 RSMS – Closed to New Applications** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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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/regional-sponsored-migration-187 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.