

Migration Plus

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (Subclass 119/857)

The RSMS is designed to assist the economic development of regional Australia by encouraging skilled migrants to settle in these areas.

The scheme is designed to assist employers in regional Australia who are unable to meet their skilled workforce needs from the local labour market. Employers are able to nominate people who are temporary residents in Australia, to fill any vacancies.

Requirements:

The position to be filled must:

- require the appointment of a person who has qualifications equivalent to at least Australian Diploma level (unless exceptional circumstances apply)
- be available for 2 years;
- not be able to be filled from the local labour market (that is, there is a labour shortage in the local region of people with these skills)

The prospective employee must:

- Have functional English. This should be evidenced by an IELTS test with an overall band score of 4.5, or evidence that you have studied at an English speaking institution for 2 years full time;
- Have a diploma or higher qualification that is relevant to the position.
- Be under 45 years of age
- Be prepared to sign an employment contract for a period of 2 years

Stage 1 - Nomination

A nomination for the position is to be lodged by your employer, with the local Regional Certifying Body (RCB). In Cairns, the RCB is the Cairns Chamber of Commerce.

The Cairns Chamber of Commerce will certify that the vacant position cannot be filled from the local labour market, is available for 2 years, requires the relevant qualifications and is in accordance with Australian standard award wages and conditions. Once the position has been certified, the nomination is then sent to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for approval.

Following approval by DIAC, the employer and the prospective employee enter into an employment contract for a minimum of 2 years.

Stage 2 - Visa Application

The prospective employee then lodges an application for a permanent visa with DIAC. The application may be made in Australia or outside of Australia. The main criteria is that the applicant fulfil the requirements stated above. The applicant will be also required to meet the standard health and character checks. Once approved, a visa will be issued.

A further option of Employer Nominated Scheme (ENS) is also available if the position sponsored is not in a regional area. The charges for ENS are similar however the requirements are slightly more onerous.

Summary of Costs under RSMS

	Amount	GST	Total
DIAC fee (onshore)	\$2,575.00	No GST	\$2,575.00
DIAC fee (offshore)	\$1,735.00	No GST	\$1,735.00
Chamber of Commerce Regional Certification fee	\$500.00	plus GST	\$550.00
Our Professional fees	\$4,000.00	Plus GST	\$4,400.00

Additional charges apply for services such as medicals, police clearances and translations of any documents that you provide which are not written in English

You may also need to have your skills or qualifications assessed to show that they are to the level required to undertake your occupation in Australia. This will involve further expense, the amount of which will depend on the charges of the assessing body.

There may be a further instalment payable to DIAC of AU\$7,040 for primary applicants, and AU\$3,510 for secondary applicant, over the age of 18 who are assessed as not having functional English.

The fee quoted is for preparation of a standard application. If there are translations, further schedules to prepare or interpretive work required, then this will be at an additional charge. We advise that all translations must be undertaken by a NAATI accredited translator, and we can arrange this on your behalf. Should the Department of Immigration require an interview or follow up material in addition to the standard application or in support of the standard application, then there will be an additional charge for this. We will endeavour to keep you fully informed about our fees and any additional costs at all times.

You will be required to pay for medical reports and police clearances if required. These costs will depend upon the nature of your application.

Our professional fees are based on the time spent by us in performing our services for a standard application. We do not charge extra for reasonable outlays but if there are significant costs in addition, such as international telephone calls, facsimile charges and translation charges (if paid by us) and additional time spent due to further client requirements, these will be billed at cost.

We advise that this quote for our fees to prepare your application is valid for a period of 3 months from the date of this letter.

We have enclosed a copy of our Engagement Contract with your visa options and our terms and conditions. If you are in agreement with our terms and conditions and are happy to engage our services, we ask that you sign and return to us the Engagement Contract with the entire amount or a minimum of 50% of Migration Plus' fees with the balance payable on lodgement.

A payment form is enclosed giving you options to pay by cash, cheque or credit card. As we have no control over the final decision by DIAC, our fee is payable when the application is ready to be lodged, not when the DIAC decision is handed down.

Interviews

You may be required to attend at an interview with DIAC. We strongly recommend that we attend your interview, which will allow us to closely monitor your file. If you are required to attend an interview, we will charge a fee of \$330 (GST inclusive) for us to prepare, meet with you prior, and to attend the interview with you if required.