

Despondency and Outrage at Federal Government wage demands for Regional 491 Visa



The Federal Government have announced that the annual wage required under the new regional 491 visa will be an historically high \$53,900. This visa will be used to attract skilled migrants to fill regional skills shortages around the nation. Visa holders will need to earn this amount for 3 consecutive financial years else they will likely have to leave Australia

This in sharp contrast to the current regional visa (489) that only requires fulltime hours to be worked (35 per week) and has NO minimum wage requirement.

The strong reaction has been this is unattainable for most migrants in regional areas of Australia and will lead to migrants abandoning smaller regional towns who are most suffering from acute skills shortages to instead seek work in larger regional cities. Also visa holders working in occupations are likely to be forced to work in jobs other than what they were sponsored in and work many hours of overtime above the standard 38 hours a week to get anywhere near this historically high salary figure of \$53,900.

We surveyed over 1000 potential applicants of this new 491 Regional visa to hear their reaction. The survey was completed by Medical , Engineering, Computing, Management, Childcare, Trades and many occupations in between. Skilled people whom regional areas are screaming out for .

The results were alarming

- Only 30% thought this salary was achievable in a Regional Area
- The regional salary that was considered more reasonable was between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per annum for 3 years in a row
- An alarming 81% believe they will have to work in an occupation OTHER than their sponsored occupation in order to achieve this salary figure
- And a massive 92% believe they will have to work significant overtime in order to earn this regional \$53,900 salary figure

We asked for comments about this historically high \$53,900 salary figure and received over 750 replies.

Here is a selection of them :

The figure is outrageous, who would pay 53k in regional Australia for a graduate.

It is impossible to reach 54k for three consecutive years even if you live in Melbourne so imagine for regional area. I think government wants this people temporarily and after three years they want to send 90% of the applicants back to their homes after they fail to do this condition.

This salary requirement is ridiculous. When you get an accounting job in the city, it is not easy to earn \$53,900. How can you earn that amount in regional areas? They don't have enough jobs. You are probably going to work in different fields other than accounting or even hard to get a job there.

Firstly the job in my field is not readily available and even if you get it, it will not be paying me \$53900 a year. It would pay me around \$40000pa if i work 38 hours a week and with family you need to have a life outside work which is very tough. \$53900 is unfair and that too in regional area. They need to think about it first that there are hardly any jobs in regional areas.

53900 is not possible in regional area with 38 hours , please remove this condition, before condition on 489 was good to do only 35 hours per week without any minimum income , Plzz do like that because it is really hard to find jobs in regional Australia

\$53k for regional does not make sense. What if you are unemployed for a few months will you make this threshold - i doubt.

Please be reasonable before coming to a conclusion like this. Find employment, let alone skilled employment, is 10 times more difficult in regional areas.

I am an Australian citizen and living in regional qld Gladstone from 10 years as my sister in law is applying for 491 EOI next month and her IT nominated job cant get here and even trying to get another job is not easy and to get 53900 salary level is difficult to obtain she has to work 2 or 3 part time or casual job in any field then applicant would be achieved the desire salary criteria My Humble request to department please make easier process for 491 desiring candidate to move in Regional Australia

It's difficult to get high paid jobs given that we are on temporary visas especially in regional

*areas...good jobs are for those with pr or citizenship.. we will have to kill ourselves
working 2 jobs
just to meet the requirements*

We implore the Federal Government to relook at this unfair salary figure of \$53,900.

It is going force skilled workers to work in occupations other than what they were sponsored in, does not make any allowance of periods of unemployment, and require many hours of overtime to get anywhere near this wage in regional Australia. Worse there is going to be widespread exploitation of regional workers desperate to get to this totally unrealistic wage level

Steven O'Neil AFMIA, BCom
(Managing Director)
Iscah Migration www.iscah.com
Western Australia

