



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

File Reference: **CLF2005/123456**
ICSE Request ID: **123456**



Location of Reference Number

Here is the 'Reference Number' you must enter on your online application form. Enter your reference in the same way the number appears on **your** letter.

Example:

File Reference: **CLF2005/123456**

or

ICSE Request ID: **123456**

Applicant Name
Address
Country

Primary Applicant: <<GivenNames>> <<Family Name>>

Dear Applicant

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR THE SKILLED – INDEPENDENT REGIONAL (SIR) (PROVISIONAL) VISA

On 12 January 2004, the Australian Government announced the introduction of a new visa for skilled migrants who wished to live in a regional or low population growth area in Australia but were unable to meet the criteria to be granted a permanent visa. The new visa, the Skilled - Independent Regional (SIR) (Provisional) visa, came into effect on 1 July 2004 and has been developed in consultation with State/Territory Governments.

The visa has been designed to –

- address skill shortages that may exist in regional areas; and
- encourage a more balanced dispersal of Australia's skilled migrant intake.

While SIR visa applicants are still required to pass the points test, the pass mark is slightly lower than that currently applied to Independent Skilled Migration visas. The current pass mark for the SIR visa is 110 points.

As part of a range of initiatives to further attract skilled workers to regional Australia, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, announced on 14 April 2005, that from **1 July 2005**, SIR (Provisional) visa applicants (only) would be eligible to be awarded an additional 10 "Sponsorship" points on the points test if they held sponsorship from an authorised state or territory government agency.

people our business

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