

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP FOR GENERAL SKILLED MIGRATION VISAS

FACT SHEET 3 – APPLICATION PROCESS

Under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) Program, the State Government of South Australia participates and offers two types of Sponsorships to suitably qualified candidates who wish to live in South Australia, to facilitate their visa grant by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship "DIAC". These are:

- Skilled Sponsored (Permanent) Visa subclass 176 (offshore) and 886 (onshore) – incorporating the Skill Matching Visa subclass 134
- Skilled Sponsored Regional (Provisional) Visa subclass 475 (offshore) 487 (onshore)

The following information outlines the application process for Sponsorship from South Australia.

If you are successful in receiving an Offer of Sponsorship from Immigration SA, you will have six months to accept this Offer and provide the DIAC File Reference to Immigration SA.

Step 1 ~ Planning

Migrating and starting a new life in a new country is a major decision in one's life. You will face many new challenges, not only with the migration process itself, but also in seeking employment and settling into a new social and work environment. You will find that you need significant financial resources and adequate planning and research to prepare you for the process and ultimate success. It is highly recommended that you undertake first-hand, active, meaningful and thorough research into all aspects of life in Australia and the State in which you intend to reside. A visit to your preferred destination prior to migration may go a long way in preparing you for the move.

Step 2 ~ Self-Assessment

- Visit the DIAC website (www.immi.gov.au) and assess yourself against the Points Test and other visa criteria (<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/475/eligibility-applicant.htm>); and
- Visit Immigration SA's website (www.immigration.sa.gov.au) and assess yourself against South Australia's Sponsorship criteria (**refer to Fact Sheet 2 – Sponsorship Criteria**)

Step 3 ~ Determine your eligibility

There are a number of visa options under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program, among which two require State Sponsorships, one being a Permanent Visa (176/886) and one Provisional Visa (475/487). If you wish to live and work in South Australia, have assessed yourself to be able to meet both the DIAC visa criteria and Immigration SA Sponsorship criteria, read on (**refer to Fact Sheet 2 – Sponsorship Criteria**)

Step 4 ~ Documentation Check

Verify the documents against the checklist provided (**refer to Fact Sheet 4 - Document Checklist**) that you have all the required documentation ready.

Step 5 ~ On-line Application

Complete the relevant on-line application (ie Skilled Sponsored (Permanent) 176/886, or Skilled Sponsored Regional (Provisional 475/487) accurately and truthfully and submit it electronically via the Immigration SA website. If you are unable to complete the application in one attempt, you can save the incomplete application and resume the process later on. In this instance, you will need to note down the Reference ID Number when you first log in, to enable future access to your unfinished application. A copy of your application may be printed for your records. Do not send the hard copy of the application to Immigration SA. The decision will be made on your electronic copy. You must also complete the Declaration at the end of the online application as part of this process.

Step 6 ~ Submitting completed applications

Once your application is submitted electronically, an Application Cover Sheet (2 pages) will be generated with your specific details for you to print out and complete. Once completed, you must sign the Cover Sheets and have it signed by a witness. This Cover Sheet provides the mechanism for you to officially declare that the information provided in your application is accurate, and also to be able to check that all of the documentation required is attached as indicated on the Cover Sheets. Please ensure that you keep a copy of this for your records at all times. The original copy of this Application Cover Sheets (2 pages) must then be sent by Post or Courier to Immigration SA. Email or faxed documents **will not** be accepted. An official Pro Forma is also supplied to declare financial capacity or financial support. You must complete the appropriate Pro Forma/s and send them with your application.

Step 7 ~ Case processing and decision

Once Immigration SA receives all of your documentation, processing of your application will commence. A decision is generally made within 4 weeks. We ask that you do not contact Immigration SA during that time as it will only delay the processing of cases. You may track the progress of your application via the Client Tracking System on this website.

Step 8 ~ Decision notification

When a decision has been made on the Sponsorship for which you qualify, Immigration SA will inform you via email. If you have advised us of a migration agent authorised to receive correspondence on your behalf, the email may be forwarded to the agent also, or just the agent if you have given permission for them to be your only point of contact – they will then advise you of the outcome. Immigration SA recommends that you engage a registered agent whom you can locate via www.mia.org.au or www.themara.com.au

Step 9 ~ You must confirm your acceptance and lodge your Visa application

If your application is approved, the offer of Sponsorship will be valid for six months. When you/your agent receive this email, you are required to lodge your visa application form with DIAC within this time frame and inform Immigration SA of the DIAC File Reference when you receive it (we will require you to fax or post us the front page of your visa grant letter along with your sponsorship reference number for this process). All general skilled migration visas applications must be lodged with the Adelaide Skilled

Processing Centre (ASPC), DIAC and not with Immigration SA. There will be a fee attached to lodging the visa application – check this on the DIAC website.

Please note: This step is an important part of the process. If you do not confirm acceptance of an offer for sponsorship with us, we will be unable to proceed with the sponsorship.

Step 10 ~ Immigration SA Notification to DIAC

When Immigration SA receives notification of your DIAC File Reference, an official form (Form 1100) provided by DIAC for this purpose will be forwarded direct to DIAC. This is an internal form between the sponsoring agency and DIAC. Your visa application with DIAC will not proceed unless they receive this form from Immigration SA.

When the official form is sent to DIAC, Immigration SA will inform you of this, Immigration SA then no longer has any input into this process.

Step 11 ~ Relocation to South Australia

We wish to congratulate you if you successfully obtain your visa from DIAC. Once you have your visa, you can commence the relocation process. South Australia provides a range of On Arrival Service to new migrants to help your initial settling-in and orientation. Please refer to (**refer to Fact Sheet 5 – On Arrival Services**) for more information.

Step 12 ~ Continued Research and Planning

Continue to undertake active, meaningful research into all aspects of migration, including cost of living, employment opportunities, etc so that you are aware of any significant changes that might impact on your arrival and settling-in.

Step 12 ~ Arrival

You must contact Immigration SA on 8204 9250 within two weeks of your arrival in SA. You can register to attend a Free Information Session, which will provide useful and practical information on the services you can access to help you become part of the SA community.

Immigration South Australia
Department of Trade and Economic Development
www.immigration.sa.gov.au
www.southaustralia.biz