

# Regional Skills Relocation Grant

## Guidelines



### Deputy Premier's message



The NSW Government's unwavering commitment to regional NSW includes policies to help our regional centres diversify, expand and thrive. I'm proud to deliver this framework for relocating skilled workers and jobs to regional NSW.

At the centre of it is the Regional Investment Attraction Package: a series of measures including relocation assistance for skilled workers, financial incentives, and investment concierge support services for international and interstate companies wanting to set up or expand their operations in our regions.

NSW has the largest and most diverse regional economy in Australia and the Regional Investment Attraction Package will allow regional NSW to make an even stronger case to interstate and international companies to base their operations here.

Regional NSW is the backbone of our economy, delivering employment, exports and wealth right across the state. Our *20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW* and the Regional NSW Investment Attraction Package will help to build on our regional success.



**The Hon. John Barilaro**  
**Deputy Premier**  
Minister for Regional NSW  
Minister for Skills  
Minister for Small Business

### Overview

The NSW Government has established the Regional Skills Relocation Grant to increase the availability of skilled and experienced workers for businesses setting up in, relocating to, or existing in regional NSW.

The NSW Government has committed \$10 million for applications over the next four years; \$2.5 million will be available each year, providing 250 grants of up to \$10,000. Grants will be available for regional NSW businesses operating in eligible industries to assist with the relocation costs of eligible skilled workers moving from metropolitan areas to regional NSW.

The grant forms part of the Regional NSW Skills Attraction Program. The program highlights the benefits of living and working in regional NSW for residents in metropolitan areas. The program will address one of the key barriers to business investment by connecting regional employers with suitably skilled workers.



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### Grant amounts

The NSW Government will make 250 grants valued at up to \$10,000 available each year for up to four years.

Eligible businesses can claim reimbursement of up to \$10,000 to assist with the relocation costs of eligible skilled workers, once they have been employed by the business for a minimum of three months.

### Eligibility

#### Eligible industries

To be eligible for funding, employers must be a business or co-operative:

- operating in an 'engine' industry, enabling industry or emerging engine industry as described in the relevant Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), or
- aligned with government strategies including the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW

Industries identified in the REDS reflect the regions competitive advantage and ability to trade their goods outside the local area or sell their services to non-locals. Retail and restaurants are ineligible because they only operate and sell locally.

Examples of 'engine' or 'emerging' industries include:

- agriculture
- forestry
- manufacturing
- mining
- tourism.

Other eligible industries are those enabling industries that provide key inputs or services to an 'engine' or 'emerging' industry identified in the REDS. For example, transport and logistics are eligible where they address barriers faced by eligible industries such as agriculture and manufacturing.

In rare cases, population-serving industries that are typically ineligible may be deemed eligible where it can be demonstrated that such service 'exports' are material to the Functional Economic Region (FER).

Further information on industry eligibility is available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/regional-economic-development-strategies>

#### Eligible applicants

Eligible businesses must be operating in a NSW regional eligible industry and:

- relocating to, or setting up in, regional NSW and creating at least five ongoing full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in a regional local community, or
- already operating in regional NSW and seeking to recruit eligible workers.

The business must be seeking employees that:

- are relocating from a metropolitan area to regional NSW, with the regional residence at least 50 kilometres from the original metropolitan residence and within the same region as the eligible business
- have an occupation that features on the Commonwealth Skilled Occupation List for the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491).

NB: This list of occupations is specifically designed to meet the needs of regional Australia.

To search for an eligible occupation simply apply the filter - 491 – *Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491) – State or Territory nominated* from the drop-down Skilled Occupation List menu:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia/skill-occupation-list#>

- are Australian citizens or permanent residents on the date they commence employment.

#### Eligible locations

For the purpose of this program:

- 'regional NSW' is defined as all of NSW excluding Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong
- 'metropolitan areas' are defined as Greater Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle and interstate capital cities.

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### Eligible costs

The only relocation expenses covered by this grant are:

- furniture removal
- travel for immediate family to relocate
- temporary accommodation for up to three months
- furniture storage for up to three months.

### Ineligible applicants

Grant applications will be deemed ineligible if the:

- business is not operating in an identified eligible industry for its region
- eligible business fills the identified role with an employee:
  - not relocating from a metropolitan area to regional NSW (employees relocating from a regional town are ineligible)
  - without any of the skills listed on the Commonwealth Skilled Work List
  - who is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - who has received any type of other funding (full or partial) from any other person (including any government agency in Australia) for relocation assistance
- business has received any type of other funding (full or partial) from any other person (including any government agency in Australia) for relocation assistance
- business seeks reimbursement of costs not listed as eligible costs in these guidelines.

The relocation grants are not available to public sector organisations or relocating employees who are current public sector employees.

### How to apply

Businesses can register their interest with the Department of Regional NSW at [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au). Registered businesses operating in eligible industries will be invited to complete an eligibility form.

### Stages

The Regional Skills Relocation Grants are available from 1 October 2018.

#### Step 1: Register with the Department of Regional NSW

Registered businesses operating in applicable eligible industries will be invited to complete an eligibility form.

#### Step 2: Complete an eligibility form

Eligible businesses will receive confirmation and a grant pre-approval ID for the role(s) they intend to fill, enabling them to include the relocation grant offer in their recruitment or relocation process. This pre-approval will be valid for twelve months from the date of issue.

#### Step 3: Fill the role

To activate the grant, role(s) must be filled by employee(s) relocating from a metropolitan area to regional NSW with an occupation listed on the Commonwealth Skilled Occupation List for the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491). In addition to advertising roles, businesses can contact skilled workers from the Skilled Workers Expression of Interest List.

#### Step 4: Activate the grant

The business must notify the Department of Regional NSW within five days of filling the role and must complete the grant activation form. The department will determine the eligibility of the employee and provide confirmation of grant activation.

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### Step 5: Claim reimbursement of relocation costs

Employees must have commenced their employment in the regional location after 1 October 2018. They must also remain in the role for a minimum of three months before the business can lodge a claim for reimbursement of relocation costs. Businesses can only claim relocation costs incurred after 1 October 2018. The business is required to submit a reimbursement form with evidence showing relocation costs have been paid to receive the grant payment.

### Step 6: Grant evaluation

As a condition of the grant, the business and the employee agree to be contacted up to 12 months from the employee's commencement date to complete an evaluation survey. Should the employee cease employment with the business for any reason within this 12-month period, the business is required to notify the department within 15 days.

### More information

Visit the Regional Skills Relocation Grant website at <https://invest.nsw.gov.au/assistance/regional-investment-attraction-package/regional-skills-relocation-grant>

### Contact us

All initial enquiries should be directed to the Department of Regional NSW:

e: [regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au)  
p: 1300 679 673