

IMMIGRATION NEWS

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Tasmania State Sponsorship; Native English Speakers Only Please?



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Dear Students

Welcome to the new subscribers of IMMIGRATION NEWS. This service is brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services.

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Tasmania State Sponsorship; Native English Speakers Only Please?

When the Federal government gave permission to the states and territory to be in charge of their own screening criteria for sponsorship approvals (for skilled migrants) I am sure they desired reasonable approaches. However there is one state, Tasmania which has created some bizarre rules for state sponsorship it raises serious ethical questions about its migration policies.

The Business and Skilled Migration Unit of Tasmania looks after all the applications for the general skilled migration sponsorship program. On their web site (www.development.tas.gov.au) you will notice there is a demand list for the 176/886 visa's (offshore and onshore PR applications) and one for the 475/487 visa (which is the offshore and onshore TR applications).

886-State Sponsored Visa

The basic criteria for the 886 visa is incredibly difficult for students. Their web site states;

*"If you are a graduate from an educational institution in Australia, even if you have an occupation on Tasmanian Skilled Sponsored list, **you must provide evidence of a job offer** from a local employer in your nominated occupation. In absence of a job offer you may be considered under the Skilled Regional Sponsored visa scheme."*

A job offer requirement will rule out 99% of international students so lets have a look at the Regional Sponsored (487) provisions.

487- State Sponsored Visa

For International students applying for sponsorship approval for the onshore 487 visa there are three basic criteria;

- 1) be a graduate of a Tasmanian educational institution; or
- 2) be a graduate from other Australian educational institutions but also have a skilled, full time job offer of at least three months from a Tasmanian employer; and
- 3) Meet DIAC's standard IELTS requirements for your occupation.

Those who study in Tasmania obtain the advantage of not having to provide the full time job offer which is not unlike the South Australian requirements for this visa. In reality if you haven't studied in Tasmania, you might as well look to the other states.

475 Visa Requirements (Native English Speakers Only Please?)

This is an offshore category visa and not really designed for international students to use. Usually I would not mention these requirements but they are so bizarre compared to the rest of the country it cannot be ignored.

The IELTS requirements set down by the Business and Skilled Migration Unit of Tasmania for many trade occupations raised more than just eyebrows when we first read it. For example;

Butchers require 7.0. No doubt the local butchers require applicants who now the difference between a leg of lamb and a pork chop.

Gunsmiths require 7.0. I suppose it is important to know the difference between a 357 Magnum and .22 calibre rifle.

Engravers require 7.0. Customers would be upset when their gold watch comes back with a spelling mistake!

Hairdressers require 7.5! This is higher than the 7.0 listed for an Engineering Manager! It seems the local ladies demand more than just a cut. Perhaps hairdressers need to have excellent English to understand the intricacies of the local dialect or be able to chat about local politics and global climate change whilst the scissors are clipping. No doubt you need first class concentration and good grammar to be able to do both at the same time.

Tree Surgeons require 7.0. It is often said that in the wilderness you can hear the trees whisper. In Tasmania this is taken to a whole new level.

Gardeners require 7.0. No doubt like the Tree Surgeons, talking to plants is good for their healthy growth. Edward Scissorhands obviously could not apply.

There are other skilled trades where the applicants strangely don't require good English skills. A few more examples;

Aircraft Maintenance Engineers need only 5.5 on the IELTS! Think twice before you hop aboard an airplane serviced in Tasmania. Hold this thought when you're on a scenic flight in the Northwest Wilderness area and perhaps the engineer had difficulty reading the maintenance manual of your trusty flying machine.

Plumbers need just 5.5. Perhaps reading council plans and architect drawings is far less complicated than talking to potted shrubs. I always wondered why in some guest houses in Tasmania the cold water came out of the hot water tap. But seriously why do Tasmanians see themselves as so different to the rest of the country? In the other states 5.0 is the accepted entry IELTS level for trade occupations and 6.0 for professionals so why the discrepancy? Intentionally or otherwise, the policy in Tasmania is discriminatory against

potential applicants who come from countries where English is not their first language.

Their occupation list with its corresponding required IELTS levels clearly demonstrates one main objective. Tasmanians don't mind trades people with poor English where there is a strong local demand for those occupations such as Cooks, Motor Mechanics, Welders and Aircraft Maintenance Engineers.

However for the rest, “native English speakers only please”.

The founding pioneers of Tasmania would turn in their graves at the thought of having to reach IELTS of 7.0 before they could migrate. Tasmanians are doing themselves a disservice by failing to open their doors to the many skilled migrants who could provide much needed injection of youth and skills to their economy. It's time for the modern apple islanders to come in from the wilderness and catch up with the rest of Australia.

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