

491 VISA DECODED

Recently, the Australian Government has made changes to visas which encourage migration to Regional Australia. There are many advantages in migrating to Regional Australia as anyone who lives in Tasmania would recognise. However, simply being willing to migrate to Tasmania does not guarantee the grant of a visa. Potential applicants should be very cautious of promises that visas will be granted simply because a potential applicant is willing to live in Tasmania. It is very important for potential applicants to determine whether their specific circumstances make them eligible to apply for a certain visa. Determining eligibility is, in our experience, best done in consultation with a Registered Migration Agent who will take the time to assess each applicant's eligibility. An in-depth consultation may reveal other

visas for which a potential applicant may be eligible.

Registered Migration Agents are often best placed to advise potential applicants about their visa options. A Registered Migration Agent is not required to have any legal training outside of the training to become a migration agent. Lawyers are generally not permitted to offer migration assistance unless they are also Registered Migration Agents. An Immigration Lawyer is typically a lawyer who is also a Registered Migration Agent. Immigration Lawyers are well placed to advise potential applicants about their visa options and the intricacies of migration law.

It is suggested that a Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491)

visa ('491 visa') is a wide-ranging and easily granted visa for applicants who want to live in Tasmania. This is not the case. Before an application can be made for a 491 visa, applicants need to submit an Expression of Interest for Skilled Migration ('EOI'). An EOI is not an application for a 491 visa. It simply informs the Australian government that a potential applicant wants to migrate to Australia and settle in a specific Regional Area. After an EOI has been lodged, a potential applicant **may** be invited to apply for a 491 visa if they are identified as a skilled worker that a State or Territory government wishes to nominate to migrate to a specific Regional Area. Lodging an EOI **does not** guarantee that an invitation to apply for a 491 visa will be made. Importantly, lodging an EOI does not entitle a potential applicant to a Bridging visa. Potential 491 visa applicants who have lodged an EOI will need to enter or remain in Australia by

holding a different valid visa. There is no cost to submit an EOI and they can be lodged from outside Australia.

Visa Assist Australia has been providing professional services to Permanent and Temporary visa applicants and Citizenship applicants for over 10 years. We also assist current visa holders whose visas have been or may be cancelled on character grounds. Our team of Registered Migration Agents and Immigration Lawyers is well-placed to assist anyone wanting to migrate to Australia. Our head office is in New South Wales and we have been working in Tasmania for over 2 years.

- **Manfred Ewikowski, Visa Assist Australia**

**Solicitor, LLB (Hon D),
GradDipLegalPractice.**

A Piano of Tasmania.

Piano's are not meant to move around very much, but since COVID-19 started I've been trying to amuse the residents of Hobart and the Channel by carting my 250kg piano into the streets and onto the beaches and playing: Coningham Beach, Nth Hobart residential areas, Kingston dog beach, Woodbridge just to name a few. You can see video of these events on facebook @APianoofTasmania.

My real purpose has been to simply give people a reason to smile and to know that the world is still beautiful and that current events should not define us. To be honest, I love playing piano, and really enjoy playing everywhere!

It's was fun to watch people respond I stop the car at the beach. "Is that a piano?" they'd be thinking. Then I would start to

unload it "that is a piano!" they'd still be thinking, and they would start to smile. Then as I would start hauling it down to the beach it would tickle something deep inside them – "this guy is going to play a piano on the beach?". They would find a seat somewhere within earshot as I set it up and start playing my first piece. And then people would carefully gather, making sure to remain a good social distance from each other. Even people who wouldn't normally listen to contemporary classical piano would love

But lately, even though I want to play at the top of Mt Wellington, due to the lock-down, I've been playing at home and in my front yard. Hobart Hit 100.9 Jimmy and Nath have promised to make Mt Wellington happen after the virus. I also have plans to have the piano on a wooden boat on the Huon River, and in a Cow paddock at the foot of Mt Rowland. Actually, followers have suggested more than 100 locations for me to play at once we are allowed out – and it will be my pleasure to oblige them!

it just because of the novelty value. It was so much fun!

—Kelvin Smith.



Support Groups

Welcoming anyone aged 65+ and those eligible for Home and Community Care (HACC) services

Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania hosts social support groups that provide participants with a range of fun activities both on-site and within the community. Transport can be arranged if needed.

German – Every Wednesday 10am-2pm; Glenorchy

Chinese – Every Thursday 10am-2pm; North Hobart

Bhutanese – Every Thursday 9:30am-1:30pm; Various

Multicultural – Every Friday 10am-2pm; Glenorchy

Healthy Living – Every second Wednesday; Various

If you would like to join a group or want more information please contact our Aged Care team on 03 6221 0999 or daycentre@mrctas.org.au.

We can also help you to register with My Aged Care to access services.



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