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# GSM Changes

**The Minister has announced a range of changes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the GSM programme, including:**

- increasing the English language threshold requirement for all GSM visas.
  - making the recent work experience requirement uniform across all offshore GSM visas
  - adjusting the points test to:
    - benefit applicants with:
      - strong English language skills;
      - Australian skilled work experience; and
      - advanced Australian tertiary qualifications; and
    - limit MODL points to applicants with work experience;
  - allowing overseas students with 50 point occupations to apply for GSM in Australia;
  - creating a new temporary visa for graduates of recognised overseas institutions with skills in high demand in Australia;
  - creating a temporary visa for Overseas Students
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# GSM Changes

In addition the Minister has approved the detailed policy positions to support the GSM reforms, including:

- ❑ allowing GSM applicants to include their interdependent partner in their application;
  - ❑ removing Assurance of Support provisions from GSM visas;
  - ❑ removing the SSASSL;
  - ❑ final settings for the points test, including:
    - awarding points for sponsorship by a relative in a designated area;
    - removing points for Capital Investment;
  - ❑ setting the pass and pool marks for the new visas; and
  - ❑ clarifying the two year study rule;
  - ❑ removing requirement for 2<sup>nd</sup> stage sponsorship or nomination for provisional visa holders;
  - ❑ extending the English language concession; and
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- ❑ opening up access to RSMS for provisional visa holders

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# Visa simplification

In addition to changes based on the recommendations of the Evaluation the Minister has decided to:

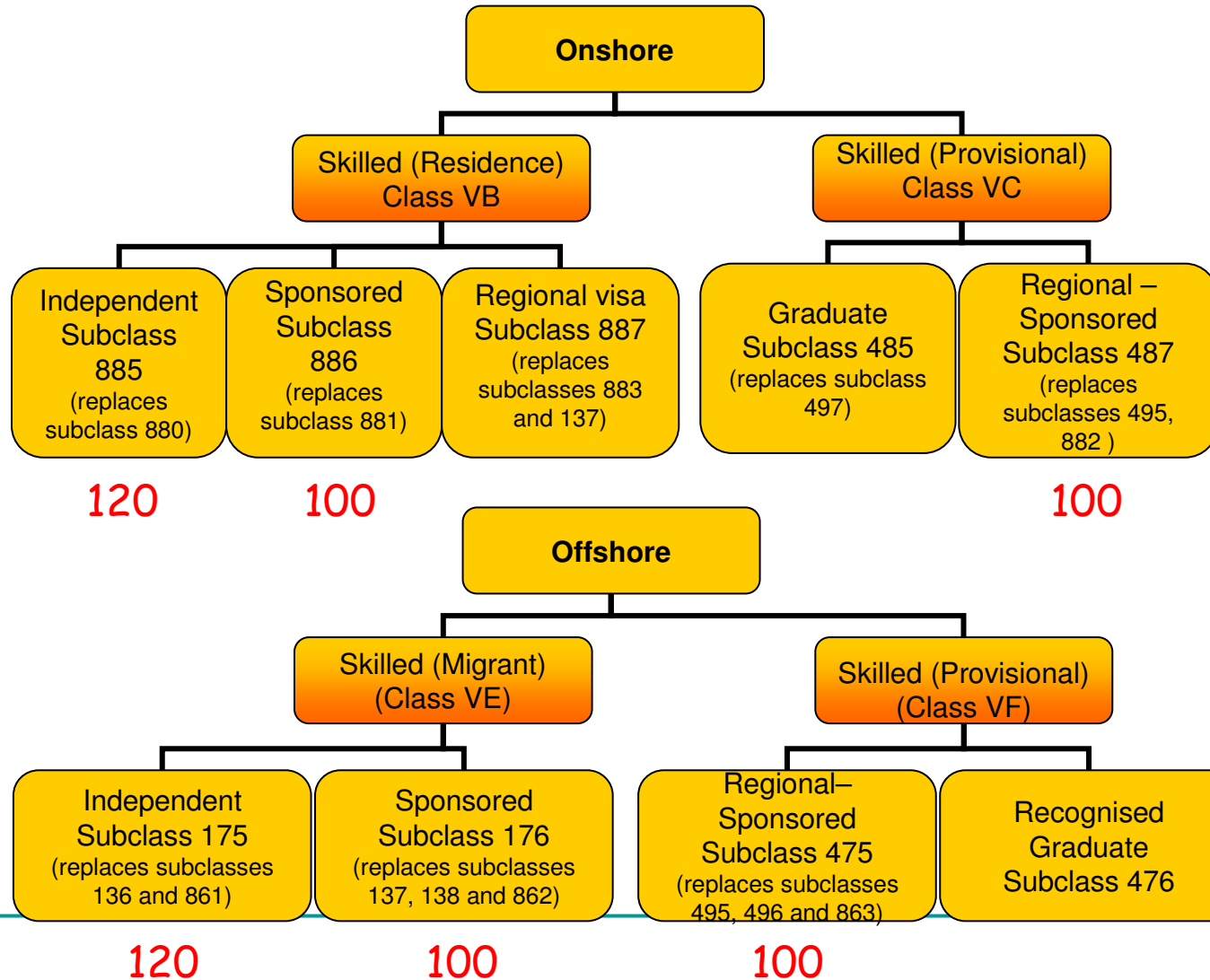
- rationalise the GSM visa structure; and
- simplify the regulations that support it

These architectural changes are designed to:

- make GSM more transparent to clients and other key stakeholders;
  - improve client service outcomes; and
  - contribute to consistent decision making
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# Revised GSM Visa Structure

*& pass marks*



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# Making a valid application

To make a valid application for GSM from 1 September 2007 all applicants will need to:

- meet the age requirement;
- nominate a skilled occupation.

Applicants for an onshore visa are restricted to nominating either a 50 or 60 point occupation.

Declaratory requirements are being removed.

Forms are changing:

- All applicants have opportunity to apply online;
- Single form for all GSM paper applications  
(FORM 1276 – available from DfC website from 1 September)

Fees to be revised on 1 July in line with indexation

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# Changes to threshold requirements - English

Threshold increased to competent English

Exceptions apply for:

- applicants with a trade occupation: vocational English; and
- applicants for a provisional visa who have paid for English language tuition: concessional competent English

Offshore applicants and onshore permanent visa applicants must provide evidence that they meet the English language threshold at the time of application

Onshore temporary and provisional visa applicants must have either evidence they meet the relevant threshold or evidence they have booked to sit an English language test

Specified passport holders will be considered to have met the English language threshold without a test result.

**All applicants seeking to claim additional points for English will need to sit a test.**

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# Changes to threshold requirements - Skills assessment

Applicants for an offshore permanent or provisional visa will need to demonstrate that they have:

- a suitable skills assessment;
- in their nominated occupation;

at the time they apply

Applicants for an onshore permanent or provisional visa will need to demonstrate that they have:

- applied for a skills assessment;
- in their nominated occupation;

at the time they apply

Applicants are not able to change their nominated occupation

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# Changes to threshold requirements - Recent Work Experience

In line with recommendations of the Evaluation the recent work experience requirement will be uniform across the GSM visa structure

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have been employed in an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List for at least 12 of the last 24 months

The 12 month period will include paid leave (eg. paid study leave or long service leave) but does not include periods of leave without pay (eg. unpaid maternity or paternity leave).

Employed continues to mean working in a position that is:

- paid;
  - at a skilled level;
  - for a minimum of 20 hours a week
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## Changes to threshold requirements – 2 Year Study Requirement

From 1 September, to meet the two year study requirement an applicant must have completed one or more degree, diploma or trade qualification for award by an Australian educational institution as a result of a course or courses:

- ❑ registered on CRICOS;
- ❑ completed as a result of at least two academic years study;
- ❑ completed in a total of no less than 16 calendar months;
- ❑ that the applicant studied in Australia while holding a visa that allowed study;
- ❑ for which all instruction was conducted in English.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they:

- ❑ met the two year study requirement in the last 6 months; and
  - ❑ their studies were closely related to their nominated occupation
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## Points Test

The Minister has set the pass and pool marks for the new GSM visas as follows:

Visa	Pass Mark	Pool Mark
Skilled - Independent (subclass 175)	120	100
Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 176)	100	80
Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 475)	100	100
Skilled - Independent (subclass 885)	120	120
Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 886)	100	100
Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 487)	100	100

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Qualification		Points
Skill	60 points available on SOL	60
	50 points available on SOL	50
	40 points available on SOL	40
Age	18-29 years old	30
	30-34 years old	25
	35-39 years old	20
	40-44 years old	15
English	Proficient English	25
	Threshold English	15
Australian qualifications	Doctorate (min 2 yrs)	25
	Masters/Honours + Bachelor (min 3 yrs)	15
	Degree, Diploma or Trade Qualification (min 2 yrs)	5
Specific work experience	60 point occupation and 3 yrs closely related experience	10
	3 yrs experience in occupation on the SOL	5
MODL	MODL + 12 months closely related work experience + job	20
	MODL + 12 months closely related work experience	15
Australian work experience	12 months closely related Australian work experience	10
	12 months of a specified Professional Year	10
Partner skills	Spouse or Interdependent partner meets threshold GSM criteria	5
Regional study	Met 2 year study requirement in regional Australia	5
Sponsorship	Provisional visa applicant sponsored by relative in regional Australia	25
Nomination	Visa applicant nominated by State or Territory government	10
Community Language	Recognised skills in community language	5

# Subclass 485

## Skilled - Graduate Visa

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New visa category for overseas students who are unable to immediately qualify for GSM on completing their studies.

Temporary visa application charge

At time of application, main applicant must:

- be under 45;
- have met the two year study requirement in the last 6 months;
- have applied for a suitable skills assessment in their nominated 50 or 60 point occupation;
- have evidence that they meet the English language threshold or have booked to sit an English language test

All applicants must:

- hold an eligible student visa or have held an eligible student visa in the last six months;
  - have undergone a medical;
  - have applied for an AFP check if 16 or older.
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Not points tested

No work or study restrictions but condition that the visa holder must maintain adequate health insurance may be imposed

Skilled – Graduate visa holders can apply for permanent or provisional GSM or an employer sponsored visa at any time.

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## Subclass 476

# Recognised - Graduate Visa

New visa aimed at addressing 'niche' shortages in the labour market

Temporary visa application charge

18 month visa

At time of application, main applicant must:

- be 30 or under;
- have completed a degree in a specified discipline from a specified educational institution in the last 24 months;
- have competent English

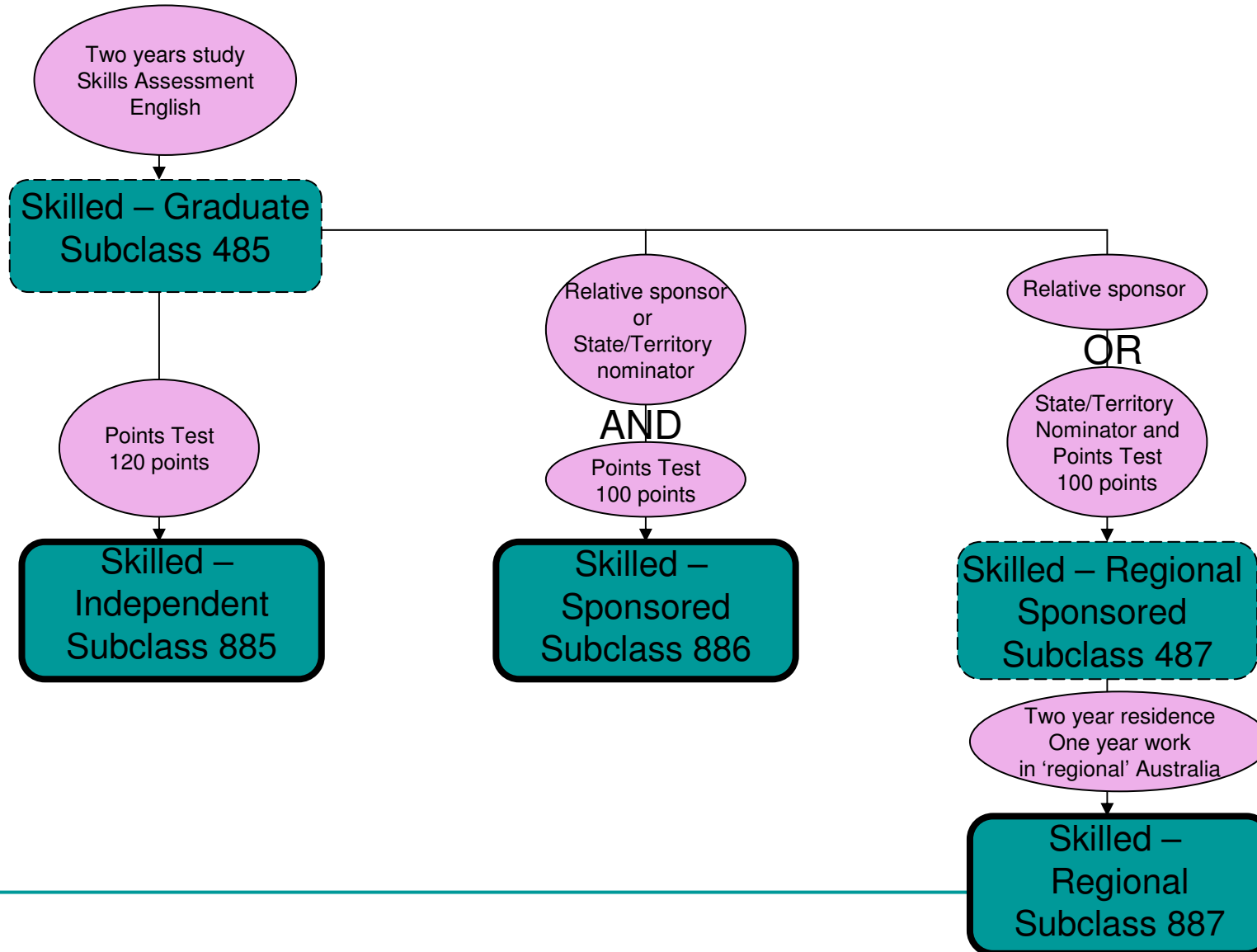
Not points tested

No work or study restrictions

Skilled – Recognised Graduate visa holders can apply for permanent or provisional GSM or an employer sponsored visa at any time.

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# Pathways for Graduate visa holders



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## SIR and SDAS visa holders – 12 mth extension

Applications under the current visa structure must be lodged on or before 31 August 2007.

Applicants who hold a SIR or an SDAS provisional visa after 1 September 2007 and who want to apply for a 12 month extension of that visa need to apply for a Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Subclass 487) visa.

To meet the requirements for this visa they will need to demonstrate that they have complied with the conditions of their provisional visa.

Applicants for a 12 month extension will not need State/Territory sponsorship.

The Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Subclass 487) visa is an onshore visa and you must be in Australia when you apply and at the time the visa is granted.

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## SIR and SDAS visa holders – permanent visa pathway

Applicants who hold a SIR or an SDAS provisional visa after 1 September 2007 and who want to apply for a permanent GSM visa need to apply for a Skilled – Regional (Subclass 887) visa.

To meet the requirements for this visa they will need to demonstrate that they have lived for two years and worked full-time for at least one year in a specified regional area. They will also need to demonstrate that they have complied with the conditions of their provisional visa.

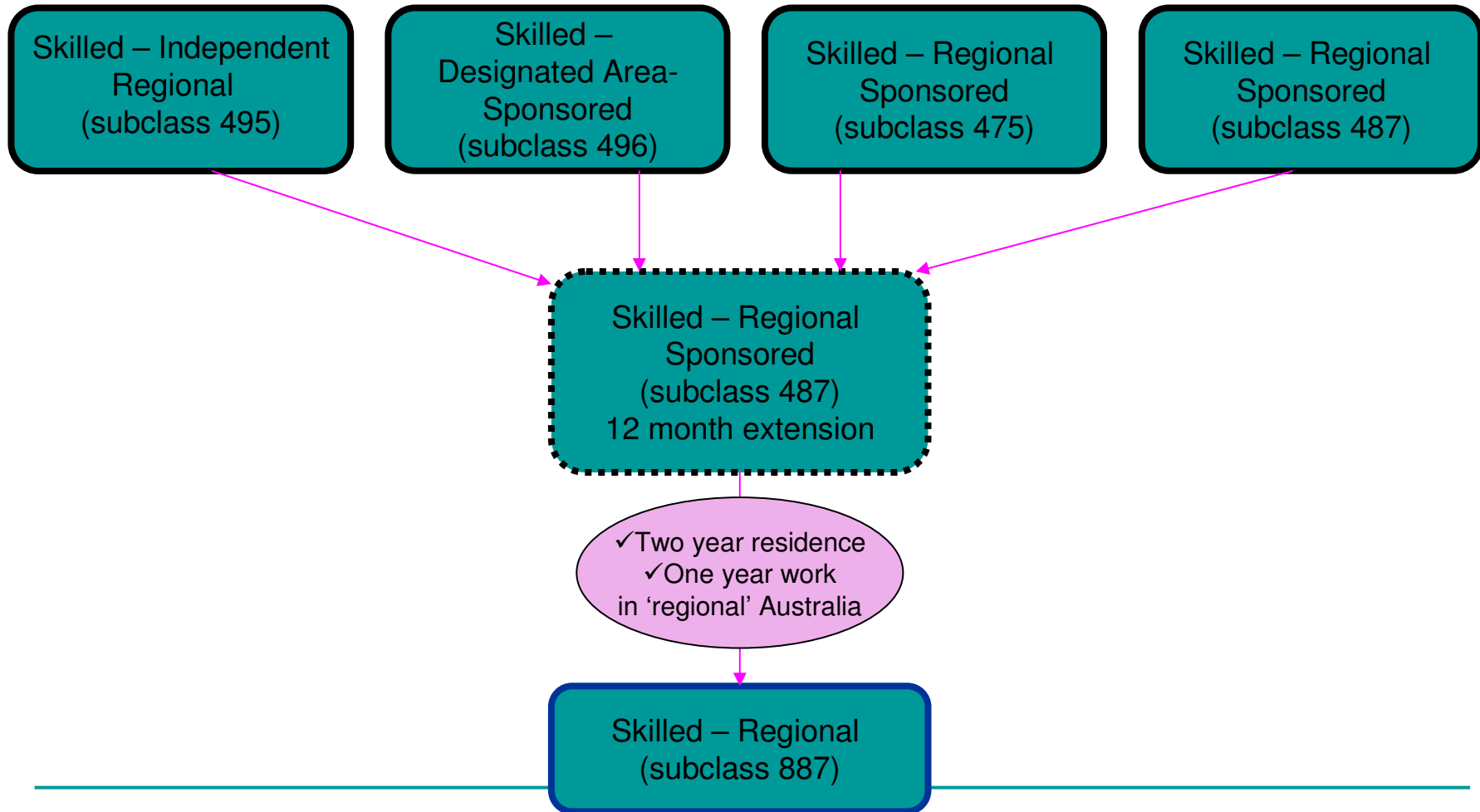
Applicants for Skilled – Regional visa will not need State/Territory sponsorship.

The Skilled – Regional (Subclass 887) visa is an onshore visa and you must be in Australia when you apply and at the time the visa is granted.

From 1 September the 2 year limitation on SIR applicants applying for RSMS will be lifted.

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## Pathways for Provisional visa holders Permanent via 12 mth extension



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## Possible impact of GSM reforms

- **Sharp increase in migration applications pre implementation**
  - **A number of overseas students will require the Skilled - Graduate temporary visa**
  - **Slump in applications post introduction due to higher English language requirements**
  - **Reduced focus on MODL qualifications and corresponding increased focus on qualifications contributing to 50 point occupations**
  - **Education providers may increase involvement with industry/ professional associations**
  - **Courses evolve in response to market forces**
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