



Minister of Religion Labour Agreement (MoRLA)

The MoRLA helps religious institutions hire overseas workers if Australian workers are unavailable. Workers recruited through the MoRLA can stay in Australia temporarily or permanently.

MoRLA key benefits:

- streamlined recruitment of migrant workers aged up to 60 in key religious occupations, where the standard visa program cannot be used
- direct or two year pathway to permanent residency through the [Employer Nomination Scheme \(subclass 186\) visa Labour Agreement stream](#)
- work experience concessions, including alternative qualifications and experience
- English language concessions to support diverse religious work environments and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) faith communities
- labour market testing exemptions, where eligible.

Employer requirements:

Sponsors must:

- be of good standing and provide evidence of charitable status (read more at the [Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission](#))
- follow the MoRLA terms
- meet MoRLA sponsorship obligations, which align with [obligations applicable to Standard Business Sponsors](#)
- pay an annual salary as set out in the MoRLA
- pay the application fee.

Sponsors can nominate overseas workers for permanent residency through the [Employer Nomination Scheme \(subclass 186\) visa – Labour Agreement stream](#) if they have been employed as a Temporary Skilled (Work) (Subclass 457), Temporary Skill Shortage or Skills In Demand (Subclass 482) visa holder in the nominated occupation for more than 2 years.

Visa application requirements:

Ministers of Religion must:

- be 'ordained' or have taken a 'profession to religious life' and hold a relevant [Australian Qualifications Framework \(AQF\) Bachelor Degree](#) or overseas equivalent or higher level qualification; or
- have done at least 5 years of relevant structured training or instruction; or
- have at least 5 years recent relevant work experience where 'ordination', an AQF qualification or structured training is not available or applicable.

Religious Assistants must:

- hold a relevant [AQF Certificate II or III](#); or
- have at least 2 years' of relevant structured training or instruction; or
- have worked in the nominated occupation for at least 2 years.

Unless they will be working in a cloistered or monastic environment, all applicants must:

- meet standard English requirements for the visa; or
- have an overall score of International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 4.0 (or equivalent) in listening and speaking components if seeking a [Skills in Demand Visa \(subclass 482\) visa](#) under the Labour Agreement stream; or
- have an overall score of IELTS 4.5 (or equivalent) with minimum score of IELTS 4.0 in all four components if seeking an Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) visa; or
- show evidence of at least 5 years' full-time study in a secondary education institution or higher education institution where the instruction was delivered in English.

For more information on the MoRLA, scan the QR codes below.



[Changes to the
Minister of Religion Industry
Labour Agreement](#)



[Labour Agreements](#)



[Industry Labour
Agreements](#)