Upcoming changes to Working Holiday Maker visa application rules

Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

These changes apply to applicants for second and third Working Holiday Maker visas (subclasses 417 and 462), except UK passport holders.

1 December 2026
Registrations open

Mid-January 2027
First invitation round

28 February 2027
Transitional process ends

1 March 2027
Invitation required to apply

Transitional Process

For applicants who will complete their required specified work and lodge a valid application by 28 February 2027.

Complete your required specified work
For second WHM visas, this is 88 days. For third WHM visas, this is 179 days

Apply directly by **28 February 2027**

If you lodge a valid visa application in Australia, you may be granted a Bridging visa while your application is processed

Meet all visa requirements to be granted a second or third Working Holiday Maker visa

For the latest information, visit Working Holiday Maker program Latest news

Invitation Process

For applicants who are not able to lodge a valid application under the transitional process by 28 February 2027.

Register from 1 December 2026
You can register before completing your specified work

First invitation round mid-January 2027
Those selected will receive a Next Year Regional Work Guarantee
Further invitation rounds will follow monthly

Invited

A Next Year Regional Work Guarantee allows you to apply once you meet all visa requirements and complete your required specified work. From 1 March 2027, this is 120 days for a second WHM application, and 179 days for a third WHM application

Meet all visa requirements before applying

Apply within 12 months of your invitation. If you're in Australia, apply before your current visa expires or leave Australia before it expires

If you lodge a valid visa application in Australia, you may be granted a Bridging visa while your application is processed, subject to its conditions

Not Invited

Depart Australia before your current visa expires

You may still be invited in a later round after leaving Australia

If later invited, you must apply within 12 months and meet all visa requirements, including specified work and age requirements

A Next Year Regional Work Guarantee does not extend your current visa or allow you to remain in Australia. You must maintain a valid visa or leave Australia before your visa expires.

Registrations remain valid until 30 June each year. You must register again from 1 July to participate in future invitation rounds.