



Freedom of Information request: FA18/08/01413

Since 1 January 2017, the number of second year Working Holiday visa holders, subclass 417, who were granted an exemption from the requirement to do regional work during their first year visa AND the reason for these exemptions.

The Department does not hold any data in relation to this scenario as there is no exemption in the legislation for the requirement to do regional work.

Since 1 January 2017, any Ministerial briefings (drafted or final) that suggest policy changes to or issues with the Working Holiday, subclass 417, specifically regarding the requirement to complete regional work and the restriction to work a maximum of 6 months with one employer

The Australian Government has announced changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program to support regional and rural communities.

Changes to the WHM visa program include:

- From 5 November 2018, expanding the regional areas where subclass 462-visa holders can work in agriculture (plant and animal cultivation) to qualify for a second year of stay in Australia. Currently only those who work in Northern Australia are eligible.
- From 5 November 2018, increasing the period in which subclass 417 and 462 visa holders can stay with the same agricultural (plant and animal cultivation) employer, from 6 to 12 months.
- The option of a third-year for subclass 417 and 462 visa holders who, after 1 July 2019, undertake 6-months of specified work in a specified regional area during their second year.
- Over the coming weeks, offering an increase in the annual caps to a number of countries that participate in the subclass 462 visa program.
- Increase the eligible age for subclass 417 visa applicants from Canada and Ireland to 35.

The key focus is on providing farmers with immediate access to workers in key parts of regional Australia. The changes aim to increase the number of Working Holiday Makers available for seasonal work needs.

Employers will be able to retain trained and experienced employees doing agricultural (plant and animal cultivation) work for up to 12-months, rather than the previous 6-months.

The availability of a third-year visa will attract working holiday makers to work for longer in regional Australia.

Since 1 January 2017, any evidence that the Government has assessed the employment available under the Regional Work banner for holders of Working Holiday visa, subclass 417.

On 3 August 2017, the Department updated the legislative instrument defining Regional Work for the subclass 417 visa:

New Instrument: [Migration \(IMMI 17/018: Working Holiday Visa – Specified Work and Regional Australia\) Instrument 2017](#)

Previous Instrument: [WORKING HOLIDAY VISA – DEFINITIONS OF SPECIFIED WORK AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA 2016/087](#)

The reasoning for differences in Regional Work requirements between Working Holiday Visa subclasses 417 and 462.

Details on this can be found in:

[North Australia White Paper Recommendations](#)

[Explanatory Statement for Legislative Instrument introducing the second subclass 462 visa](#)