



## Visas for GPs initiative – update

The Visas for General Practitioners (GPs) Program helps increase access to GP services in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. The program commenced on 11 March 2019 and encourages overseas doctors to seek positions in communities most in need of primary health care services.

From 16 December 2020, changes are being made to streamline the process for hospital employers who are seeking to nominate overseas doctors for temporary and provisional visas. These changes do not apply to nominations for permanent visas.

All employers (including hospital employers) nominating a position that will be filled by a doctor who needs a visa to work in one of the following three occupations are required to obtain certification in the form of a Health Workforce Certificate (HWC) or a Health Workforce Exemption Certificate (HWEC), as applicable, from a Rural Workforce Agency (RWA):

- General Practitioner (ANZSCO 253111)
- Resident Medical Officer (ANZSCO 253112)
- Medical Practitioners not elsewhere classified (ANZSCO 253999).

These certificates are letters issued by a RWA confirming the genuine need to fill a primary healthcare position at a given location in Australia by an overseas doctor. Employers are required to attach the applicable certificate to their nomination application as specified in the table below:

Employer Sponsored visas	Primary care positions	Hospital based positions
Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) (subclass 482)	HWC	HWEC
Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (SESR) (subclass 494)	HWC	HWEC
Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) (subclass 186)	HWC	HWC
Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) (subclass 187)	HWC	HWC

HWECs are valid for 12 months and hospital employers are able to use the same HWEC repeatedly within the 12 month validity period to nominate all overseas doctors for temporary and provisional employer sponsored visas in the three occupations above. HWCs continue to be single use only.

### Will there be any differences in the nomination forms?

Yes, from 16 December 2020, when one of the three occupations is selected on the TSS or SESR nomination forms you will see a new question asking whether the position is based in a hospital.

Occupation

Occupation code (ANZSCO)

Occupation name (ANZSCO) Resident Medical Officer

Is the position based in a hospital?  
 Yes  No

**Note:** this question does not appear on the ENS or RSMS nomination forms.

Once you have answered this question and clicked **Next** you will see the familiar 'Caveat on occupation' page.

**Nomination for a Temporary Skill Shortage Visa**

Transaction Reference Number (TRN): EGNONYF3C 3/17

[Caveat on occupation](#)

A caveat applies to the nominated occupation Resident Medical Officer. Give details of all reasons why the caveat does not apply to the nominated position.

[Add details](#)

Reason	Actions <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">?</span>
<input type="button" value="Add"/>	

When you click **Add** the following pop-up box will appear:

**Nomination for a Temporary Skill Shortage Visa**

Transaction Reference Number (TRN): EGNONYF3C 3/17

[Reason caveat does not apply](#)

Select the reason the caveat does not apply  ?

The following list of reasons is available:

- Business turnover more than specified minimum
  - Salary more than specified minimum
  - Employee numbers more than specified minimum
  - Position is not in an excluded location
  - Position does not involve low-skilled tasks
  - International trade obligation applies
  - Position has been endorsed/certified by relevant body
  - Other

Select 'Position has been endorsed / certified by relevant body' from the list of reasons.


You will then be taken back to the original screen and you will see your reason in the table.

You can edit or delete this reason if you selected the wrong one.

Reason	Actions <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">?</span>
Position has been endorsed/certified by relevant body	<a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Delete</a>
<input type="button" value="Add"/>	

## How do I attach the relevant certificate?

When you reach the end of the form you will be prompted to attach the relevant certificate to your application before you submit it.



**Nomination for a Temporary Skill Shortage Visa**

Attach documents

Transaction Reference Number (TRN): EGNONYF3C

Attach the documents listed below then click Next to pay for and submit the application.  
If you choose to submit the application without attaching all required documents, you will need to provide a reason.  
Applications submitted without all the required documents may take longer to process.  
There are specific [quality and formatting](#) requirements when scanning documents.  
If the applicant does not meet the requirements below, the applicant will be able to lodge but may not be granted a visa.

[Expand all](#) [Collapse all](#)

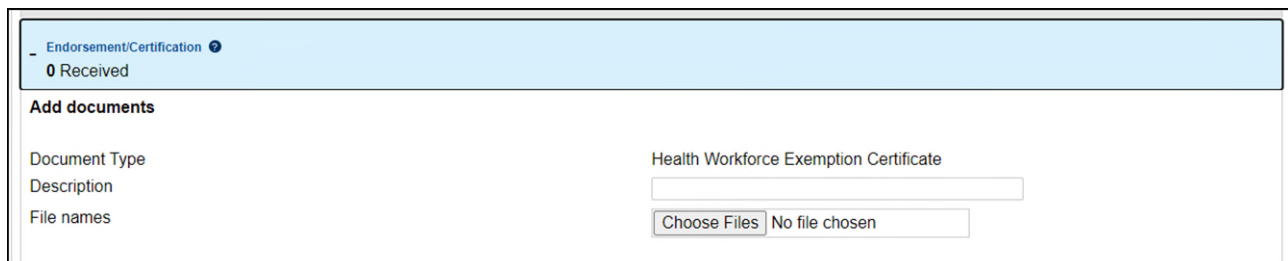
**REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE PTY LTD**  
0 attachments received of 60 maximum.

Required

- Labour Market Testing, Evidence of [?](#)  
0 Received
- Endorsement/Certification [?](#)** ←  
0 Received
- Employment Terms and Conditions - Australian Employees, Evidence of [?](#)  
0 Received

If you click on **Endorsement/Certification**, the section will expand and give you the opportunity to upload the relevant certificate.

If you are submitting a **TSS or SESR nomination** and you indicated the position is based in a hospital, you will be required to attach a Health Workforce Exemption Certificate.



**Endorsement/Certification [?](#)**  
0 Received

**Add documents**

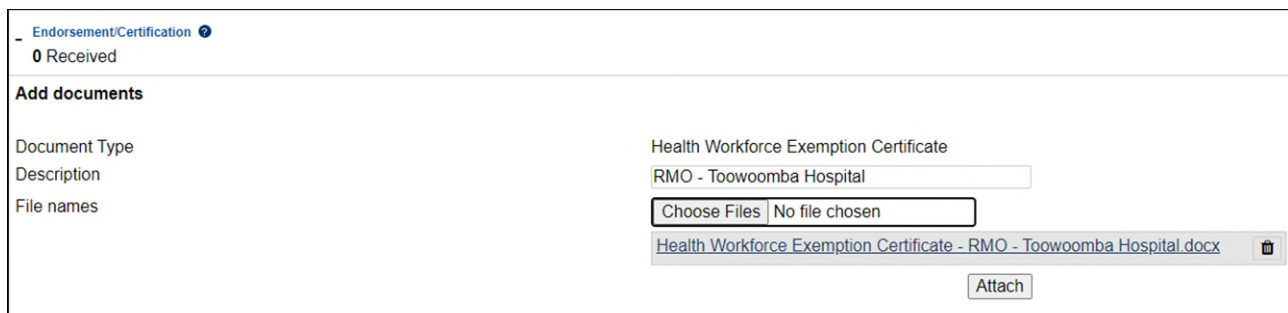
Document Type: Health Workforce Exemption Certificate

Description:

File names:  No file chosen

When you complete this section, you should put the occupation and the name of the hospital in the description (in the example below we have used the RMO occupation and Toowoomba Hospital) and name the file **Health Workforce Exemption Certificate – <occupation> – <hospital name>**.

Click **Choose files** to find the relevant file on your PC and then click **Attach**.



**Endorsement/Certification [?](#)**  
0 Received

**Add documents**

Document Type: Health Workforce Exemption Certificate

Description: RMO - Toowoomba Hospital

File names:  No file chosen

[Health Workforce Exemption Certificate - RMO - Toowoomba Hospital.docx](#)

If you are submitting a **TSS or SESR nomination** and you indicated the position is not based in a hospital, you will be required to attach a Health Workforce Certificate.



Endorsement/Certification 0 Received

**Add documents**

Document Type: Health workforce certificate

Description:

File names:  No file chosen

When you complete this section, you should put the name of the hospital in the description (in the example below we have used Janet Smith) and name the file *Health Workforce Certificate – <nominee name>*.



Endorsement/Certification 0 Received

**Add documents**

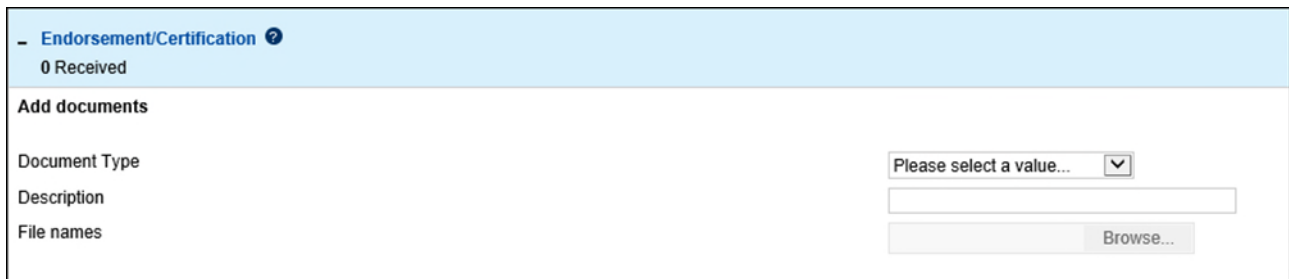
Document Type: Health workforce certificate

Description: Janet Smith

File names:  No file chosen

Health Workforce Certificate - Janet Smith.docx

If you are completing an **ENS or RSMS nomination** you should select 'Health workforce certificate' as the Document type:



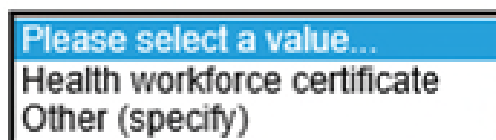
Endorsement/Certification 0 Received

**Add documents**

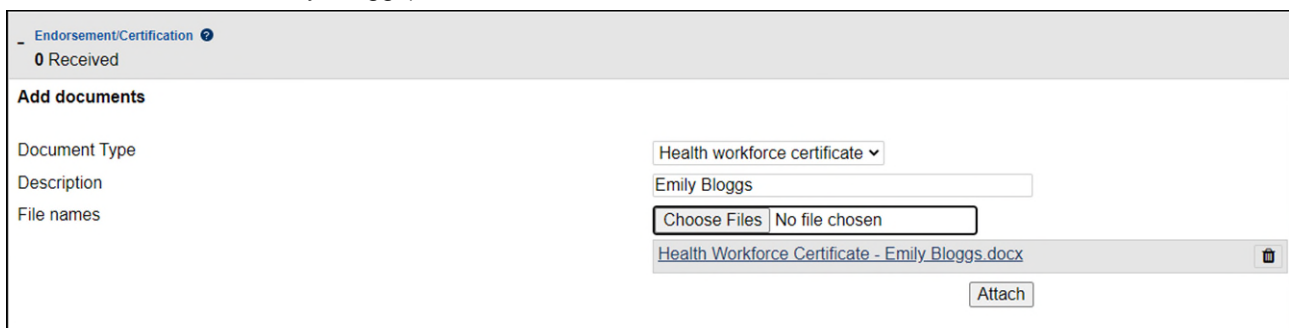
Document Type: Please select a value...

Description:

File names:



When you complete this section, you should put your nominee's name in the description (in the example below we have used Emily Bloggs) and name the file *Health Workforce Certificate – <nominee name>*.



Endorsement/Certification 0 Received

**Add documents**

Document Type: Health workforce certificate


Description: Emily Bloggs

File names:  No file chosen

Health Workforce Certificate - Emily Bloggs.docx

Click **Choose files** to find the relevant file on your PC and then click **Attach**.

Regardless of what sort of nomination you are completing, once you have clicked **Attach** you will see that the document has been attached and the indicator has changed to **1 Received**:



Endorsement/Certification  **1 Received**


**Add documents**

Document Type

Description

File names  No file chosen

Document Type	File Name	Date Received	Action
 Health workforce certificate	Health Workforce Certificate - Emily Bloggs.docx	01 Dec 2020	


Endorsement/Certification  **1 Received**

**Add documents**

Document Type

Description

File names  No file chosen

Document Type	File Name	Date Received	Action
 Health Workforce Exemption Certificate	Health Workforce Exemption Certificate - RMO - Toowoomba Hospital.docx	01 Dec 2020	

If you notice you have made a mistake and attached the wrong document you can click the ‘rubbish bin’ icon in the **Action** column to delete the attached document and then click **Choose files** to attach the correct document.

If you try to progress to the next page without attaching the relevant HWC or HWEC you will see the following message:

**An error has occurred**

The required Endorsement/Certification document has not been attached. The applicant REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE PTY LTD, must provide at least one attachment of this type before continuing.

You will not be able to progress until you have attached the relevant HWC or HWEC.

## Technical support

If you experience any technical problems when trying to lodge your nomination, you should complete the technical support form on the Department’s website.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/immiaccount-technical-support-form>