

# Changes to Australian visa applications during the COVID-19 pandemic

## **Partner visas**

**SUBCLASS 309/100**

From 27 February 2021, offshore partner visa applicants (subclasses 309 and 100) can have their temporary visas granted onshore, in recognition of the current difficulties leaving Australia.

## **Critical sectors and skills in demand**

**SUBCLASS 408**

Under the Temporary Activity visa scheme, the Department of Home Affairs has included a list of 'Australian Government-endorsed events' which includes work in a number of critical industry sectors impacted by the pandemic. This grants a critical worker an extended three month-long stay to lawfully continue to work in Australia.

## **Student Visas**

**SUBCLASS 500**

To support the supply of certain services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has announced a relaxation of the limit of 40 hours a fortnight that people on student visas can legally work - but only for critical work sectors.