

Visa Options & Issues for Missions & Churches

delivered by Accredited Immigration Law Specialist, Mr Jensen Ma

Visa Options for Ministry Workers

Ministry Workers such as **Pastors, Chaplains and local missionaries**

- Temporary 2-year Religious Work Visa
- 482 Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa with a permanent visa pathway under a **Minister of Religion Labour Agreement** (“MORLA”)

MORLA pathway

MORLA is a special arrangement negotiated between a sponsoring organisation and the Department of Home Affairs (“DOHA”). This permits faith organisations to employ foreign ministry staff and incorporates **a pathway to Australian permanent residency**.

As the **MORLA** involves negotiation between the parties, it enables Sponsors and/or Visa Applicants to **seek concessions** on certain criteria such as age, salary, English proficiency, and qualifications, which may not otherwise be satisfied under the standard employer sponsored visa program.

Once approved, the MORLA allows the Visa Applicant to:-

- Apply for a 482 TSS Visa for up to 4 years; and
- Apply for permanent 186 Employer Nomination Scheme (“ENS”) visa after working on the TSS 482 for the requisite period.

Visa Options for Non-Ministry Workers

The standard TSS 482 and ENS 186 visas are **available** for non-ministry related professionals in occupations such as marketing, events management, media and audio-visual.

Visa Options for Guest Speakers & Visiting Pastors

There are short-term visa options for situations such as for guest conference speakers, visiting Pastors, or overseas staff to undertake training with the Australia organisation.

These include **Tourist Visas** or the **Short Stay Specialist 400 visa**.



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