

VISA PAK ISSUE 428 — 21 FEBRUARY 2020

INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR THE SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

On 24 February 2020 the wage or salary thresholds for Skilled Migrant Category resident visas and Essential Skills work visas will increase.

The new Skilled Migrant Category thresholds for gaining skilled employment points are:

Criteria	Threshold (\$ per hour, or the equivalent annual salary)
Employment in an ANZSCO skill level 1-3 occupation, or in an ANZSCO skill level 4-5 occupation that is treated as an exception (see Appendix 7 of the Operational Manual)	\$25.50 or above
Employment in an ANZSCO skill level 4-5 occupation that is <u>not</u> treated as an exception, or in an occupation that is not included in the ANZSCO	\$38.25 or above
Bonus points for skilled employment with high remuneration	\$51 or above

The new Essential Skills thresholds for determining skill-bands are:

Criteria	Threshold (\$ per hour, or the equivalent annual salary)
Higher-skilled employment in any occupation	\$38.25 or above
Mid-skilled employment in an ANZSCO skill level 1-3 occupation	\$21.68 or above
Mid-skilled employment in an ANZSCO skill level 4-5 occupation that is treated as an exception (see Appendix 7 of the Operational Manual)	\$25.50 or above

When to apply the new thresholds

The new thresholds are effective on 24 February 2020. Skilled Migrant Category applications should be assessed against the thresholds that were in place when the EOI was selected from the pool. Essential Skills applications should be assessed against the thresholds that were in place when the application was made.

The applicable instructions were included in [Amendment Circular 2019/14](#).