# South Island Contribution visa – applications closing soon!

If you have employees that have worked in the South Island for the five years to 22 May 2017 while holding an Essential Skills work visa, they may be eligible to apply for the South Island Contribution visa – but they will need to be quick!

The South Island Contribution visa was introduced in May 2017 after Government announced a new policy to provide a one-off pathway to residence for migrant workers and their families living in the South Island.

Applications need to in before 23 May 2018.

If successful, your employee will be granted an initial South Island Contribution work visa, which may make them eligible for residence in two years (provided they stay in the same industry and South Island region). They will then be granted a resident visa, with conditions requiring that they stay in the same region for a further two years.

If you think that any of your employees may be eligible please remind them and encourage them to get their application in as soon as possible so they don’t miss out.

[More information can be found on our website](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/south-island-contribution-work-visa)