



Fact Sheet: Covid-19 Travel Restrictions Temporary Visas, Permanent Visas, and Dual Citizens

Permanent Visas & Dual Citizens

Leaving Australia

If you are an Australian citizen or a permanent resident onshore, you cannot leave Australia due to current travel restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic response unless you are granted an exemption.

Exemptions are granted for the following reasons:

- your travel is in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including the provision of aid
- your travel is for your business/employer
- you are travelling to receive urgent medical treatment that is not available in Australia
- you are travelling outside Australia for a compelling reason for **three months or longer**
- you are travelling on compassionate or humanitarian grounds
- your travel is in the national interest of Australia

If you believe you are eligible for an exemption you can apply [here](#).

Supporting Documentation

Supporting documentation *must* be translated into English and submitted with your application for it to be considered. Once your application is submitted, you may be asked for additional documentation before a decision is made. If your request for an exemption is denied, you **can reapply** and may have to submit more evidence to support your reasons for an exemption. There is no limit on how many times you apply for an exemption if denied. An application must be made for each person requiring/requesting an exemption. You should apply for an exemption a minimum of 14 days to a maximum of 2 months before intended travel. If your exemption is granted, you will need to carry this with you during your travel.

Types of supporting documentation may include the following:

- passport(s) | proof of your current valid visa, including in Australia and/or overseas
- marriage certificate(s)
- birth certificate(s) | death certificate(s)
- proof of relationship (for example, shared tenancy agreement, joint bank account etc.)
- proof that you are moving to another country on a long-term basis such as leases, job offers and evidence your goods are being transported
- letter from a doctor or hospital about any medical treatment/condition with statements on why travel is necessary
- letter from your employer, or other evidence that you are travelling for a business reason
- statement or evidence to show when you wish to return to Australia
- any other proof you may have to support your claims.

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PCR Tests

All persons departing from Australia will need a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result completed 72 hours or less prior to their embarkment. Some countries that you travel to will require negative PCR test results completed 48 hours prior to departure. These tests are done in specific locations across Victoria and range in price from \$150 - \$350. Some locations of where you can get a PCR test for travel are listed below.

Name <i>Click on name to visit website</i>	Cost	Results
Clinical Labs	\$150	24-48 hours
Medical Hub @ RMIT	\$160 - \$200	24 – 36 hours
Healius (Dorevitch Pathology)	\$150	24 hours
4Cyte Pathology	\$120 - \$180	24 hours
CBD Doctors Melbourne	\$300 (\$350 on weekends and public holidays)	24 - 48 hours

Exemptions to PCR tests prior to departing Australia

Some people are exempt from needing a PCR test prior to departing Australia.

- Children aged 4 years and younger
- People with a medical condition (who can provide a medical certificate)
- International air crew
- People travelling to green safe travel zones (e.g. New Zealand)
- People travelling from countries where COVID-19 PCR testing is not reasonably available. Exemptions for this is determined by Australia's Director of Human Biosecurity

For more information on exemptions to PCR tests [click here](#).

For more information on the green safe travel zone [click here](#).

Exemption: Compelling Reasons for leaving Australia for 3 months or longer

If you are applying for an exemption to leave Australia for three months or longer based on a 'compelling reason,' you will need to provide evidence outlining your reasons in the form of a [Commonwealth Statutory Declaration](#). In this document, you will need to state that you are making an application for a travel exemption on the basis that you plan to be outside of Australia for three months or more. You will also need to include supporting evidence.

Supporting evidence may include:

- confirmed flight itinerary, with return date of at least three months after departure date
- confirmation of leave from employment for three months
- enrolment confirmation for study abroad
- a doctor's certificate to support your claim that you are travelling in order to care for a sick family member
- any other matter you wish to raise in support of your request for exemption.

For more information on applying for an exemption to leave Australia for three months or longer based on a compelling reason, [click here](#).

Ordinarily a Resident in a Country Other than Australia

If you're ordinarily a resident in a country other than Australia, you are exempt from travel restrictions. This means you can leave Australia without applying for an exemption. The Department of Home Affairs has a Residence Calculator that you can use, if you are unsure. You can access the Residence Calculator [here](#).

Who is Ordinarily Resident in a Country Other Than Australia?

You are considered ordinarily resident in a country other than Australia if you have spent more time outside of Australia compared to inside Australia for the last 12 to 24 months.

What if I am Ordinarily a Resident in another Country, but have not spent more time outside of Australia for the last 12-24 months?

If you have not spent more time outside Australia than inside for the last 12 to 24 months, but still consider yourself to be ordinarily resident in another country, **you can submit a request for a travel exemption.**

Your request will need to include evidence, for example:

- documents showing you have an established and settled home in another country
- the location of your immediate family members
- an employment contract for work outside of Australia
- school enrolment for dependent children
- evidence of ongoing business/property interests
- evidence that you are a dual national or hold a valid visa for another country
- evidence which shows that your absence from another country is temporary and you intend to return there.

For more information [click here](#).

Travel to High-Risk Countries (India & PNG)

Travel exemptions for any travel from Australia to high-risk countries will be limited to very urgent circumstances only. This advice currently applies to India and PNG.

People seeking an exemption to travel from Australia to India will only be approved for the following reasons:

- critical workers providing assistance to India's COVID-19 response
- people travelling in Australia's national interest
- people seeking urgent medical treatment for a critical illness that cannot be treated in Australia
- people travelling due to the death or funeral of a close family member
- people visiting a close family member who is critically ill
- people seeking to travel to India to escort an Australian citizen or permanent resident minor back to Australia.

Exempted persons will need both a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result **AND** a negative rapid antigen test result 72 hours before their departure.

People seeking an exemption to travel from Australia to PNG will only be approved for the following reasons:

- for critical workers providing assistance to PNG's COVID-19 response; and
- people undertaking critical safety roles.

Note: The Department of Home Affairs states that "the 'exceptional circumstances' exemption criteria outlined in the Outward Travel Restrictions Operation Directive does not currently apply to people seeking to travel to any high-risk COVID-19 country listed above."



Fact Sheet: Covid-19 Travel Restrictions Resources & Exemption Support

Updates on Covid-19 Travel Restrictions

- [Australian Government Department of Health: Advice for International Travellers](#)
- [Australian Department of Home Affairs: Covid-19](#)
- [Smart Traveller](#)

Facebook Group Support related to Exemptions



The following Facebook groups have current information in relation to applying for travel exemptions:

- [Parents are Immediate Family](#)
- [TRAVEL EXEMPTION AUSTRALIA](#)
- [Travel exemption Australia – Travelban Covid-19](#)
- [Australian Travel & Exemption Support](#)
- [Grant Offshore Partner Visas Now-Australia \(300 & 309\)](#)

International Student Support (VIC)

Name	Website
Study Melbourne Student Centre	www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/help-and-support/study-melbourne-student-centre
International Student Care	https://www.isca.net.au/
International Student Legal Information (online online)	https://ishelp.org.au/
Council of International Students Australia	https://cisa.edu.au/
VicWise	https://vicwise.org/

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Refugee, Asylum Seeker, (im)migrant support organisations (Victoria)

The following is a general list of organisations in Victoria that specialize in working with refugees, asylum seekers and (im)migrants on temporary and permanent visas in varying capacities. Please be aware that this is not a complete list, and there are other organisations that exist (including those that work exclusively with particular community groups).

Name	Website
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	https://asrc.org.au/
The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and Trauma	https://foundationhouse.org.au/
RISE: Refugees, Survivors and Ex-detainees	https://www.riserefugee.org/
Migrant Information Centre: Eastern Melbourne	https://miceastmelb.com.au/
Migrant Information Centre: North West	https://www.mrcnorthwest.org.au/
Spectrum	https://spectrumvic.org.au/
Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health	https://www.ceh.org.au/
Australian Multicultural Foundation	https://www.amf.net.au/
Victorian Immigrant & Refugee Women's Coalition (VIRWC)	http://virwc.org.au/
Migrant Workers Centre	https://www.migrantworkers.org.au/
Refugee Legal	https://refugeelegal.org.au/
Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre	https://smrc.org.au/
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	https://www.mcwh.com.au/
Refuge of Hope	https://www.facebook.com/Refugeofhopemelbourne/
Migrant Resource Centre Westgate Region	http://www.wmrc.org.au/