

Just moved to Australia?

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW





Australia is home to five of the top 20 **most liveable cities** in the world. This makes it an appealing destination to people from all around the world. Australia's population reflects this, with just **over a quarter** of the country's residents born abroad.

Nearly **200,000 skilled migrants permanently move to Australia every year** and many thousands of holiday-makers arrive on working tourist visas. However, moving to Australia takes more than simply buying a plane ticket. Getting set up in Australia will require paperwork, especially when you're looking for a new home or job.



AUSTRALIAN VISAS

The first thing you need to live or work in Australia is a valid Australian visa.

There are many types of visas. **The Department of Immigration and**

Border Protection has all the up-to-date information on the different visa categories for Australia.

The Department's **Visa Finder** tool will help you identify which visa category best suits you. Depending on the type of visa, the Visa Finder tool may also provide details of the health check-ups and health insurance required to support your application, whether biometrics information is required, the professional and personal documents you will need to supply, and an estimate of the fees and charges.



FINDING A JOB

To start looking for a job, start with the big job board sites including [Seek](#), [CareerOne](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Gumtree](#).

When applying for work in Australia, typical practice is to submit a two- to three-page CV or résumé and a covering letter. The CV should detail your employment history, starting with the most recent job first, along with your qualifications, skills and attributes.

At least two, sometimes three, **references** are required. Potential employers will usually only contact your referees if they are keen to offer you a position. Your police, education and employment records may also be vetted by employers.



To find out more about your rights and entitlements when working in Australia, [Fair Work Australia](#) offers extensive resources and information, such as standard leave entitlements.

To brush up on your English skills as part of your job search, there are many places across Australia that teach English as a language. Visit the [National English Accreditation Scheme \(NEAS\)](#) to find an accredited language course in the area where you are living.

CHECKING YOUR OVERSEAS REFERENCES AND QUALIFICATIONS

As an overseas job applicant, your qualifications or work history may have been gained at schools, institutions or employers which do not have a profile in Australia.

For an Australian employer looking at your application, this can add a layer of red tape as they work through the process of verifying your credentials (including time zone and language challenges). Getting your credentials certified, including qualifications, previous employers, referees and police checks, will make considering your application easier for potential employers.



GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENCE

Although a passport is a high-rating form of identification, it really helps to have something with a local address on it. One straightforward way to do this is to get your Australian driver's licence.

Driving laws and regulations are different in each state and territory. Driver's licences are issued by **state authorities**. Check with the authority in the state or territory in which you plan to live about the rules for both driving on your overseas licence and how you can apply for an Australian licence.

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Once you've secured work, you'll need a local bank account to get paid. There are four major banks in Australia, plus a range of mutual banks and even online-only accounts.



To open an account, you will need documentation that satisfies a **100-point identity check**. Documents which contribute to the 100 points of identification include a passport, an Australian driver's licence with a current address, and public utility bills such as electricity, gas or phone records.

An **Australian Government**-administered proof of age card for young people generally over the age of 18, and an **Australia Post Keypass** identity cards can be used for general identification in place of a current driver's license.

GETTING A TAX FILE NUMBER

Anyone earning an income in Australia must pay tax to the government. To do that you need a **tax file number**, which acts as a personal reference number for the country's taxation and superannuation systems.

It is actually very easy to apply for a tax file number, and applications are processed fairly quickly. **Foreign passport holders, migrants and visitors** can apply for one as long

as they are in Australia and meet certain criteria, with the Australian Taxation Office offering an **online application** function.

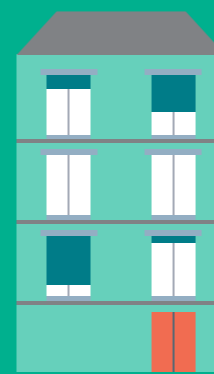
FINDING SOMEWHERE TO LIVE

Most people choose to rent a house or apartment when they first arrive. Renting in Australia is generally done through a real estate agent. Agents list properties online when they become available. 'Open for inspection' times will usually be advertised, where the property is open to the general public.

To **rent a property** you will need at least two rental references and proof of income as part of your application. Leases are typically for six or 12 months. Upon signing a lease, you will be expected to pay at least a month's rent as security bond and at least four weeks' rent in advance.

The real estate agent will issue you with a property condition report when you first move in. It's vital to check this and make your own notes about the condition of the property, as this is the benchmark for the agent's future property inspections.

When you move in, you will need to set up **electricity and gas** accounts before you can use these services. Australian utility companies usually ask for at least one form of identification, such as a passport or driver's licence, to open an account. Utility bills with your Australian address can then be used as a form of ID and proof of address.





DID YOU KNOW?

There's no need to feel like a fish out of water when you first arrive Down Under – you will be in good company.

The number of Australians who were born overseas reached its highest level in 120 years in 2016, with 28 per cent of the population hailing from countries as diverse as the United Kingdom, China and India. There are more than 300 languages spoken in Australia, and recent figures showing about 18 per cent of the population speak a language other than English when they're at home.



HEALTH COVER

Australia's health system has both public and private elements. The government (public) healthcare system is called **Medicare**, but it does not always offer health cover to overseas residents. People who are eligible for Medicare benefits need to enrol in the system and provide their bank account details.

A condition of some visas is that you must take out **private health insurance**. Other people choose to take out private health insurance so they have more comprehensive medical cover. Medical treatment in Australia can be costly if you are not covered by either Medicare or your own private health insurance.



Always bring medical records from home. When children are travelling with you, make sure you bring their immunisation records. Some childcare centres and schools have strict rules around **vaccinations**.

INSURANCE

In addition to medical insurance, many people take out insurance policies on their homes, personal belongings and vehicles. The **Understand Insurance** website can provide further information.

GETTING A MOBILE PHONE

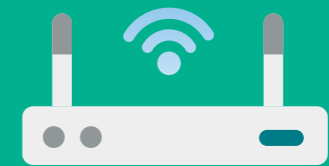
Aussies love their mobile phones, so there is a huge array of handsets and mobile phone usage plans on offer, ranging from contract to pre-paid options.

The **Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)** has advice on its website about how to work out what best suits your needs. Consumer advocacy group CHOICE regularly analyses **mobile phones and plans**. The Australian Securities & Investment Commission's **Money Smart** site also has handy tips on what to look for.

Mobile network performance varies between urban and regional areas in Australia, so when choosing a plan, take into account where you will be living, working or travelling.

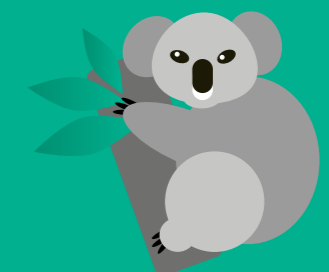
If you enter into a mobile phone contract, it's important to carefully read all the details before you sign.

SETTING UP INTERNET ACCESS



ADSL is the most popular high-speed broadband access offered in Australia. When choosing an Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Australia, consider price and billing, performance, support and installation, and security.

ACMA has a series of checklists which outline the questions you should ask when **setting up an internet service for the first time** in Australia, as well as information on understanding your **internet service contract**.



INTEGRATING INTO YOUR COMMUNITY

Relocating to another country can be a lonely exercise – you're often separated from family and friends and displaced into a foreign culture.

A great way to integrate into your new community, and to make connections, is to contact your national association and join your local club. Other great meeting places are online forums and groups (again, many of these can be found through your local national association) and Facebook communities. Find a common interest group then send a request to join.

Alternatively, **mobile apps** such as Meetup, Peoplehunt and Foursquare are also great for meeting like-minded people in your local area.



Moving to Australia: A checklist

Moving countries is exciting and rewarding, but can also be overwhelming. A little planning can go a long way to ease that stress. Here is our suggested checklist of things to do to make your transition a little easier:

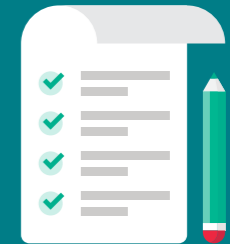


AHEAD OF DEPARTURE:

1. Research what type of visa you, and your spouse, partner or dependants, might need. Investigate processing time before you start booking flights and committing to dates.
2. Update your CV.
3. Start researching the job market and making contact with prospective employers a few months ahead of your intended move date.
4. Book flights.
5. Compile all necessary medical records, including vaccination records.
6. Book temporary accommodation for your arrival.
7. Take out relevant travel and medical insurance.

UPON ARRIVAL:

8. Register at your local consulate.
9. Open an Australian bank account.
10. Find permanent accommodation.
11. Obtain a Tax File Number.
12. Apply for a local driver's licence.
13. Register for Medicare, if you're eligible.



Source: <http://movingtoaustralia.westpac.com.au/moving-to-australia>

Having a tenancy reference and your CV verified will make your rental applications and CV stand out, helping you get the job and house you want so you can start enjoying your life in Australia.

CVCheck can verify your international work history and references and give your credentials extra authority.

CHECK POINT Powered by: **CV CHECK**

Visit [CVCheck.com](https://www.cvcheck.com)



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