



Your Lodgement Buddy

December 2019

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2020

Pretoria Processing Times

- Subclass 600 visitor - 40 Days
- Subclass 600 business - 20 days

Please note that we are trying to process all on hand applications to enable applicants to travel.

Can you believe that we will be welcoming in 2020 at the end of December?!

The staff in the Immigration section of the Australian High Commission would like to wish all of our clients a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2020. For those celebrating Christmas may it be a joyous time with family and friends.

The Australian High Commission will close on 25th December and will reopen on Thursday 2nd January. During this time if there are any emergencies requiring compassionate travel please arrange for the client to lodge an online application, complete their medicals, if required, and then to contact the consular emergency number in Australia +61 2 6261 3305.

From 2020 this newsletter will come out every two months. The next newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of February. Please let us know if there are any topics you would like to hear about!

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Visa Fee Updates

From 1 January 2020 new visa fees may apply. Adjustments are made twice a year taking into account any Australian dollar changes and any possible foreign exchange adjustments.

Please check the visa pricing estimator for all updates to visa application charges from 1 January onwards: see [Visa Pricing Estimator](#).

SPOTLIGHT – Permanent Residence

How do I become a Permanent Resident?

There are a limited number of visa subclasses that will enable you to move to Australia as a permanent resident. The categories include family, work, business, investment, retirement, distinguished talent or if you were a former resident.

The following link will take you to the immigration website where you will find an overview of the various options. See [Permanent Resident](#).

If you are interested in any of the visa options leading to becoming a permanent resident you may wish to make use of a migration agent. Some of the visa subclasses may be fairly complex and a migration agent with experience will be able to guide you through the process. Use of a migration agent is, however, optional.

Entitlements

An Australian permanent resident and an Australian citizen are not the same.

As a permanent resident of Australia, you generally can:

- remain in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's national health care scheme, Medicare
- apply for bank loans to buy property
- sponsor eligible relatives for permanent residence
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible
- travel to and from Australia for as long as your travel facility permits. Please see [Overseas travel as a permanent resident](#).
- attend free English language classes provided by the [Adult Migrant English Program](#)
- work in [New Zealand](#)

You may also qualify for other government benefits and services. If you hold a permanent visa, but you are not residing in Australia, your eligibility for the above may be impacted. Contact the relevant government departments or authorities to confirm your rights and obligations.

Unlike Australian citizens, a permanent resident generally **cannot**:

- have an Australian passport
- vote in Australian Government elections unless you enrolled (as a British subject) before 26 January 1984
- access student loans
- join the Australian Defence Force
- obtain ongoing work in the Australian Government
- return to Australia from overseas without a valid travel facility (you do not have automatic right of entry to Australia). See [Overseas travel as a permanent resident](#).

Travel Overview

As an Australian permanent resident, you do not have an automatic right to return to Australia from overseas.

Your right of re-entry to Australia will depend on the validity of your travel facility on your permanent visa. Your travel facility is listed in both your visa grant notification letter, and in visa information provided by [VEVO](#). Further information on understanding your travel validity is available in 'Travel facility on your permanent visa'.

Travel facility on your permanent visa

When you are granted a permanent visa, you are usually permitted a 5-year travel facility. This means you can leave and re-enter Australia as many times as you like in the 5 years from the date your permanent visa was granted, as long as your visa remains valid.

Permanent Residence — continued

After 5 years, your travel facility expires. You will need to apply for and be granted either:

- a [Resident Return visa](#) - if you wish to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident
- [Australian citizenship](#) - if you wish to travel as an Australian citizen.

If you enter Australia on a temporary visa when the travel facility on your permanent visa has expired, this will have an adverse impact on you. See 'Resident Return visa' below for details.

If you are not eligible for either of the above and wish to return to Australia as a permanent resident, you may have to apply again for a permanent visa, such as a Former Resident visa, a family visa or a skilled visa.

You can check when your travel facility ends in [VEVO](#).

Resident Return visa

If you wish to return to Australia as a permanent resident from any overseas travel, you may need to apply for and be granted a [Resident Return visa \(subclass 155 or subclass 157\)](#) if:

- the travel facility on your permanent visa has either already expired or will expire while you are outside Australia
- you are a former Australian permanent resident whose last permanent visa was not cancelled
- you are a former Australian citizen who lost or renounced your citizenship.

If you intend to arrive in Australia without a valid visa, your entry may be denied (unless you are an Australian citizen).

Your permanent resident status will only be reinstated if your application for a Resident Return visa is granted. If your Resident Return visa application is refused, you may have to consider

applying again for another permanent visa, such as a Former Resident visa, a family visa or a skilled visa. You will be provided with information regarding your eligibility for any merits review processes.

Any family members who are permanent residents travelling outside of Australia will need their own Resident Return visas.

Returning to Australia without a permanent visa that has a valid travel facility (for example, entering Australia on an ETA or visitor visa) may impact both you:

- entitlements as a permanent resident; and
- ability to satisfy the permanent residence requirements when applying for Australian citizenship or when applying for another Resident Return visa.

If you are in Australia as a permanent resident, you do not need to apply for a Resident Return visa if you do not wish to travel following the expiry of your permanent visa's travel facility.

Requesting Information on past applications and travel

Requesting travel records

We have received enquiries from applicants who need information relating to their previous travel to Australia. Applicants can request this information from the department by completing [Form 1359 Request for International movement records](#). This form should be submitted by email to request.movement@homeaffairs.gov.au. The Department will then forward the requested information.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) gives you a general right of access to information held by us and other Commonwealth agencies (departments and authorities).

Under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), we might impose an application fee. You will be advised about this once your application is received by us.

For more information on Freedom of Information, including how to request information and application fees, please see [Freedom of Information](#).



Listed below are a number of web links, email addresses and contact numbers to assist locating commonly needed information or for general assistance.

[Department of Home Affairs](#)

Tempentry.pretoria@dfat.gov.au

[Australian High Commission, Pretoria](#)

Students.pretoria@dfat.gov.au

[VFS Global](#)

Immigration.pretoria@dfat.gov.au

[Panel Physicians](#)

[ImmiAccount Technical Assistance](#)

Global Service Centre—+61 2 6196 0196

[Visa finder](#)

[MARA Approved Migration Agents](#)

[My Health Declaration](#)

[Departmental Forms](#)

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