



Fast Track Business visa processing for major Australian linked companies operating in Africa.

Overview

Who is this open to?

Chief Executives/Senior Executives and essential employees of Australian companies operating in Africa who are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) or African companies who own Australian companies listed on the ASX.

This facility is **not** open to family members of employees of these companies.

This facility is **not** open to applicants from within Africa who are applying for a business visa to visit an Australian company. Normal processing times apply to these applicants.

The Visitor (Business Stream) visa (subclass 600) is intended for genuine business visitors seeking a short-term entry (up to three months at a time) to Australia for business activities eg. meetings, general business or employment enquiry, negotiations or participating in a conference. **This is not intended for work purposes.** There must also be a demonstrated need for the applicant to be in Australia for business purposes.

Persons who intend to undertake short term, non-ongoing, highly specialised work; or participate in non-ongoing cultural or social events at the invitation of an organisation in Australia should apply for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (Subclass 400) visa.

What we will offer

- Expedited processing of subclass 600 and 400 visas for Chief Executives /Senior Executives and essential employees of companies.
- Longer travel/visa validity with multiple entry to Australia on subclass 600 visas.
- The global processing standard for Visitor visas is around 4 weeks. We aim to finalise Visitor visas lodged by Australian linked companies in 5 working days.
- Unfortunately, we are not able to process visa applications that are **lodged less than 5 working days prior to the date of travel (except in exceptional circumstances)**. We ask for your understanding in this matter.

What we expect in return

- Companies must ensure employees granted a subclass 600 or 400 abide by the conditions and intent of the visa including not undertaking activities which are inconsistent with the intent of the visa.
- Companies notify the Visa Section immediately if an employee who holds a subclass 600 or 400 visa ceases employment with them.
- AHC Pretoria reserves the right to suspend or deny fast tracking for companies where multiple breaches of visa conditions occur or where false or misleading information is provided in connection with an application.
- Where a holder of a subclass 600 or 400 visa supported by the company breaches the conditions of that visa a warning will be issued by the Visa Office.
- If a further breach occurs then the fast track facilitation of visas will be withdrawn and the company will be required to lodge applications through the normal lodgement process.
- Companies provide the name and contact details of a senior member from the Human Resources Section as a reference point for any follow-up inquiries from the Visa Section.

Where companies are unsure of any of the application requirements, please email Immigration.Pretoria@dfat.gov.au with “**Fast Track visa applications and your company name in the title**” and we will respond to your query.

How to lodge the visa application - Online lodgement

The preferred visa application method for business travel is online lodgement. The online application system is convenient, and easy to use, and can be accessed through the website here:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-Visitor-e600-visa-online-applications>

<https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400->

All subclass 400 visas must be lodged online.

The online facility is always available. To start an application, you will first need to create your own online account, known as ImmiAccount, you can manage all your interactions regarding visa applications through this account. All supporting documentation must be uploaded to this account to be taken into consideration in the assessment of the application.

Alternative to online lodgement – Lodgement via Teleperformance

If you are not able to lodge the visa application online, you may lodge a paper subclass 600 or subclass 400 visa applications at a Teleperformance Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC). Please note that an additional service fee is payable to Teleperformance. If you do not wish to pay the service fee, please lodge online, however there is a fee payable for the collection of biometrics.

For more information on how to lodge your visa application at the Teleperformance AVAC, including relevant forms, please see their website:

<https://au.tlscontact.com/>

You are required to provide the following documentation for each applicant:

- A current form 1415 for Visitor (Business Stream) with all questions answered and the form signed by the applicant plus a current passport photo. A current form can be obtained from: <http://www.border.gov.au/allforms/>
- Payment of the Visa Application Charge (VAC)
- Information on the visa application charge payable on each type of visa application can be found on the Department's website:
<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Visa-1>
- **1) At an Australian Visa Application Centre in person:**
- Payment options at the Visa Application Centres are provided on their websites. For more information, please see:
http://southafrica.embassy.gov.au/pret/immi_SDPs.html
- **2) At an Australian Visa Application Centre via courier:**
- If you are resident in a country that does not have a Visa Application Centre, you must lodge your visa application via courier at the Teleperformance Visa Application Centre in Johannesburg. you have the following options to pay the visa application charge:
 - 1. Via a Credit card (either your own or someone else's – with their approval). The credit card is charged in AUD. The credit card details should be included in your visa application form (in the payment section).
 - 2. A person pays on their behalf at one of the Immigration and Border Protection Offices in Australia (in AUD).
 - 3. A person pays on their behalf at the Australian High Commission in Pretoria (in Rand, or using a South African bank issued bank draft in Rand).
- **3) Online visa applications:**
- The visa application charge is payable by credit card (charged in AUD).

Other documents required

- Copy of current valid passport with at least 6 months validity.
- A letter of support from your company outlining the position held within the company and purpose of intended travel and an invitation from the company in Australia.
- Initial flight itinerary, although we advise that you do not book non-refundable flights until the visa is granted

Please note that family members travelling with the applicant need to apply for a subclass 600 Visitor visa (Tourist stream) not a subclass 600 Visitor visa (Business stream) and that normal processing times apply.

How to access expedited visa processing

Once applications have been lodged, you **must** send an email to immigration.pretoria@dfat.gov.au, providing your full name, date of application, passport number and if the visa is lodged online, the Transaction Reference Number (TRN). The email and subject heading must indicate that you are accessing Fast Track visa processing and are requesting expedited processing.

Biometrics

Biometrics are required for the following countries: **South Africa, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.**

Biometrics are required each time an application is lodged to travel to Australia.

Visa applicants who lodge online will be sent an email requesting them to attend an AVAC to provide their biometrics. Applicants will need to take this letter with them to an AVAC. If you do not do so you will be unable to provide your biometrics.

Applicants will need to attend in person any one of the four (4) Australian Visa Application Centres (AVACs) in South Africa to provide their biometrics. These AVACs managed by the Australian Government's Service Deliver Partner TLScontact, are located in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria.