



Why is there a health requirement for entry to Australia?

Australia enjoys some of the best health standards in the world. In order to help maintain these standards, almost all applicants for visas to Australia are required to meet 'the health requirement' outlined in Australian migration law in order to be granted a visa. That is, they must undergo health assessments where requested and be determined to have an adequate standard of health, taking into account their proposed length of stay and activities in Australia.

Australia's health requirement is designed to:

- minimise public health and safety risks to the Australian community;
- contain public expenditure on health and community services; and
- maintain access of Australian residents to health and community services.

How does the department decide if you meet the health requirement?

If you are applying for a permanent visa or a provisional visa that may lead to the grant of a permanent visa, you will be required to undergo a series of health assessments so that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) can make a decision as to whether or not you meet the health requirement. See form 1071i *Health requirement for permanent entry to Australia* for further information.

If you are applying for a temporary visa, whether you need to undergo health assessments in order to demonstrate that you meet the health requirement will depend on:

- the type of visa that you are applying for;
- the length of your intended stay in Australia;
- the tuberculosis (TB) risk rating of your country (see page 2);
- your intended activities in Australia (see page 2);
- any special significance circumstances that may be applicable (see page 2); and
- the presence of any significant medical conditions.

The officer processing your visa application will inform you which, if any, health assessments you are required to undergo.

However, the tables on page 2 of this form detail the **minimum** health assessments required. These may include a full medical examination and/or a chest x-ray.

Note: The department reserves the right to request additional medical information as part of the visa application process.

The decision-making process

In most cases, a decision as to whether you meet the health requirement will be made by the department based on the information contained in your visa application form.

However, where health assessments are required, you will not be able to meet the health requirement and have your visa granted until these assessments have been completed, and the results have been considered.

If a significant medical condition has been identified, an opinion will also need to be sought from a **Medical Officer of the Commonwealth (MOC)** as to whether you meet the health requirement. The MOC opinion will take into account:

- the results of any medical examination(s) or x-ray(s);
- medical history, age and period of intended stay in Australia; and
- any other relevant considerations.

Under Australian migration law, officers deciding visa applications must accept the opinion of a MOC on whether applicants meet the health requirement.

Who will not meet the health requirement?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease which has been declared an epidemic and global emergency. You will not be able to meet the health requirement if you are found to have active TB.

Other health conditions may result in an applicant failing to meet the health requirement if their condition is assessed by a MOC to be a public health threat; likely to result in significant health care and community services costs to the Australian community; or likely to prejudice the access of Australian citizens or permanent residents to such services.

Note: You should be aware that meeting the health requirement for grant of a temporary visa does not guarantee that you will meet the health requirement for grant of a permanent visa, as your condition will be assessed according to your proposed period of stay in Australia. A health waiver that is available for a temporary visa may also not be available for a permanent visa.

What if I don't meet the health requirement?

The Migration Regulations allow a waiver of the need to meet the health requirement in limited circumstances, but never where the applicant has been found to have active TB.

If you do not meet the health requirement and a waiver is not available or exercised, then under Australian migration law you will not be granted a visa. An officer of the department will inform you of any review options.

Who will examine you?

Any required medical examinations and x-rays must be conducted by qualified doctors and radiologists nominated by the department. The costs of these examinations are paid by you directly to the doctors or clinics undertaking the examinations. There may be additional costs if further tests or couriers are required.

If you are **outside Australia** and require a medical examination or an x-ray a list of approved doctors can be found at **www.immi.gov.au/contacts/panel-doctors**

If you are **in Australia** and require a medical examination or an x-ray you should contact Medibank Health Solutions. In Australian country areas, you should contact Medibank Health Solutions to find your nearest Approved Medical Practitioner. You can contact Medibank Health Solutions on 1300 361 046 or at www.medibankhealth.com.au

How to determine your length of stay

An applicant's 'length of stay' is determined according to the length of their total stay in Australia (ie. a cumulative assessment). For example, a person who has been in Australia for 8 months and applies for a further 6 month temporary visa should be assessed for a stay of 14 months in order to determine the health assessments required via the health matrix (see page 2).

Note: Onshore applicants who wish to stay in Australia for an additional period of **4 weeks or less** do not need to undertake new health assessments unless special significance applies (see page 2) or there are indications that the applicant has a significant health condition.

Health assessments required for temporary and permanent visa applicants

How to use this form

The table below should be used to determine what, if any, health assessments are required depending on your situation. To use the table, you should determine:

- 1) your country level for TB risk as indicated in the rows of the table (refer to the 'Country level of risk' box in the table below to work out which country is relevant in your case).
- 2) the total length of your intended stay in Australia as indicated in the columns of the table. Please note that **a cumulative stay assessment is to be used to determine your total length of intended stay in Australia** (see 'How to determine your length of stay' on page 1 for an explanation).
- 3) whether your intended activities fall within special significance* circumstances as outlined in the table at the bottom of the page.

Note:

- Specific requirements are listed in the table for subclass 457 visa applicants (medium and higher risk applicants only).
- The department can request additional tests beyond those indicated in the health assessment and special significance tables below. This may occur if there are indications that you may not meet the health requirement regardless of your proposed length of stay in Australia.

Country level of risk This is the risk level of: • your country of citizenship as evidenced by your travel document; or • a country in which you have spent more than 3 consecutive months in the last 5 years; whichever country has the greater risk level applies. For a complete list of countries, please refer to: www.immi.gov.au/allforms/health-requirements	Minimum Health Assessments Required		
	Temporary stays of:		Permanent stay
	up to and including 12 months	more than 12 months	
Lower risk This includes, but is not limited to: American Samoa, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, United States of America, United States Virgin Islands, Vatican City.	No health assessment required unless special significance* applies.	No health assessment required unless special significance* applies.	All permanent and provisional visa applicants are required to complete: • a medical examination • a chest x-ray ^ • an HIV test if 15 years or over. Pregnant applicants must also complete a Hepatitis B test.
Medium risk Albania, Algeria, Anguilla, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Cook Islands, Egypt, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hungary, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of), Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, New Caledonia, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Syria, Tahiti, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, West Bank and Gaza Strip.	No health assessment required unless special significance* applies.	You must undergo a chest x-ray ^ and a medical examination. Any special significance* requirements must be met. 457 applicants – chest x-ray ^ only unless special significance* applies.	Please refer to form 1071i <i>Health requirement for permanent entry to Australia</i> for further information.
Higher risk This includes, but is not limited to: China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam.	You must undergo a chest x-ray ^ if staying in Australia for more than 3 months. Any special significance* requirements must be met.	You must undergo a chest x-ray ^ and a medical examination. Any special significance* requirements must be met. 457 applicants – chest x-ray ^ only unless special significance* applies.	

* If you intend to undertake an activity listed below then your health is considered to be of 'special significance' and you will be required to undergo the specified health assessments.

Intended activities	Health assessments required due to 'special significance'
Are you likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 3 months and are you from a medium or higher risk country?	• chest x-ray ^ and a medical examination
Are you from a medium or higher risk country and likely to enter a health care or hospital environment?	• chest x-ray ^
Are you pregnant and intending to have the baby in Australia?	• Hepatitis B test
Do you intend to work as (or study to be) a doctor, dentist, nurse or paramedic ?	• chest x-ray ^, medical examination including HIV, Hepatitis B and C blood tests.
Are you likely to work (or be a trainee) at an Australian childcare centre (including preschools and creches)?	• chest x-ray ^
Are you aged 75 years or older and applying for a Visitor visa (subclasses 676, 679, 456, 459 ONLY) and NOT already required to undergo a medical examination?	• Aged Visitor Health Check

^ Where a chest x-ray is required, this applies to applicants aged 11 years or more. Children under 11 years of age are required to complete a medical examination instead of a chest x-ray.
The department does not recommend that pregnant visa applicants undergo a chest x-ray. Clients should contact their case officer to see if any alternative arrangements are available.

For student visas – principal and dependant applicants are required to undergo the same health assessments unless special significance applies (exception – dependants **not** studying to be a health care professional are **not** required to undergo additional blood tests).