

18 July 2020

Updated Travel Restrictions

Travellers to may need to pay for Hotel Fees

As most of our readers are aware, Australia has strict border measures in place to protect the health of the Australian community. Very limited flights are currently available to and from Australia and you may not be able to travel at this time.

All travellers arriving in Australia, including Australian citizens, are subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days at a designated facility, such as a hotel, in their port of arrival. **A traveller, Australian or otherwise may be required to pay for the costs of the quarantine.** Quarantine is managed by relevant States and Territories therefore travellers are encouraged to contact their relevant State or Territory for specific instructions.

Travel restrictions

Travellers can only travel to Australia if they are an Australian citizen, a permanent resident, an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident or are a New Zealand citizen usually resident in Australia.

In all other cases travellers who have a compassionate or compelling reason to travel to Australia will need to have an exemption from the Australian Border Force Commissioner. Compelling or compassionate circumstances will be assessed on a case by case basis.

All travellers arriving in Australia must undertake a mandatory 14-day quarantine at designated facilities (for example, a hotel), in their port of arrival.

Additional exemptions as determined by the Commissioner

The Commissioner of the **Australian Border Force (ABF)** may consider an additional exemption in relation to the travel restrictions currently in place for:

- foreign nationals travelling at the invitation of the Australian Commonwealth Government for the purpose of assisting in the COVID-19 response or whose entry would be in the national interest;
- critical medical services, including air ambulance and delivery of supplies, that regularly arrive into Australia from international ports;
- people with critical skills (for example, medical specialists, engineers, marine pilots and crews) by exception;
- diplomats accredited to Australia and currently resident in Australia, and their immediate family;
- case-by-case exceptions for humanitarian or compassionate reasons.

Exemptions must be granted prior to travelling to Australia. The request for an exemption through Commissioner's Discretion must be accompanied by:

- passenger details: name, DOB, visa type and number, passport number, Australian residential address, Australian telephone number);
- case information: why this case should be considered for Commissioner discretion/exemption;
- supporting statement: the request should be accompanied by a statement and evidence of how the individual meets one of the grounds for an exemption or excise of the Commissioner's discretion listed above.

It is important that all travellers provide evidence that they meet one of the exemptions above before travelling.

Australian Borderforce encourages applicants to apply for an exemption at least 4 weeks, but not more than 3 months, before any planned travel.

If you hold a Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) visa you are not considered to be a permanent resident, unless you have already entered Australia.

Further information is available at:

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/>