

WORKPLACEMENTS

GLOBAL JOBS



Basic information about Australia

Australia is an island continent, has six states and two territories (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory). The capital of Australia is Canberra. People can travel freely between all states and territories.

Climate

Australia has four seasons.
Summer: December – February
Autumn: March – May
Winter: June – August
Spring: September – November

Climatic zones range from tropical rainforests, deserts and cool temperate forests to snow covered mountains, so the weather varies according to where you live. Generally, it is warmer in northern areas and cooler in the south. On the coast, temperatures are usually cooler than inland areas and it is more humid. It usually rains more in coastal areas and in the mountains than in inland areas. Many inland areas of Australia are in drought. Snow is rare in northern states but does fall in winter in the mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Public buildings usually have air conditioning to keep them warm in winter and cool in summer. In cooler areas, some houses and apartments have heaters, or you may need to buy heaters to keep you and your family warm in winter. In hot areas you may feel more comfortable using electric fans or air conditioners. Depending on where you settle, you may need jackets or coats and other warm clothing for the winter. Australia is a multicultural society which values tolerance, equality, democracy and freedom and respect for all people. English is the national and official language of Australia. It is important to learn about Australian customs and habits.

Before your journey to Australia

It is extremely important that you advise the Australian Embassy or IOM if you or any members of your family are pregnant or have a baby at any time during the visa application process or before you travel. It is very important to inform the Embassy or IOM of the pregnancy as soon as possible. This will help to keep both the mother and the baby safe and ensure that the baby can be assessed for inclusion in the application.

Bring all your original personal documents such as birth and marriage certificates, occupation or academic qualifications and medical records including immunisation records. Also bring all your children's documents, especially immunisation records. If you are travelling with medications for a health condition, ask your doctor for a letter stating the nature of your condition and the need for medication.

When you arrive in Australia

Completing an Incoming Passenger Card

Before landing at an Australian airport, you may be given an Incoming Passenger Card (available in different languages) to fill out. Each person travelling, including children, must have their own card. If you have children, you can help them complete their cards. The card asks you about the purpose of your journey, your country of birth, destination, passport number, etc. It is important that you complete the Incoming Passenger Card honestly as false declarations can lead to penalties. The card also asks what types of goods you are carrying. You will need to indicate (declare) on the card if you have certain goods and other things with you. Ask the airline staff or the customs officers at the airport if you have any questions about goods you are carrying or if you need help to complete the card.

Note: when you are asked to fill in the destination or address on the card, write the name of the city you are going to settle in as the final destination.

Healthcare

You and your family will be offered a health assessment soon after you arrive to identify your basic health needs and any further treatment that may be required.

- If you have signed a health undertaking form you must attend a health authority clinic after you arrive in Australia to fulfil your obligations relating to the grant of your visa.
- Medicare is Australia's national health care system and will pay all or part of the cost when you visit a doctor or a hospital and help you pay for prescription medicines.
- GPs (general practitioners) provide general medical services for common illnesses and for people with chronic conditions. Interpreters are available to help you talk with your GP.
- A specialist doctor is an expert in a particular condition. You need to have a referral from a doctor or hospital before seeing a specialist.
- Public hospitals provide services at no cost to public (or Medicare) patients.
- You should go to a hospital emergency room if you are injured or seriously sick and you can not wait to see your GP.
- You should take to your doctor about immunisations for your children to protect them against childhood diseases. Immunisation may be required before children can be enrolled in pre-school and school and if you are seeking family assistance and child care payments from Centrelink.
- Professional help and counselling services are available for the treatment of emotional or mental health problems.
- Adopting simple daily hygiene measures can prevent many diseases and illnesses.
- Australians experience the highest levels of skin cancer in the world so you and your family should wear sunblock and a hat if you go outdoors.
- It is illegal to leave children or pets locked in motor vehicles at any time.
- Emergency services include police, fire and ambulance. Dial 000 if there is a crime, fire, car accident, medical emergency, or in any situation where life or property is in danger.

Pay and Working Conditions

Most jobs and working conditions are covered by Australian Government or State government awards which mean employers by law must ensure certain standards of working conditions must pay their employees above a minimum level of pay and provide other entitlements.

Some workplaces are covered by Certified Agreements. These are collective agreements about wages and working conditions which are usually made between an employer and a group of employees or unions representing them. By law, employees are guaranteed the right to join or not to join a trade union or any other organisation. Some workers have an Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA) which is an individual agreement between an employer and an employee about the employee's wages and conditions of employment.

Superannuation

Superannuation is a savings program paid by employers to their employees to make sure people have money to live on when they reach retirement age. Many people call it 'super'. Nearly every employed person must join a superannuation fund. Under the law your employer must put a certain amount of your earnings into your super fund. You can also put additional money into your super fund.

Australian Housing

In Australian cities and towns there are different kinds of housing ranging from small one bedroom apartments to large houses. The design of Australian houses has been influenced by many cultures. A typical house may be made of brick and have three bedrooms, a kitchen, a family or lounge room, a bathroom and a laundry. The bathroom usually has a shower and a bathtub, although most adult Australians have showers, not baths. The toilet may be in a small separate room near the bathroom. In addition to houses, many Australians now live in apartments. Tall blocks of apartments are common in large cities.

Homes are usually available through the private rental market, by visiting a real estate agent or by looking in newspapers. There are some basic things to consider when looking for housing to rent:

- The area – how close is it to work opportunities, schools, transport and shops?
- The cost – will you be able to make rent payments and still have money left for paying bills, food and other essential needs?
- Your rights and obligations – how long is the lease and what is included in it?

You may also have to pay a rental bond (often 4 weeks of rent), which is refunded when you leave the accommodation, if you leave it clean and undamaged. Rent is usually paid two or four weeks in advance.

Tenant's and landlord's responsibilities

Once a lease agreement is signed, you need to observe the requirements specified on the agreement. These usually include keeping the property and garden clean and not keeping pets. Your landlord is also required to ensure the property is safe and secure. Your landlord should carry out necessary repairs to the property and respect you and your family's privacy. It is also important to be a good neighbour by observing the laws banning excessive noise and not burning rubbish and other things in your garden.

Public Housing

State and territory governments provide housing for people in hardship, however waiting lists for public housing are long and people can wait several years in some areas. An applicant's choice of where to live is limited to where housing is available. Public housing tenants are charged rent, though this may be at a reduced rate.

Setting Up a Household

Household services (utilities)

When you rent an apartment or house, you must pay for electricity, gas and telephone services - these are sometimes called 'utilities'. Make sure that you pay the bills issued by these service providers by the due date. Before you move into an apartment or house, you will need to tell the service providers to connect you to services like phone and electricity. You may need to pay connection fees before you can begin using the service. Similarly, you should tell the provider when you leave so they can stop these services and you can pay for what you have used.

Household furniture and goods

Once you have long-term housing, you will be eligible to receive a package of household goods. This usually includes a fridge, washing machine, TV, beds and various other household items. You may also receive some used furniture that has been donated by local community organisations. While the package of goods you receive may not be large and goods may not be new, it is important to remember that these may be provided by volunteer agencies who donate their time to help others. In addition, you may need to buy other furniture and household items. Depending on where you buy these goods, the price and quality can vary. You may save money if you buy goods second-hand, at second-hand stores, from garage sales, or from the classifieds section of newspapers. You can also try discount stores or when shops have sales. New appliances are usually guaranteed for at least 12 months. This means that the business that sold you the appliance must pay for the cost of repairs or replacement should the appliance break down.

Median Salary By City For Location South Australia

Adelaide:	34 124
Sydney:	49290
Melbourne:	45 498
Perth:	26 312
Sydney:	75 830

Currency: U.S.Dollar (USD).

Cost of living and financial considerations

Australia has some of the world's least expensive cities. The cost of living in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Perth is less than half that of the world's most expensive cities. At the same time, Australia's major cities are all ranked in the world's top 30 for quality of life. The cost of living in Western Australia is generally lower than in other Australian states. One can expect to pay more per year for rent, transport, and food in Australia's east-coast cities. Prices are relatively low for essentials such as food, drink, and clothes. Manufactured goods, on the other hand, are generally expensive because many are imported.

Living Costs

- It is estimated that in 1999, households of migrants who have lived in Australia for less than 2 years spent an average of \$ 930 per week supporting 3 people.
- It is estimated that a couple renting accommodation in Australia would need a minimum of \$ 365 per week to survive.
- A single person would need about \$ 225 per week.
- Be aware: cost of living varies between different cities, and that the cost of relocating can be high e.g. relocating household goods, setting up new accommodation, travelling to Australia etc.

Average Wages

Full-time adult ordinary-time earnings - the benchmark for Australia's average wage - rose to \$A1008.10 a week in the three months to May 31, or \$A52,432 a year, the Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. Full-time women workers are yet to reach the new pay landmark, averaging \$A906 a week compared with men on \$A1064. Miners are the nation's best paid workers among the categories measured by the bureau, with ordinary-time earnings averaging just over \$A82,000 a year, followed by finance and insurance workers on \$A65,218. Accommodation, restaurant and cafe workers received the lowest full-time earnings with \$A36,556 a year. The army of retail workers average \$A43,508 - nearly \$A9000 less than the national average. Wages in the construction industry have risen by about \$A9000 in the past three years, outpacing the \$A5000 rise in annual average wages across all industries. "Workers in the construction sector have benefited first from the housing boom and now the infrastructure boom," said CommSec economist Craig James. Total earnings for male construction workers jumped 16.1 per cent in the past year. Workers in the ACT are Australia's highest paid workers with an average of \$A1167 a week, followed by NSW on \$A1051. In NSW, the average annual wage of \$A54,662 is about \$A3000 more than in Victoria and \$A5000 higher than Queensland. Tasmania had the lowest average full-time wage of \$890 a week, or \$A46,280 a year. The bureau's weekly earnings figures showed wages grew 6 per cent in the year to May. While wages are not putting significant pressure on inflation, several economists warned that if wages growth continued, the chances of an interest rate increase would rise. When overtime and bonuses are added, the national average weekly wage is \$A1060.80 for an annual salary of \$A55,161.