

# Temporary Visas to Australia

There are various types of temporary visas available, which allow people to come to Australia for a particular reason and stay for a period of time.

Many temporary visas can be applied for when you are outside Australia.

Temporary visas are granted for a specific period of time. They also have conditions attached to them, such as whether you are allowed to work or study while holding that visa.

## Visitor Visas

Visitor visas are available to people wanting to visit Australia for a short period for holidays, tourism, recreation, business activities or to see family and friends. They do not allow work in Australia. They include:

- Visitor Visa (subclass 600)
- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (visitor) (subclass 601)
- Medical Treatment visa (subclass 602)
- eVisitor (subclass 651)

### Visitor Visa (subclass 600)

This is a temporary visa allowing a stay in Australia of up to three, six or twelve months.

This visa has five streams:

1. Tourist Stream (apply in or outside Australia)
2. Sponsored Family Stream
3. Business Visitor Stream

4. Frequent Traveller Stream.
5. Approved Destination Status stream

### Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) allows citizens of certain countries to apply for a visa from outside Australia using the Australian ETA app.

### Medical Treatment Visa (subclass 602)

A Medical Treatment visa is not strictly a visitor visa. This visa is available to those having medical treatment or a consultation or if they are donating an organ.

This visa may also be granted to those who want to support the person who is an organ donor or is having medical treatment.

The length of stay is determined on a case by case basis. The visa holder can also study for up to 3 months. (or longer if exempted)

### eVisitor (subclass 651)

An eVisitor is an electronically stored 12-month authority for visits to Australia for tourism or business purposes for up to three months on each arrival. The eVisitor is available to citizens of certain European countries. The visa holder can study or train for 3 months.

## Temporary Residence Visas

Temporary residence visas cover four major groups:

1. Study and Training Visas
2. Temporary Skilled and Work Visas
3. Temporary Family Visas
4. Temporary Graduate Visas

### Study and Training Visas Student Visa (subclass 500)

This visa is available to international students who plan to study full-time in Australia at a registered educational institution.

It allows students participating in an eligible course of study to stay in Australia for up to five years in line with their enrolment. It is also possible to include a partner and dependent children in this visa. The visa holder can also work up to 48 hours per fortnight during semester.

### Student Guardian Visa (subclass 590)

The Student Guardian visa is available to those coming to Australia to provide care and support for a student visa holder who is either a student under 18, or older than 18 if there are exceptional circumstances. The visa holder cannot work.

## **Training Visa (subclass 407)**

This visa allows the holder to stay in Australia for up to 2 years to complete workplace-based training, that is to improve skills for their current occupation, area of tertiary study or field of expertise, or undertake a professional development training program.

## **Temporary Skilled and Work Visas**

### **Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485)**

This visa has three streams:

1. Post-Vocational Education Work Stream
2. Post-Higher Education Work Stream
3. Second Post- Higher Education Work Stream

#### *Post-Vocational Education Work Stream*

This stream is for international students who graduated with an associated degree, diploma or trade qualification. The qualification must be relevant to the nominated occupation on the skilled occupation list.

A visa in this stream is usually granted for 18 months or 5 years for Hong Kong and British National Overseas passport holders.

Visa holders can live, study and work in Australia temporarily and can bring their family members with them.

#### *Post-Higher Education Work Stream*

This stream is for international students who have recently

graduated with a degree in CRICOS-registered course from an Australian institution. A visa in this stream is usually between 2 and 3 years depending on the qualification or 5 years for Hong Kong and British National Overseas passport holders.

Visa holders can live, study and work in Australia temporarily and can bring their family members with them.

#### *Second Post- Higher Education Work Stream*

This stream is for Temporary Graduates holding a Post-Higher Education Work, Post-Study Work or Replacement visa with a degree in CRICOS-registered course from an Australian institution from an Australian institution located in a regional area.

The holder must have held a Temporary Graduate visa in the Post-Higher Education Work or Post-Study Work stream, as the main applicant

The holder must have lived in an eligible designated regional area for at least 2 years immediately before applying for the Second Temporary Graduate visa in the Post-Higher Education Work stream

A visa in this stream is usually between 1 and 2 years depending on:

- the regional location of the educational institution that the visa holder graduated from
- the regional area that the visa holder lives

Visa holders can live, study and work in Australia temporarily and can bring their family members with them.

### **Skills in Demand (SID) Visa (subclass 482)**

This visa has three streams:

1. Core Skills Stream
2. Specialist Skills Stream
3. Labour Agreement Stream

Australian or overseas businesses that are unable to meet their skill needs from the Australian labour market can sponsor skilled overseas workers under the standard business sponsorship arrangement, which is the most common route to sponsor overseas workers.

### **Skilled Regional provisional Visa (subclass 491) (State Sponsored)**

This temporary, points-based visa is for skilled workers who are nominated by a state or territory government agency or by an eligible relative who is a citizen or permanent resident living in a designated area in Australia. The visa is valid for five years, and a visa holder must live and work in a specified area. Certain family members can be included in the application. If eligible, the visa holder can apply, after 3 years, for permanent residence.

### **Temporary Activity Visa (subclass 408)**

This visa allows you to come to Australia to do specific types of work on a short-term, temporary basis. This visa covers various types of work and activities and

require a sponsorship or invitation. Most visas allow stay for up to two years, though others allow 3 month (Invited participant in cultural events), 12 months (Special Program) or 4 years (Government endorsed events).

#### **Temporary Work (short-stay specialist activity) Visa (subclass 400)**

This temporary visa lets you do short-term, highly specialised work in Australia. It is suitable if you have specialised skills, knowledge or experience not generally available in Australia. It allows stay of up to 6 months.

#### **Working Holiday Visa (subclass 417)**

The scheme allows people aged 18-30 from specified countries to do short-term work to fund their holiday. The visa allows 12 months stay but second and third 12-month Working Holiday visas may also be applied for.

#### **Work and Holiday Visa (subclass 462)**

This Visa is for tertiary educated people aged 18 to 30 who meet the education requirement and who are interested in a working holiday of up to 12 months in Australia, but who do not come from one of the countries with whom Australia has a working holiday arrangement. The visa allows applicants to supplement the cost of their holiday through periods of temporary or casual employment and allows stay of 12 months.

#### **Temporary Work (international relations) Visa (subclass 403)**

The Temporary Work

(international relations) Visa has six streams with various periods of stay allowed.

The Pacific Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme is a consolidation of the Pacific worker programs, the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) and the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS). The applicant must be a citizen of a participating PALM scheme country. The visa is to 4 years. The focus on bringing workers to selected industries where Australian employers cannot source local labour.

### **Temporary Family Visas**

#### **Sponsored Parent (Temporary) Visa (subclass 870)**

Allows parents of Australian citizens, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizens to visit Australia for up to 3 or 5 years.

This visa holder can apply for further Sponsored Parent (Temporary) visas to visit up to a maximum of 10 years.

#### **Contributory Parent (Temporary) Visa (subclass 173)**

This visa allows parents of Australian citizens, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizens to stay for up to 2 years with an option to apply for a permanent Contributory Parent visa. The applicant must pass the 'Balance of Family Test', that is at least half of the applicant's children are eligible children or there are more eligible children living in Australia than any other single country.

#### **Prospective Marriage Visa (subclass 300)**

This visa lets you come to Australia to marry your

prospective spouse who must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen. The visa holder can apply for a Partner visa. The length of the stay is between 9 and 15 months from the date of grant of visa.

#### **New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship Visa (subclass 461)**

This visa is for a person who is not a New Zealand citizen but is a member of a family unit of a New Zealand citizen. It lets you live and work in Australia for 5 years.

#### **Partner visa (temporary) (subclass 820)**

This temporary visa is granted to the de facto partner or spouse of an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen while their permanent Partner visa (subclass 801) is being processed. The period of stay is until the grant or refusal of the permanent subclass 801. The visa holder can live, work and study in Australia.

### **More Information**

For more information, see the website of the Department of Home Affairs, including this [Visa List](#).

The [Immigration Law chapter](#) of the *Queensland Law Handbook* also has information on temporary visas.