



Australian citizenship

Australian citizenship is the common bond which unites all Australians. We are a diverse people, brought together by our shared belief in the democratic process, respect for the rights and liberties of other Australians and a commitment to uphold and obey Australia's laws.

Responsibilities:

- obey the laws and fulfil your duties as an Australian citizen;
- enrol on the electoral roll and vote at federal, state, territory and local government elections and referendums;
- serve on a jury, if called on; and
- defend Australia, should the need arise.

Privileges:

- the right to vote to help elect Australia's governments;
- the right to apply for appointment to any public office or to nominate for election as a member of parliament (subject to section 44(i) of the Constitution);
- the right to apply for an Australian passport and to leave and re-enter the country without a resident return visa;
- the right to seek assistance from Australian diplomatic representatives while overseas;
- the right to apply to enlist in the defence forces and for government jobs requiring Australian citizenship; and
- the right to register any child born to you overseas as an Australian citizen by descent.

Applying for Australian citizenship by conferral

There are 7 situations in which a person may be eligible to become an Australian citizen by conferral. If a person:

- (a) satisfies the general eligibility criteria; or
- (b) has a permanent physical or mental incapacity that means the person is not capable of understanding the nature of the application; or
- (c) is aged 60 years or over OR suffers from a permanent loss or substantial impairment of hearing, speech or sight; or
- (d) is aged under 18 years; or
- (e) was born to a former Australian citizen; or
- (f) was born in Papua before 16 September 1975 and at the time had a parent who was born in Australia as now defined; or
- (g) is a stateless person born in Australia.

(a) General eligibility

Form 1300t *Application for Australian citizenship by conferral – General eligibility*.

There are 4 steps to become a citizen under the general eligibility provision:

- successfully complete a citizenship test;
- check eligibility;
- make an application;
- make the pledge of commitment.

Applicants must:

- successfully complete a citizenship test before applying; and
- be aged 18 years or over at the time the application is made; and
- be a permanent resident at the time of lodgement and also at the time of decision; and
- satisfy the residence requirement; and
- intend to reside, or to continue to reside, in Australia or to maintain a close and continuing association with Australia; and
- be of good character.

Note: New Zealand citizens see page 7 for further information.

For information about sitting a citizenship test and ordering the resource book 'Becoming an Australian citizen', see www.citizenship.gov.au or call the Citizenship Information Line on **131 880**.

Residence requirement

People who became permanent residents **on or after** 1 July 2007 must have been lawfully resident in Australia for 4 years immediately before applying including:

- 12 months as a permanent resident; and
- absences from Australia of no more than 12 months, including no more than 90 days in the 12 months before applying.

If people became permanent residents **before** 1 July 2007 and apply **before** 30 June 2010, they must have been physically present in Australia as a permanent resident for a total of 2 years in the 5 years before applying, including 1 year in the 2 years before applying.

Note: Periods of lawful residence cannot include a period of confinement in a prison or psychiatric institution by order of a court made in connection with proceedings for an offence against an Australian law except in limited circumstances – see *Discretions* on page 2.

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Home page www.citizenship.gov.au

Citizenship
information line

Telephone **131 880** during business hours in Australia to speak to an operator (recorded information available outside these hours). If you are outside Australia, please contact your nearest Australian mission.

Residence exemptions and discretions

Exemptions

People are exempt from the residence requirement if they:

- have served 90 days in the permanent forces of the Commonwealth of Australia; or
- have served 6 months in the navy, army or air force reserve; or
- were discharged from defence service as medically unfit for that service.

A partial exemption applies to former Australian citizens and people born in Australia. They need only have been present in Australia for 12 months as a permanent resident.

Discretions

You may apply for any of these discretions if you will be in Australia at the time your application is decided. If you will be overseas during this period only discretions (5) and (6) are applicable.

- (1) Periods during which a person was present in Australia as an unlawful non-citizen solely because of an administrative error may be treated as periods of lawful residence.
- (2) Periods of lawful residence in Australia but not as a permanent resident solely because of an administrative error may be treated as periods of permanent residence.
- (3) Periods of lawful residence in Australia but not as a permanent resident may be treated as a period of permanent residence if a person would otherwise suffer significant hardship or disadvantage.
- (4) Periods of confinement in a prison or psychiatric institution may be counted towards the residence requirement if it would be unreasonable not to do so, taking into account the circumstances which resulted in the person's confinement.
- (5) Periods spent outside Australia by the permanent resident spouse, de facto partner, or surviving spouse or de facto partner of an Australian citizen may be treated as periods in Australia, if they had close and continuing association with Australia during that period.
- (6) Periods spent outside Australia by a permanent resident who is in an interdependent relationship with an Australian citizen may be treated as periods in Australia, if they had close and continuing association with Australia during that period.

Children

Children 16 years or over cannot be included in a parent's application.

Children under 16 years of age may be included in a responsible parent's application. A 'responsible parent' is:

- a parent, unless that parent has no parental responsibility because of orders made by the Family Court of Australia; or
- any person having responsibility over the child because of an order made by the Family Court; or
- any person who has guardianship or custody of the child under a law in force in a state or territory or a foreign country.

Children under 18 years are not required to sit a citizenship test. See (d) page 4 for the requirements applying to children.

Good character

It is the responsibility of an applicant aged 18 years or over to show that they are of good character.

Applicants are required to disclose all convictions, including spent convictions. A 'spent conviction' is a conviction for a Commonwealth, territory, state or foreign offence that satisfies all of the following conditions:

- it is 10 years since the date of the conviction (or 5 years for juvenile offenders); AND
- the individual was either not sentenced to imprisonment or was not sentenced to imprisonment for more than 30 months; AND
- the individual has not re-offended during the 10 year (5 years for juvenile offenders) waiting period; AND
- a statutory or prescribed exclusion does not apply.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) is exempted under Section 85ZZH (d) of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Commonwealth) from the provisions of the spent convictions legislation in Australia and overseas for making decisions under the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*.

All convictions are counted in assessing whether or not applicants satisfy the good character requirement of the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*.

Note: For further information on spent convictions see www.citizenship.gov.au

Applicants will need to provide penal clearance certificates from overseas countries if, since the grant of a permanent Australian visa:

- they lived or travelled overseas since the age of 18 or over; and
- the total time spent overseas added up to 12 months or more; and
- the time spent in any one country was more than 3 months; or
- requested to do so by the department.

Note: More information on penal clearance certificates is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/ or call the Citizenship Information Line on **131 880** (in Australia).

Make an application

Applications can be made:

- online at www.citizenship.gov.au; OR
- by completing form 1300t *Application for Australian citizenship by conferral – General eligibility*. Available from www.citizenship.gov.au or call **131 880**.

To apply online applicants must:

- have sat and passed the citizenship test; and
- be aged 18 years or over; and
- be in Australia and have travelled in and out of Australia since 1990; and
- not be claiming a fee concession or a residence exemption or discretion; and
- pay by credit card.

To apply using form 1300t, post the completed form together with the relevant fee and supporting documents to the nearest office of the department listed on page 9.

You may lodge your application while you are overseas but you must be in Australia at the time your application is decided unless discretion (5) or (6) applies.

Documents required to support an application

- **A proof of identity declaration** for each applicant, completed by a person who:
 - is an Australian citizen; and
 - is not related by birth or marriage; and
 - has known the applicant for at least 12 months (unless the applicant is less than 6 years of age); and
 - currently belongs to one of the professions or occupations on pages 7 and 8; and
 - is easily contactable by telephone during normal working hours.

Note: When applying online an additional form 1295 *Online applications for Australian citizenship by conferral – Proof of identity and declaration*, must be completed and sent separately to the department.

- **A passport size photograph** of each applicant. The photograph must be endorsed on the back with these words, 'This is a true photograph of (applicant's name in full)'. The same signature must be used to sign the photograph and proof of identity declaration. The Australian citizen must have known the applicant for at least 12 months and belong to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

The photograph must:

- be not more than 6 months old; and
- be a full front view of the applicant's head. If the applicant wears a head covering for religious reasons, we will accept a photograph which shows the applicant's facial features. If the applicant normally wears prescription glasses, glasses with untinted lenses should be worn in the photograph; and
- have a plain, light coloured background; and
- be of good quality and not laser printed.

Note: If the applicant is overseas the proof of identity declaration and endorsed photograph can be completed by a citizen of the applicant's country of residence who has known the applicant for at least 12 months and belongs to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

Additional documents to be provided if relevant

- Official Australian evidence of any name changes. This will usually be a change of name certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM), or a marriage certificate issued by an Australian RBDM. Overseas marriage certificates are not acceptable evidence of a change of name.
- Overseas penal clearance certificates.
- A letter or discharge papers from the Australian Defence Force or Australian Reserve Force specifying service dates, if claiming residence exemption.
- Evidence of Australian citizenship of your spouse, de facto partner, interdependent partner or deceased spouse or de facto partner (eg. birth certificate or citizenship certificate) if you are claiming a residence discretion because you have spent time overseas as a permanent resident and are the spouse, de facto partner, interdependent partner, surviving spouse or de facto partner of an Australian citizen.
- A statement and supporting documentation if you are claiming any of the residence discretions listed on page 2.
- Relevant evidence if you are claiming a fee concession or exemption.

- Evidence of arrival in Australia as a child migrant, eg. a letter from the Child Migrants Trust, if a fee exemption is claimed on the basis of being a British or Maltese former child migrant who came to Australia unaccompanied between 22 September 1947 and 31 December 1967 under the Commonwealth Child Migration Scheme.
- A Centrelink certificate if you are a New Zealand citizen holding a Special Category visa (for more details see page 7).

Documents to be provided for each child included in the application

- A passport size photograph of the child. The photograph must be endorsed on the back by an Australian citizen with these words, 'This is a true photograph of (child's name in full)'. The same signature must be used to sign the photograph and proof of identity declaration. The Australian citizen must have known the child for at least 12 months and belong to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

Note: If the applicant is under 6 years of age the photograph may be endorsed and the proof of identity declaration made by an Australian citizen who has known the applicant for less than 12 months and belongs to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

If the child is overseas the photograph may be endorsed and the proof of identity declaration made by a citizen of the child's country of residence who belongs to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

- The child's full birth certificate showing details of parents.
- Completed form 1295 *Online applications for Australian citizenship by conferral – Proof of identity and declaration* for each child if applying online.
- The child's passport or travel document.
- Any orders related to custody, guardianship or parental responsibility for a child.
- If a child included in the application was adopted, evidence of the adoption.
- Official Australian evidence of any name changes. This will usually be a change of name certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM), or a marriage certificate issued by an Australian RBDM. Overseas marriage certificates are not acceptable evidence of a change of name.
- Completed form 1195 *Proof of identity and declaration* for each child whose proof of identity cannot be completed on form 1300t *Application for Australian citizenship by conferral – General eligibility*.

Certified copies and translations

Certified copies of documents must be provided by the main applicant. Originals together with certified copies must be provided for each child included in the application. See pages 7 and 8 for the list of people from certain professions or occupations that can certify copies of documents.

If documents are not in English, official translations need to be provided. In Australia, translations should be done by translators accredited by the National Accreditation Authority of Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). See www.naati.com.au

Applicants applying overseas should contact the Australian mission responsible for the country which issued the relevant documents for advice on acceptable translators. See www.citizenship.gov.au

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Fees

For information on fees including concessions and exemptions see form 1298i *Citizenship fees*.

Fees may be subject to adjustment at any time.

Note: The relevant fee must accompany the application and is generally not refunded if the application is refused.

If you have not passed the citizenship test before you lodge your application, your application will be refused and you may not be entitled to any refund of your application fee.

Method of payment

In Australia

To make a payment, please pay by credit card, debit card, bank cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Debit card and credit card are the preferred methods of payment.

Outside Australia

Before making a payment outside Australia, please check with the Australian Government office where you intend to lodge your application as to what methods of payment and currencies they can accept and to whom the payment should be made payable.

(b) – (g) Other situations

Form 1290 *Application for Australian citizenship by conferral – Other situations*.

Under the situations (b) to (g) there will be up to 4 steps to become a citizen:

- check eligibility;
- make an application;
- attend a citizenship interview;
- make the pledge of commitment if required.

The requirements for each situation are as follows.

(b) Person has a permanent physical or mental incapacity that means that the person is not capable of understanding the nature of the application

The person must:

- be a permanent resident at the time of lodgement and also at the time of decision; and
- be aged 18 years or over; and
- satisfy the residence requirement; and
- be likely to reside, or to continue to reside, in Australia or to maintain a close and continuing association with Australia; and
- be of good character.

(c) Person is aged 60 years or over OR suffers from a permanent loss or a substantial impairment of hearing, speech or sight

The person must:

- be a permanent resident at the time of lodgement and also at the time of decision; and
- satisfy the residence requirement; and
- be likely to reside, or to continue to reside, in Australia or to maintain a close and continuing association with Australia; and
- understand the nature of the application; and
- be of good character.

(d) Person is aged under 18 years

Policy is that applicants under 16 years of age be a permanent resident and be living with a responsible parent who is an Australian citizen and who consents to the application. If they are living with a responsible parent who is not an Australian citizen they need to demonstrate that they would suffer significant hardship or disadvantage if they did not become an Australian citizen.

Policy is that applicants aged 16–18 would generally be approved if they:

- are a permanent resident at the time of lodgement and also at the time of decision; and
- satisfy the residence requirement; and
- have a basic knowledge of the English language; and
- have an adequate knowledge of the privileges and responsibilities of Australian citizenship; and
- understand the nature of the application; and
- intend to reside, or to continue to reside, in Australia or to maintain a close and continuing association with Australia.

In some circumstances adopted children become citizens automatically or can be registered as citizens by adoption. See forms 119 *Application for evidence of Australian citizenship* and 1272 *Application for Australian citizenship for children adopted under the 'full and permanent' Hague Convention arrangements*.

An adopted child may be eligible for citizenship by conferral if the adoption has been finalised overseas, and one of the adoptive parents is an Australian citizen and the child holds an adoption visa or any other permanent visa.

Note: New Zealand citizens see page 7 for further information.

Residence requirement

People who became permanent residents **on or after** 1 July 2007 must have been lawfully resident in Australia for 4 years immediately before applying including:

- 12 months as a permanent resident; and
- absences from Australia of no more than 12 months, including no more than 90 days in the 12 months before applying.

If people became permanent residents **before** 1 July 2007 and apply **before** 30 June 2010, they must have been physically present in Australia as permanent residents for a total of 2 years in the 5 years before applying, including 1 year in the 2 years before applying.

Note: Periods of lawful residence cannot include a period of confinement in a prison or psychiatric institution by order of a court made in connection with proceedings for an offence against an Australian law except in limited circumstances – see *Discretions* on page 5.

Residence exemptions and discretions

Exemptions

People are exempt from the residence requirement if they:

- have served 90 days in the permanent forces of the Commonwealth of Australia; or
- have served 6 months in the navy, army or air force reserve; or
- were discharged from defence service as medically unfit for that service.

A partial exemption applies to former Australian citizens and people born in Australia. They need only have been present in Australia for 12 months as a permanent resident.

Discretions

You may apply for any of these discretions if you will be in Australia at the time your application is decided. If you will be overseas during this period only discretions (5) and (6) are applicable.

- (1) Periods during which a person was present in Australia as an unlawful non-citizen solely because of an administrative error may be treated as periods of lawful residence.
- (2) Periods of lawful residence in Australia but not as a permanent resident solely because of an administrative error may be treated as periods of permanent residence.
- (3) Periods of lawful residence in Australia but not as a permanent resident may be treated as a period of permanent residence if a person would otherwise suffer significant hardship or disadvantage.
- (4) Periods of confinement in a prison or psychiatric institution may be counted towards the residence requirement if it would be unreasonable not to do so, taking into account the circumstances which resulted in the person's confinement.
- (5) Periods spent outside Australia by the permanent resident spouse, de facto partner, or surviving spouse or de facto partner of an Australian citizen may be treated as periods in Australia, if they had close and continuing association with Australia during that period.
- (6) Periods spent outside Australia by a permanent resident who is in an interdependent relationship with an Australian citizen may be treated as periods in Australia, if they had close and continuing association with Australia during that period.

Children

Children 16 years or over cannot be included in a parent's application.

Children under 16 years may be included in a responsible parent's application. A 'responsible parent' is:

- a parent, unless that parent has no parental responsibility because of orders made by the Family Court of Australia; or
- any person having responsibility over the child because of an order made by the Family Court; or
- any person who has guardianship or custody of the child under a law in force in a state or territory or a foreign country.

See (d) page 4 for the requirements applying to children.

(e) Person was born to a former Australian citizen

The person must:

- have been born outside Australia to a former Australian citizen who had ceased to be an Australian citizen under section 17 of the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*; and
- be of good character.

(f) Person was born in Papua

The person must:

- have been born in Papua before 16 September 1975; and
- at the time of the person's birth a parent was an Australian citizen and had been born in Australia as currently defined; and
- be of good character.

(g) Stateless person born in Australia

Please contact the nearest office of the department for the relevant application form and information.

Good character

It is the responsibility of an applicant aged 18 years or over to show that they are of good character.

Applicants are required to disclose all convictions, including spent convictions. A 'spent conviction' is a conviction for a Commonwealth, territory, state or foreign offence that satisfies all of the following conditions:

- it is 10 years since the date of the conviction (or 5 years for juvenile offenders); AND
- the individual was either not sentenced to imprisonment or was not sentenced to imprisonment for more than 30 months; AND
- the individual has not re-offended during the 10 year (5 years for juvenile offenders) waiting period; AND
- a statutory or prescribed exclusion does not apply.

The department is exempted under Section 85ZZH (d) of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Commonwealth) from the provisions of the spent convictions legislation in Australia and overseas for making decisions under the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*.

All convictions are counted in assessing whether or not applicants satisfy the good character requirement under the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*.

Note: For further information on spent convictions see www.citizenship.gov.au

Applicants will need to provide penal clearance certificates from overseas countries if, since the grant of a permanent Australian visa:

- they lived or travelled overseas since the age of 18 or over; and
- the total time spent overseas added up to 12 months or more; and
- the time spent in any one country was more than 3 months; or
- requested to do so by the department.

Note: More information on penal clearance certificates is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/ or call the Citizenship Information Line on **131 880** (in Australia).

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Make an application

Applications can be made by completing form 1290 *Application for Australian citizenship by conferral – Other situations*, available at www.citizenship.gov.au or call **131 880**, and either:

- posting the application and relevant fee to the closest office of the department listed on page 9. The department will then contact applicants with details of the citizenship interview. Original documents and certified copies of supporting documents must be provided at the interview; OR
- calling the Citizenship Information Line on **131 880** to make an appointment for the citizenship interview and bringing the application, relevant fee, original documents and certified copies of supporting documents to the interview.

You may lodge your application while you are overseas but you must be in Australia at the time your application is decided unless discretion (5) or (6) applies.

Documents required to support an application

- **A proof of identity declaration** for each applicant, completed by a person who:
 - is an Australian citizen; and
 - is not related by birth or marriage; and
 - has known the applicant for at least 12 months (unless the applicant is less than 6 years of age); and
 - currently belongs to one of the professions or occupations on pages 7 and 8; and
 - is easily contactable by telephone during normal working hours.
- **Note:** When applying online an additional form 1295 *Online applications for Australian citizenship by conferral – Proof of identity and declaration*, must be completed and sent separately to the department.
- **A passport size photograph** of each applicant. The photograph must be endorsed on the back with these words, 'This is a true photograph of (applicant's name in full)'. The same signature must be used to sign the photograph and proof of identity declaration. The Australian citizen must have known the applicant for at least 12 months and belong to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

The photograph must:

- be not more than 6 months old; and
- be a full front view of the applicant's head. If the applicant wears a head covering for religious reasons, we will accept a photograph which shows the applicant's facial features. If the applicant normally wears prescription glasses, glasses with untinted lenses should be worn in the photograph; and
- have a plain, light coloured background; and
- be of good quality and not laser printed.

Note: If the applicant is overseas the proof of identity declaration and endorsed photograph can be completed by a citizen of the applicant's country of residence who has known the applicant for at least 12 months and belongs to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

- **A full birth certificate.**
- **Passport or travel document** you used to enter Australia and all other passports or travel documents you hold.
- **Other identification** which together includes a signature, photograph and correct address (eg. driving licence, credit card or utilities bill).

Additional documents to be provided if relevant

- Official Australian evidence of any name changes. This will usually be a change of name certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM), or a marriage certificate issued by an Australian RBDM. Overseas marriage certificates are not acceptable evidence of a change of name.
- Overseas penal clearance certificates.
- A letter or discharge papers from the Australian Defence Force or Australian Reserve Force specifying service dates, if claiming residence exemption.
- Evidence of Australian citizenship of your spouse, de facto partner, interdependent partner or deceased spouse or de facto partner (eg. birth certificate or citizenship certificate) if you are claiming a residence discretion because you have spent time overseas as a permanent resident and are the spouse, de facto partner, interdependent partner, surviving spouse or de facto partner of an Australian citizen.
- A statement and supporting documentation if you are claiming any of the residence discretions listed on page 5.
- Relevant evidence if you are claiming a fee concession or exemption.
- Evidence of arrival in Australia as a child migrant, eg. a letter from the Child Migrants Trust, if a fee exemption is claimed on the basis of being a British or Maltese former child migrant who came to Australia unaccompanied between 22 September 1947 and 31 December 1967 under the Commonwealth Child Migration Scheme.
- A Centrelink certificate if you are a New Zealand citizen holding a Special Category visa (for more details see page 7).

Documents to be provided for each child included in the application

- A passport size photograph of the child. The photograph must be endorsed on the back by an Australian citizen with these words, 'This is a true photograph of (child's name in full)'. The same signature must be used to sign the photograph and proof of identity declaration. The Australian citizen must have known the child for at least 12 months and belong to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

Note: If the applicant is under 6 years of age the photograph may be endorsed and the proof of identity declaration made by an Australian citizen who has known the applicant for less than 12 months and belongs to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

If the child is overseas the photograph may be endorsed and the proof of identity declaration made by a citizen of the child's country of residence who belongs to one of the professions or occupations listed on pages 7 and 8.

- The child's full birth certificate showing details of parents.
- The child's passport or travel document.
- Any orders related to custody, guardianship or parental responsibility for a child.
- If a child included in the application was adopted, evidence of the adoption.

- Official Australian evidence of any name changes. This will usually be a change of name certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM), or a marriage certificate issued by an Australian RBDM. Overseas marriage certificates are not acceptable evidence of a change of name.
- Completed form 1195 *Proof of identity and declaration* for each child whose proof of identity cannot be completed on form 1290 *Application for Australian citizenship by conferral – Other situations*.

Certified copies and translations

Applicants must provide originals and certified copies of the documents. See pages 7 and 8 for the list of people from certain professions or occupations that can certify copies of documents.

If documents are not in English, official translations need to be provided. In Australia, translations should be done by translators accredited by the National Accreditation Authority of Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). See www.naati.com.au

Applicants applying overseas should contact the Australian mission responsible for the country which issued the relevant documents for advice on acceptable translators. See www.citizenship.gov.au

Note: If you are applying overseas and you provide copies of identity documents certified by an Australian consular officer or Australian Diplomatic officer you do not need to provide original documents with your application.

Fees

For information on fees including concessions and exemptions see form 1298i *Citizenship fees*.

Fees may be subject to adjustment at any time.

Note: The relevant fee must accompany the application and is generally not refunded if the application is refused.

Method of payment

In Australia

To make a payment, please pay by credit card, debit card, bank cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Debit card and credit card are the preferred methods of payment.

Outside Australia

Before making a payment outside Australia, please check with the Australian Government office where you intend to lodge your application as to what methods of payment and currencies they can accept and to whom the payment should be made payable.

New Zealand citizens

Not all New Zealand citizens are permanent residents of Australia. To be eligible for Australian citizenship by conferral New Zealand citizen applicants must:

- hold a permanent visa; or
- have been present in Australia on 26 February 2001 on a Special Category visa (SCV); or
- have spent a period or periods totalling 12 months in Australia on an SCV in the 2 years before 26 February 2001 if they were outside Australia on that date; or
- have a Centrelink certificate issued prior to 26 February 2004 stating they were residing in Australia on a particular date.

Character requirements for Australian citizenship

New Zealand citizen applicants who **do not hold a permanent visa** are required to obtain overseas penal clearance certificates unless they arrived in Australia before the age of 18 years and have not left Australia since.

This applies to New Zealand citizen applicants aged 18 years or over regardless of how long the person has resided in Australia. The certificates are required because generally they have not been provided prior to the person becoming resident in Australia.

To obtain a penal clearance certificate from New Zealand you need to complete a New Zealand Ministry of Justice form F1 and the request must be for a Full Record of Convictions (you must tick the 'Full Record of Convictions' box on form F1). For instructions on obtaining and submitting form F1 is available from www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

Proof of identity

People from the following list of professions and occupations can complete proof of identity declarations if they:

- are an Australian citizen; and
 - are not related to the applicant by birth or marriage; and
 - have known the applicant for at least 12 months; and
 - are easily contactable by telephone during the day; and
 - are currently employed in one of the professional or occupational groups listed below; and
 - have endorsed the back of the applicant's photograph(s).
1. Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*)
 2. Bailiff
 3. Bank officer with 5 or more years of continuous service
 4. Building society officer with 5 or more years of continuous service
 5. Chiropractor (licensed or registered)
 6. Clerk of court
 7. Commissioner for Affidavits
 8. Commissioner for Declarations
 9. Credit union officer with 5 or more years of continuous service
 10. Dentist (licensed or registered)
 11. Fellow of the National Tax Accountant's Association
 12. Finance company officer with 5 or more years of continuous service
 13. Judge of a court
 14. Justice of the peace
 15. Legal practitioner (licensed or registered)
 16. Magistrate
 17. Marriage celebrant licensed or registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
 18. Master of a court
 19. Medical practitioner (licensed or registered)
 20. Member of Chartered Secretaries Australia
 21. Member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student

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22. Member of the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants
23. Member of the Australian Defence Force with 5 or more years of continuous service
24. Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants
25. Member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, a state, a territory Legislature, or a local government authority of a state or territory
26. Minister of religion licensed or registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
27. Nurse (licensed or registered)
28. Optometrist (licensed or registered)
29. Permanent employee of Commonwealth, state or local government authority with at least 5 or more years of continuous service
30. Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 5 or more years of continuous service
31. Pharmacist (licensed or registered)
32. Physiotherapist (licensed or registered)
33. Police officer
34. Psychologist (licensed or registered)
35. Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
36. Sheriff
37. Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution
38. Veterinary surgeon (licensed or registered).

Make the pledge of commitment

Most successful applicants for Australian citizenship aged 16 years and over must make a pledge of commitment in order to become an Australian citizen. This would usually be at a public citizenship ceremony hosted by their local government council.

A person making an application under the Other situations (b), (e), (f) and (g) are not required to make the pledge of commitment.

Children under 16 years of age are not required to make the pledge but are welcome to attend a ceremony. They will become Australian citizens when the responsible parent takes the pledge or when the application is approved.

People who need to make a pledge of commitment are usually provided with details of their citizenship ceremony within 6 months of their application being approved. The letter will be sent either by the local government council or the department, giving details of the ceremony. If a person has a reason for making a pledge of commitment by a particular date, the department can be advised by calling the Citizenship Information Line on **131 880** during business hours.

The pledge must be made within 12 months of the date of approval of your citizenship application or your application can be cancelled.

Pledge of commitment

People may choose whether or not to use the words 'under God'*.

From this time forward, under God,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I will uphold and obey.*

Dual citizenship

Australia does not require people to renounce their current citizenship when they become Australian citizens.

In many cases, becoming an Australian citizen will not mean cessation of an existing citizenship. This depends on the laws of the relevant country. People can obtain advice from the relevant countries consular or diplomatic representative in Australia.

Electoral enrolment

One of the most important rights and responsibilities you will have as an Australian citizen is to enrol and vote. It is compulsory to vote at federal elections if you are aged 18 years or over.

Before you can vote, you will need to complete an electoral enrolment form so that your name can be added to the electoral roll for voting in federal, state or territory and local government elections.

To assist with your enrolment, at your citizenship ceremony, you will receive an enrolment form printed with your personal details. You will need to check your personal details, make any changes, sign the form, have it witnessed and return it to a staff member of either the council, or the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). If you wish, you may return your completed enrolment form to the AEC by mail.

Should you require any further information about enrolment and voting, call the AEC on **13 23 26** for the cost of a local call, or see www.aec.gov.au

Australian passport

Australian citizens have the right to apply for an Australian passport. Once a person becomes an Australian citizen any visa held ceases.

An Australian passport is the preferred and most conclusive proof of Australian citizenship when travelling. People seeking entry as an Australian citizen without an Australian passport may face difficulties and delays in getting an airline to carry them, and on entering Australia.

See www.passports.gov.au

About the information you give

The department is authorised to collect personal information and personal identifiers provided in this form under the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*.

The information provided will be used for assessing applications for Australian citizenship, which includes applying for evidence of Australian citizenship. The exchange of personal information will allow the department to verify with the relevant issuing agencies the validity of documents presented by clients as proof of identity.

Information might be provided to:

- local governments and other organisations that conduct and host citizenship ceremonies;
- Australian Electoral Commission for the purpose of administering the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*;
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the purpose of administering the *Passport Act 2005*;
- Centrelink for the purpose of administering the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* and *Family Assistance (Administration) Act 1999*;
- Commonwealth, state and territory police and other agencies to help assess character requirements for citizenship;
- Commonwealth, state and territory Members of Parliament for the purpose of formally welcoming new citizens.
- NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) operating the Certificate Validation Service (CVS) on behalf of the BDM Registries of Australasia (BDMAUS). This incorporates:
 - Department for Victorian Communities, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages;
 - Department of Justice and Community Safety (ACT), Registrar-General's Office.
- National Exchange of Vehicles and Driver Information System (NEVDIS) operating on behalf of AUSTRROADS for the state and territory road traffic authorities.

The department's collection, access, storage, use and disclosure of your personal information is governed by the *Privacy Act 1988* and the 11 Information Privacy Principles. The information form 993i *Safeguarding your personal information*, available from offices of the department and on the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/ gives further details of agencies to which personal information might be disclosed.

The *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* authorises the collection of personal identifiers, which includes signatures and photographs. There are strict statutory requirements that must be fulfilled before your identifying information can be disclosed, even to other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies. See form 1243i *Your personal identifying information*.

Consent to communicate electronically

The department may need to convey sensitive information about your application to you. Electronic communication, unless adequately encrypted, is not secure and may be viewed by others or interfered with. The Australian Government accepts no responsibility for the security or integrity of any information sent to the department over the internet or by other electronic means.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship contact details

Australian Capital Territory

GPO Box 717
CANBERRA ACT 2601

New South Wales

GPO Box 9984
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Northern Territory

GPO Box 864
DARWIN NT 0801

Queensland

Queensland state office

GPO Box 9984
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Cairns office

PO Box 1269
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Gold Coast office

PO Box 2868
SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

Torres Strait Islands office

Commonwealth Centre
Hastings Street
THURSDAY ISLAND

South Australia

GPO Box 2399
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Tasmania

GPO Box 794
HOBART TAS 7001

Victoria

Melbourne office

GPO Box 241
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dandenong office

Private Mail Bag 5001
DANDENONG VIC 3175

Western Australia

Locked Bag 7
NORTHBRIDGE WA 6865