



THIS INFORMATION FORM tells you about obtaining a visitor visa for medical treatment in Australia (visa subclasses 675 and 685) and about the conditions that apply.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for a medical treatment visa if:

- you have made arrangements to undergo medical treatment (including organ transplant or organ donation) or consultations in Australia, including arrangements for payment; and
- you do not have a condition which could be a threat to public health in Australia; and
- no Australian citizen or permanent resident will be disadvantaged by your treatment or consultation; and
- you have enough funds to support yourself and any accompanying persons during your visit

OR

you are a citizen of Papua New Guinea living in the Western Province and are to be medically evacuated to a hospital in Queensland

OR

you are over 50, and have been refused a permanent residence visa in Australia because you do not meet the health requirements, and are medically unfit to leave Australia

OR

you are accompanying one of the above people.

Note: Medical treatment visas are not available for the purposes of surrogate motherhood.

How do I apply?

Application forms for medical treatment visas (form 48ME if outside Australia or form 601 if in Australia) are available from Australian missions overseas, offices of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department), many travel agents and from the department's website www.immi.gov.au

Visa Application Charge

A processing charge must accompany the application where the intended stay in Australia is more than 3 months, or where the application is made in Australia. Information on the non-refundable Visa Application Charge that applies to medical treatment visas is available on form 990i *Charges*.

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.

You must be able to confirm:

- that all necessary arrangements have been made for the payment of the costs of the treatment and other expenses of your stay in Australia and that you will not be a financial burden in Australia (provide evidence with your application);
- no Australian citizen or permanent resident will be disadvantaged in obtaining medical treatment;
- arrangements for the payment of expenses of any person accompanying you;
- that any treatment in a public hospital has been approved in writing by the State or Territory health authority concerned;
- if the visit is for an organ transplant and the donor is travelling with you, arrangements have been made for the payment of the donor's expenses:
 - if the donor is not travelling with you that all arrangements in Australia have been made for organ donation before visa issue.

The application must be signed by you, even if a travel agent is making arrangements on your behalf. If you are unable to sign, a parent or guardian may sign on your behalf. Please note that children under 18 years of age, travelling without one or both of their legal guardians, require authorisation from the non-accompanying guardian(s) to travel to Australia.

Children travelling on a parent's passport do not need to complete a separate application.

All applications for visitor visas are subject to Australia's health and character requirements.

The completed forms together with valid passport/s, fees and supporting documentation should be lodged at the nearest Australian mission.

If you are aged 11 years or over you will be required to undergo a chest x-ray regardless of whether you are coming for medical treatment or to support a person undergoing treatment. You will be advised of details after lodgement of your application.

Do I need a sponsor?

Visitors do not need to be sponsored. Evidence of support from relatives or friends or the treating doctor may be requested.

Health insurance

Any person entering Australia temporarily is strongly urged to have adequate private health insurance. Where there is a reciprocal health care agreement between Australia and your country of citizenship, you may wish to take this into account when deciding your health insurance requirements.

Continued on the next page ►

How long may I stay?

As a visitor, you are expected to apply for a visa which covers the full period of your intended stay in Australia.

A 675 visa is for a stay of less than 3 months and is free of charge if the application is made outside Australia. A 685 visa is for more than 3 months stay.

Medical treatment visas are generally valid for the period of treatment only.

Note: Your bona-fides as a visitor will need to be assessed by the visa officer. You must have reasonably substantiated arrangements and intentions to return to your country of residence following your treatment.

What conditions apply?

Visitor visas are subject to conditions. If you breach these conditions your visa may be cancelled and you may be required to leave Australia. The conditions are:

- you may not study for more than 3 months during your stay;
- you may not work during your stay.

Can I extend my stay?

You can apply for a further visa if the medical treatment needs continue beyond the period of stay authorised by your visa. You must meet the same requirements as for the issue of your first medical treatment visa.

It is also possible to obtain a further visa for a holiday, sightseeing, to visit friends or relatives, and some other purposes.

If you need to stay longer you must apply to an office of the department before your visa expires. A standard non-refundable charge is payable when the application is lodged.

Options for receiving written communications

You may authorise another person to receive all communications, both written and electronic, about your application with the department. You will be taken to have received any documents sent to that person as if they had been sent to you.

To do this you will need to complete the question on the visa application form *Options for receiving written communications* and form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient*. For an explanation of what a migration agent or exempt agent or authorised recipient can do please read the sections below.

To change or end the appointment of your migration agent or exempt agent or authorised recipient you must promptly advise the department in writing. You can do this by using form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient*.

Authorised recipient information

An authorised recipient is someone you appoint to receive written communications about your application with the department.

All written communication about your application will be sent to your authorised recipient, unless you indicate that you wish to have health and/or character information sent directly to you.

The department will communicate with the most recently appointed authorised recipient as you may only appoint one authorised recipient at any time for a particular application.

Migration agent information

A migration agent is someone who can:

- advise you on the visa that may best suit you;
- tell you the documents you need to submit with your application;
- help you fill in the application and submit it; and
- communicate with the department on your behalf.

If you appoint a migration agent, the department will assume that your migration agent will be your authorised recipient, unless you indicate otherwise.

Your migration agent will be the person with whom the department will discuss your application and from whom it will seek further information when required.

You are not required to use a migration agent. However, if you use a migration agent, the department encourages you to use a registered migration agent. Registered agents are bound by the Migration Agents Code of Conduct, which requires them to act professionally in their clients' lawful best interests.

Immigration assistance

A person gives immigration assistance to you if he or she uses, or claims to use, his or her knowledge or experience in migration procedure to assist you with your visa application, request for ministerial intervention, cancellation review application, sponsorship or nomination.

In Australia a person may only lawfully give immigration assistance if he or she is a registered migration agent or is exempt from being registered. Only registered migration agents may receive a fee or reward for providing immigration assistance.

If an unregistered person in Australia, who is not exempt from registration, gives you immigration assistance they are committing a criminal offence and may be prosecuted.

Migration agents in Australia

Migration agents in Australia must be registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) unless they are exempt from registration.

Migration agents outside Australia

Migration agents who operate outside Australia do not have to be registered. The department may give some overseas agents an ID number. This number does not mean that they are registered.

Note: Some Australian registered migration agents operate overseas.

Exempt agents

The following people do not have to be a registered migration agent in order to provide immigration assistance, but they must not charge a fee for their service:

- a close family member (spouse, child, adopted child, parent, brother or sister);
- a sponsor or nominator for this visa application;
- a member of parliament or their staff;
- an official whose duties include providing immigration assistance (eg. a Legal Aid provider);
- a member of a diplomatic mission, consular post or international organisation.

Further information on migration agents

Information on migration agents, including a list of registered migration agents, is available on the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) website www.themara.com.au

You can also access information about migration agents on the department's website www.immi.gov.au

Consent to communicate electronically

The department may use a range of means to communicate with you. However, electronic means such as fax or e-mail will only be used if you indicate your agreement to receiving communication in this way.

To process your application the department may need to communicate with you about sensitive information, for example, health, police checks, financial viability and personal relationships. Electronic communications, unless adequately encrypted, are not secure and may be viewed by others or interfered with. If you agree to the department communicating with you by electronic means, the details you provide will only be used by the department for the purpose for which you have provided them, unless there is a legal obligation or necessity to use them for another purpose, or you have consented to use for another purpose. They will not be added to any mailing list.

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.

Home page **www.immi.gov.au**

General enquiry line Telephone **131 881** 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.