



Australian immigration – what you need to know

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Helen von Dadelszen, Conference Partnerships Manager

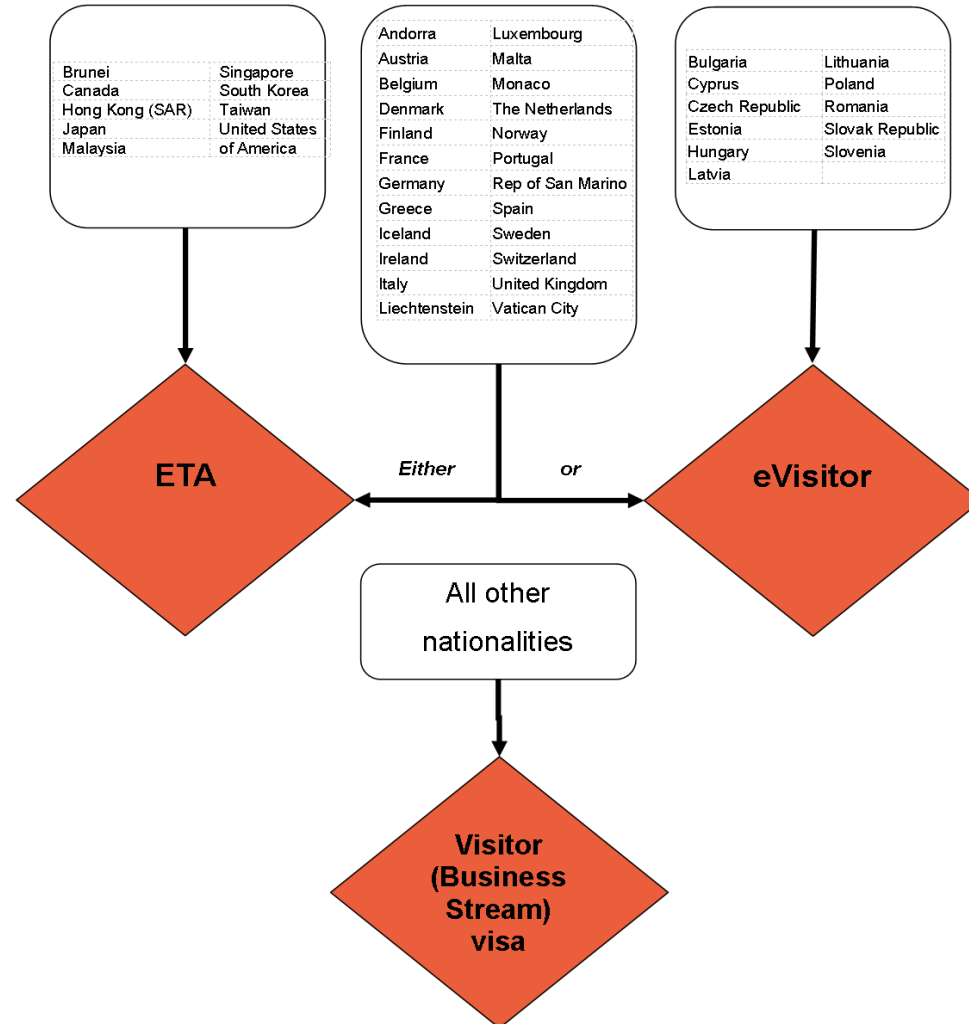
This webinar will cover...

- ✓ Visa options and processes
- ✓ Details of Visitor (Business Stream) Visa
- ✓ Where you need to apply
- ✓ Visa requirements – general, character and health
- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Visa denials

What you need to do

1. Get the information for the process you need to follow – [factsheets](#); [embassy's website](#)
2. Passport valid 6 months
3. Complete the form (online or paper) before mid-May
4. Pay the fee, if applicable
5. Await the outcome

Visa process depends on your nationality/passport



Visa processes: eVisitor and ETA

- Cheap ([ETA](#) = AUD 20) or free ([eVisitor](#))
- Online or through an agent (travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or an Australian visa office)
- Apply at least 2 weeks before travel
- Health insurance recommended

- The outcome of your application is usually very quickly sent to you by email if you submit this online or within 2 weeks if through an agent.
- Print the confirmation email/letter and have it with you when you travel to Australia. The information is stored electronically and connected to your passport.

- If you have had any criminal convictions, you should apply for a Visitor (Business Stream) visa instead.

Visa processes:

Visitor (Business Stream) Visa

- Apply 2 months+ before travel (mid-May at latest)
- Apply online, through post ([Form 1415](#)) or Service Delivery Partners (SDP), depending on country
- Application fee AUD 130
- Additional costs may be incurred (certifying, postage etc)
- [Biometrics](#) required for some nationals
- Submit 'certified copies' of original documents, including passport, not originals
- Passport valid for at least 6 months from date of entry
- Notification of the outcome of your application is sent by post or email. Usually a physical stamp/sticker is not attached to your passport. Print the letter/email and have it with you when you travel to Australia.

Where to apply?

- **Ghana:** The Australian High Commission in Accra has no visa function. The Department's office in Nairobi, Kenya, manages visa and citizenship services for clients in Ghana. It has a Service Delivery Partner agreement with VFS Global to provide Australian visa lodgement services in Ghana through an Australian Visa Application Centre.
- **Botswana:** There is no Australian diplomatic mission in Botswana. The Department's office in Pretoria, South Africa, manages visa and citizenship services for clients in Botswana.
- **Nigeria:** The Australian High Commission in Abuja has no visa function. The Department's office in Pretoria, South Africa, manages visa and citizenship services for clients in Nigeria. It has a Service Delivery Partner agreement with VFS Global to provide Australian visa lodgement services in Nigeria through Australian Visa Application Centres.
- **Iran:** The Department's office in Tehran manages visa and citizenship services for clients in Iran.
- **Russia:** The Department's office in Moscow manages visa and citizenship services for clients in the Russian Federation, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- **Mexico:** The Department's offices in Mexico City and Ottawa, Canada, manages visa and citizenship services for clients in Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.
- **St Lucia:** There is no Australian diplomatic mission in Saint Lucia. The Department's office in Ottawa, Canada, manages visa and citizenship services for clients in Saint Lucia.
- **Uruguay:** The Australian Consulate in Montevideo has no visa function. The Department's offices in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Brasilia, Brazil, manage visa and citizenship services for clients in Uruguay.

Check for your country at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Locations/Pages/our-offices.aspx>

Visa requirements

Visa officers will look at your application form and supporting documents to ascertain whether you:

1. Have a legitimate reason to travel to Australia
2. Will return to your country of residence
3. Meet the character requirements (details follow)
4. Meet the health requirements (details follow)

In your application you need to show that you meet these requirements

Character requirements

You will not pass the character test if:

- You have a substantial criminal record:
 - sentenced to death or life imprisonment;
 - sentenced to a term of imprisonment for 12 months or more; or
 - acquitted of an offence on the grounds of either unsoundness of mind or insanity and, as a result, the person has been detained in a facility or institution.
- You have been convicted of any offence that was committed while in immigration detention, during an escape from immigration detention, during a period where a person escaped from immigration detention, or if the person has been convicted of the offence of escaping from immigration detention
- You have, or have had, an association with an individual, group or organization suspected of having been, or being, involved in criminal conduct;

Character requirements cont'd

You will not pass the character test if:

- having regard to the your past and present criminal conduct, you are found by the visa officer to be not of good character;
- having regard to the your past and present general conduct, you are found by the visa officer to be not of good character;
- there is a significant risk that you will engage in criminal conduct in Australia, harass, molest, intimidate or stalk another person in Australia, vilify a segment of the Australian community, or incite discord in the Australian community or in a segment of that community, or represent a danger to the Australian community or a segment of that community.

Health requirements

- Temporary visa applicants intending to stay in Australia for less than 3 months are generally not required to undergo full health examinations for the grant of a visa.
- HIV status is not asked on any of the Visitor visa forms and cannot be used as a grounds for the denial of a temporary visa to Australia.

Health requirements cont'd

On the visa application there is the question: *During your proposed visit to Australia, do you expect to incur medical costs, or require treatment or medical follow up for:*

- *blood disorder;*
- *cancer;*
- *heart disease;*
- *hepatitis B or C and/or liver disease;*
- *HIV Infection, including AIDS;*
- *kidney disease, including dialysis;*
- *mental illness;*
- *pregnancy;*
- *respiratory disease that has required*
- *hospital admission or oxygen therapy;*
- *other?*

Delegates should answer 'no' unless they expect to incur significant medical costs (AUD 35,000+).

Health requirements cont'd

You must answer **yes** to this question if, while in Australia:

- You are likely to require any care in hospital regardless of whether you will be covering the cost;
 - You will require medications that you are not bringing with you; and
 - You intend to undergo any medical procedure (including exploratory, dental or cosmetic procedures), regardless of whether you intend to pay for the procedure.
- If you answer 'yes' you will be required to complete a health examination, at your own expense

Health requirements cont'd

- **TB:** A visa cannot lawfully be granted to an applicant with active TB.
- You must answer 'yes' on visa application if you:
 - currently have pulmonary TB
 - currently have TB elsewhere in your body
 - are being treated for TB (regardless of what stage your treatment is up to)
 - have latent (or old) TB
 - had TB many years ago (whether treated or untreated)
 - suspected you had TB but was never diagnosed
 - suspect that you currently have TB but have not yet seen a health professional.
- If you answer 'yes' you will be required to complete a health examination, at your own expense

Recommendations

- ✓ Apply as early as possible
 - If awaiting scholarship or submission outcome (due mid-April), gather documents in advance. Apply before mid-May to ensure your application is processed in time.
- ✓ Include all the necessary documentation
 - Conference [letter of invitation](#)
 - Letter from GV or AIE organizer (if not registering as a delegate)
 - Scholarship award letter
 - other letters of support from employer/institution or organization supporting attendance, detailing financial support and/or the importance of your attendance

Recommendations cont'd

- ✓ Also, documentation showing:
 - evidence that the **business background** is relevant to the nature of the proposed business in Australia e.g. evidence of educational qualifications, evidence of current employment position and your role during the visit.
 - For those not employed in the HIV field, letter from organization in affiliation with (e.g. PLHIV network, church, CBO) etc
 - other information to show the **incentive and authority to return** to country of residence such as a history of international travel, property or other significant assets in your home country
 - If no international travel history, residence permit, employment contract, children's birth certificates, university/college proof of enrolment etc
 - If no property or assets, housing contract, utility (electricity, gas etc) bills, bank statement etc

Visa denials

If your visa is **not approved**, the department will send a notification letter or email advising you of:

- the reasons for the refusal
- review rights
- the time limit for lodging an appeal.

Application fee of AUD1,604 payable for a review

Conference registration fee is refunded, minus handling fee, if visa application was made in time (before mid-May) but denied. Proof of visa application date and denial is required when applying for a refund.

Further info & questions

- Embassy or visa office:
www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm.
- Let the secretariat know of any particular confusion or difficulties: Visa@aid2014.org.

4. Questions & Answers



Next Webinar

VOLUNTEERING AT AIDS 2014

Thursday, April 3, 2014
7am GMT

Sign up at <http://www.aids2014.org/webinars.aspx>