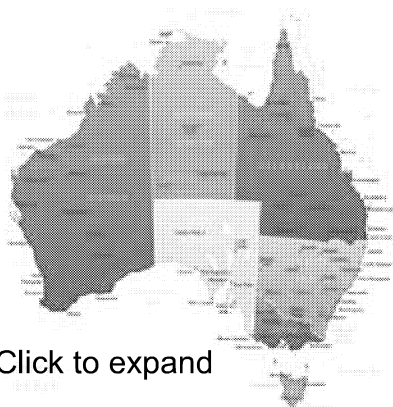


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Country Information Library: Australia

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KEY INFORMATION: Large source of temporary residents in Canada with over 19,000 residents (including 17,450 temporary workers) in 2012. Tasmania is one of the world's major suppliers of licit opiate products. Australia is regarded as one of the least corrupt societies in the world.

Content last updated May 18, 2017

i All verification requests for documents or information related to **Australia** must be accompanied by a GCMS verification activity and an email to: **AUSTRALIA-VERIFICATION-AUSTRALIE@international.gc.ca**

To request a verification, the requesting office must follow these [procedures \(PDF, 524 KB\)](#).

Document verification for applications that cannot be accessed by mission, such as investigations (R-files) or CIT applications should be sent by email only. No GCMS verification activity is needed/possible.

The above instructions also apply to any requests related to documents or information from New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia or any other countries or territories that the mission in Sydney covers.

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- Evidence of Immigration Status Card (EIS) for certain visa subclass holders, including:
 - Bridging visa E granted to Illegal Maritime Arrivals (IMA).
 - Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) visa.
 - Temporary Protection visa.
 - Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) visa holders.
 - Bridging (Removal Pending) visa.
- Permanent Resident Evidence (PRE) ImmiCard for persons granted a Permanent Protection visa after March 2013.
- Residence Determination ImmiCard (RDI) is issued to immigration detainees accommodated in the community who are non-visaed non-citizens.

Driver license

- Issued by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

▼ Civil documents

Birth documents / proof of parentage

- Some states and territories issue two types of birth or marriage certificates – **standard** and **commemorative**. Only the standard certificate can be accepted as a proof of identity document.
- In 2008, the New South Wales (NSW) Parliament passed an amendment to allow children born through assisted means to have the parental status of co-mothers (lesbian de-facto partners) recognized on their Birth certificate. The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will register both women as parents, one as “birth mother” and the other as “other parent” on the certificate.

Acquisition of citizenship

Dual citizenship:	Dual citizenship is only recognized and allowed if the second country of citizenship allows dual citizenship.
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Basis of citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults born outside Australia between 26 January 1949 and 15 January 1974 can apply for citizenship if they were born to a parent with Australian citizenship and have an acceptable reason for not being registered under Section 10B as a child
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By birth

- Children born before 20 August 1986 automatically gain citizenship unless a parent had diplomatic privileges or was a consular officer of another country.
- Children born on or after 20 August 1986 only gain automatic citizenship if at least one of the parents was an Australian citizen or permanent resident at time of birth.
- Those born to parents that are not Australian citizens or permanent residents automatically acquire citizenship at age 10 if most of their lives have been spent in Australia.

By descent

- Children under 18 may acquire citizenship by descent provided that at least one parent is an Australian citizen at the time of child's birth.
- Parents who have acquired Australian citizenship can only register their children after legally residing in Australia for more than 2 years.

By naturalization

- Must have obtained permanent resident status, be 18 years of age or older, be of good character, have basic understanding of English and be likely to reside permanently in Australia or, at least, maintain a close and continuing association.
- Must have spent 2 out of the past 5 years and 12 months out of the last 2 years in Australia prior to submitting the application.
- Children under 18 who are adopted from overseas may obtain citizenship by application if at least one parent is an Australian citizen.

Marriage documents

- The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 for both men and women.
- Polygamous marriages are not allowed in the country, but are recognized for limited purposes (social benefits and welfare) if legally contracted abroad.
- Each state and territory has its own registry of births, deaths and marriages in charge of issuing official documents.
- Some states and territories issue two types of birth or marriage certificates – standard and commemorative. Only the standard certificate can be accepted as a proof of identity document.

Death certificates

- Each state and territory has its own registry of births, deaths and marriages in charge of issuing official documents.

Divorce certificates

- Issued by The Family Law Court of Australia.

▼ Notarized Documents

- Notary Public's official seals (usually impressed onto a red sticker) or stamps are affixed to documents directly under, adjacent or as near as possible to their signatures. All Notaries' seals and signatures are officially recorded in a data base held by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- Justices of the Peace, Commissioners for Affidavits, and other designated persons, are appointed to take affidavits or statutory declarations, and to certify copied documents for use only within Australia.

▼ Police Certificates

- For more Police Certificate information and examples, please visit the [Police Certificate Image Library](#).

▼ Proof of education / enrollment

- Low risk for fraudulent education documents of Australian born applicants.
- Low to high risk of fraudulent education documentation for third country nationals who are Permanent Residents or foreign born citizens.
- Risk of fraud is high in documents from private Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions.
 - Following the introduction of immigration policies in 2004 there was a large increase in the number of private institutions offering courses that provided a fast track to permanent residence. These courses were targeted specifically at overseas students in India, Pakistan, and Nepal etc. Verifications of documents from private VETs can be difficult as a number have closed down or changed owners since the Government implemented policy changes to this program in 2010.
- Public institutions are known as Colleges or Institutes of Technical and Further Education (most commonly referred to as TAFE). Verifications from TAFE institutions are reliable.
- Document verification from government funded and private universities is reliable.
- For information on academic credentials assessment, visit [CICIC](#).

School system

- Post-secondary education is divided into two sectors, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education (University).