



Why is there a health requirement for entry to Australia?

Australia enjoys some of the best health standards in the world. In order to help maintain these standards you must satisfy the health requirements specified in the Migration Regulations before you can be granted a visa for Australia. Dependants and family unit members who are included in the visa application are individually required to satisfy health requirements.

Australia's health requirements are designed to:

- minimise public health and safety risks to the Australian community;
- contain public expenditure on health and community services; and
- maintain access of Australian residents to health and community services.

Assessment of your health for temporary visa purposes depends on:

Your intended activities in Australia and some other circumstances

You will be asked to undergo a medical and/or x-ray examination if:

- you are likely to enter a hospital or health care area (including nursing homes);
- you are likely to be engaged at an Australian child care centre (including preschools and creches);
- you are 70 or more years of age; or
- there are indications you may not meet the health requirement.

These situations are considered to be of **special significance** for your health status.

In addition, depending on your country of residence, you may be required to undergo a medical and/or x-ray examination if you are likely to enter a classroom situation.

The length of time you intend to stay in Australia

If you seek to stay 3 months or less and no special significance activity or circumstance, as described above, applies there are no routine requirements for formal medical or x-ray examination.

Note 1: The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) reserves the right to request medical information in any circumstances.

Note 2: Length of *total* stay in Australia is relevant eg. if you have been in Australia for 8 months and apply for a further 5 month visa you will be assessed for a stay of more than 12 months.

Where you have been staying over recent years

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease which has been declared an epidemic and global emergency. Many countries have relatively low rates of the disease. There are no routine x-ray requirements for persons who have lived entirely in these countries, and who intend a stay of up to 12 months, or sometimes longer, in Australia. You may be required to undertake a medical and/or x-ray examination if you:

- have stayed or lived more than 3 consecutive months in the past 5 years in a country (or countries) that has a higher risk rate of TB than Australia; and
- intend to stay in Australia for more than 3 months.

(Please consult the table on the back page of this form).

Who will examine me?

Medical examinations and x-rays are conducted by qualified doctors and radiologists nominated by the department. The costs of these examinations are paid by you directly to the doctors or clinics undertaking the examinations. There may be additional costs if further tests or couriers are required.

Do not complete your medical examination before you lodge your visa application – you will be advised when you need to do so.

If you are **overseas** and require a medical examination, a list of approved doctors can be found at

www.immi.gov.au/contacts/panel-doctors

If you are in **Australia** and require a medical examination – after seeking information from the department, you should contact Health Services Australia (HSA). In Australian country areas, you should contact the nearest HSA office to find your nearest Approved Medical Practitioner. You can contact HSA on 1300 361 046 or at www.hsagroup.com.au

How does the department decide if I meet the health criteria?

In the majority of cases, there will be no requirement for a medical or x-ray examination, and a decision whether you meet the health criterion will be made along with the assessment of other criteria for your visa. For those who require a medical or x-ray examination, a Medical Officer of the Commonwealth (MOC) will provide the department with an opinion on whether you meet the health requirement.

In doing so they will take into account:

- the results of the medical examination(s) and x-ray(s);
- medical history, age and period of intended stay in Australia; and
- other relevant considerations.

Only TB is mentioned in migration legislation as precluding the issue of a visa, but opportunity is given to enable an applicant to undergo treatment in most cases. Other health conditions are assessed on the potential cost and impact on the Australian community resulting from the possible use of health and community services.

Under the Migration Regulations, officers deciding visa applications must accept as correct the opinion of the MOC on whether applicants meet the health requirement. The Migration Regulations allow a waiver of the need to meet the health requirement in limited circumstances, but never where active TB is suspected. If you do not meet the health requirement and the waiver is not available or exercised, then under the Migration Regulations your application must be refused. The refusing officer will inform you of any review options.

About the information you give

The department is authorised to collect information under the *Migration Act 1958*. The information, including the results of any tests for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) will be used to assess your health for an Australian visa. A positive HIV or other test results will not necessarily lead to a visa being denied. Your result(s) may be disclosed to the relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory health agencies.

Health examination requirements

(not for provisional visas leading to a grant of a permanent visa)

Country – Level of Risk (citizenship or more than 3 months stay in last 5 years) Highest risk applies	Stay of up to and including 3 months	Stay of more than 3 months, up to and including 12 months	Stay of more than 12 months
Low Iceland, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, (Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. <p>Note: You may be required to have health insurance for your period of stay.</p>
Medium Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vatican City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. 	<p>You will be required to undergo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a medical examination; and a chest x-ray[†]. <p>Note: If you are an applicant for a 457 visa, you will only be required to undergo a chest x-ray[†], unless your health is of special significance*. If you are likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 12 months a medical examination will also be required.</p>
High Andorra, Bahrain, Czech Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Hungary, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritius, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if you are likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 3 months, a medical examination and chest x-ray[†] will be required. 	<p>You will be required to undergo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a medical examination; and a chest x-ray[†]. <p>Note: If you are an applicant for a 457 visa, you will only be required to undergo a chest x-ray[†], unless your health is of special significance*. If you are likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 3 months a medical examination will also be required.</p>
Very high risk All countries not listed above including: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Vietnam, Zimbabwe Countries not listed are very high risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no requirement for health examinations unless special significance* applies. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if you are likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 4 weeks, a medical examination and chest x-ray[†] will be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you will be required to undergo a chest x-ray[†]; if you are likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 4 weeks, a medical examination and chest x-ray[†] will be required; any special significance* requirements must be met. 	<p>You will be required to undergo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a medical examination; and a chest x-ray[†]. <p>Note: If you are an applicant for a 457 visa, you will only be required to undergo a chest x-ray[†], unless your health is of special significance*. If you are likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 4 weeks a medical examination will also be required.</p>

- * Your health may be of **special significance** and you may be required to undergo a chest x-ray and/or medical examination if:
- you are likely to enter a hospital or health care area (including nursing homes) for any reason. In this case an x-ray is a minimum requirement regardless of length of stay. Low and medium risk country residents may make short visits to patients in Australia without x-ray screening;
 - you intend to work as a doctor, dentist or nurse a medical examination plus HIV/Hepatitis B and C blood tests are required;
 - you are likely to be engaged at an Australian childcare centre (including preschools and creches) either as an employee or trainee. In this case an x-ray is a minimum requirement regardless of length of stay;
 - you are 70 or more years of age and are applying for a Tourist (subclass 676), Sponsored Business Visitor (Short Stay) (subclass 459), Sponsored Family Visitor (subclass 679) or a Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa:
 - onshore applicants are to be directed to HSA for a health assessment. Forms provided by HSA;
 - offshore applicants are to present a medical proforma (available from the Australian visa office) to their own doctor or panel doctor for completion;
 - you are a parent with a 'queued' migration application. A medical and x-ray is required for a stay greater than 6 months; or
 - there are indications that you might not meet the health requirement regardless of length of stay.

[†] Where a chest x-ray is required, this applies to persons/children 11 or more years of age. Children under 11 years of age are required to complete a medical examination instead of a chest x-ray.

For student visas – principal and secondary applicants are to undergo the same medical assessment unless special significance applies.