



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do I need a visa to live and work in Australia?

If you do not hold Australian or New Zealand permanent residency or Citizenship you will require a relevant visa . All information regarding Visa's for travel to Australia can be found at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/>

2. Do my qualifications match the requirements for the Child Protection Worker role?

If you are thinking of relocating to Australia as a Social Worker you will be required to have your qualification verified as equivalent to an Australian Bachelor Degree. The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is the certifying body for this occupational grouping.

For further information on qualification assessment please visit:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/assessment-fees/assessment-fees>

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/international-qualifications>

3. How easy is it to transfer money to an Australian bank account?

In Australia the currency is the Australian dollar. AUD.

If you are thinking of relocation you may want to consider transferring funds prior to moving.

Australia has four main banks, known as "The Big 4". They are

- Commonwealth Bank
- Westpac
- National Australia Bank (NAB)
- Australia New Zealand Bank (ANZ)



These four banks all offer assistance to new migrants with all their banking needs and can assist with opening accounts prior to relocating

Further information regarding these services is attached below:

<http://www.commbank.com.au/personal/international/moving-to-australia/default.aspx>

<http://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/moving-to-australia/>

http://www.nab.com.au/wps/wcm/connect/nab/nab/home/personal_finance/15/23?WT.seg_1=SEBBB&WT.ac=SEBBB

<http://www.anz.com/unitedkingdom/en/personal/moving-australia/>

These organisations are not the only option for banking in WA, there are smaller banks and credit societies as well.

If you bank with HSBC in the UK they can arrange to open your account with HSBC in Australia and transfer your funds for you.

4. Do I have to pay Income Tax?

Anyone working in Australia and earning an income must apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) through the Australian Tax Office (ATO). The application cannot be made before your arrival in Australia but you must be in receipt of your TFN prior to commencing employment.

For details of how to apply for a TFN please see below link.

<http://www.ato.gov.au/content/41612.htm>

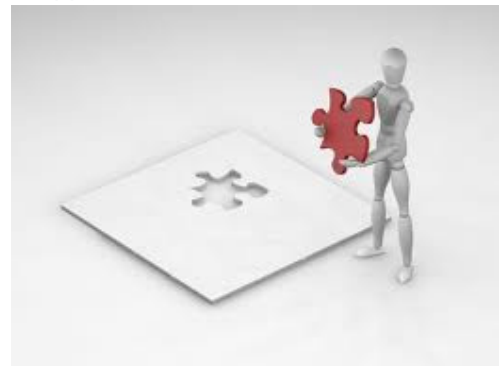
5. Where will I live when I arrive in Australia?

Perth Metropolitan area stretches from Two Rocks in the north to Rockingham in the south and out to the Perth Hills in the east.

The Department may offer assistance with temporary accommodation (maximum of 4 weeks) for you upon arrival. Alternatively, accommodation can easily be arranged over the Internet or by telephone. When you first arrive in WA you may wish to stay in a hotel or motel.

If you want to rent or purchase a house or apartment these external links may help:

- The [Real Estate Institute of WA](#) can show you properties to rent or buy
- [Local councils](#) can provide information about the area's services





- If you do not have permanent residency you need to apply to the [Foreign Investment Review Board](#) to purchase land or property

“Poms in Perth” offer short term furnished accommodation around Perth and their site also includes information on many other services you may need when first arriving.

“Poms in Perth” have a discussion forum where you can chat to or ask questions of people in similar circumstances.

<http://www.pomsinperth.com/index.htm>

Short term accommodation can also be found at:

<http://www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/wa>

The Department also has positions available in our Country districts from Great Southern in the south to the Kimberley in the far north and many of these locations may offer subsidised accommodation.

Here are some tips for settling into a Country district:

- Rural communities are very welcoming of new people to town. These are some ways to help you make the transition.
- Visit the local library and tourist centre. These centres will have maps, newspapers, community calendars, brochures and much more.
- Buy a map and start exploring. Seeing your new town is fun and right away gives you something in common with other people.
- Say YES to everything. As the new person in town and at work you will be invited to activities, parties and gatherings. Even if it is uncomfortable to begin with go along and make the effort. It will be worth it in the long run.
- Look for things you enjoyed in your old town. If you enjoy golf, find out about your local golf facilities. If you were part of a support group, see if there is a similar group in town.
- Go to all the local community events. Even the ones you would never have considered going to before moving. Local events are an important part of the country life.
- Buy the local newspaper. This is an easy and enjoyable way to get acquainted with a new community and to get a taste of what life is like there.
- Become a volunteer. Community service and volunteering may be one of the best ways to create meaningful new ties. Find opportunities through local community centres or libraries, your job, churches or schools.



6. How does the Australian School system work?

The school year in Australia runs from February to December, when schools close for the long summer holidays.

Children will generally start school based Kindergarten (Kindie) the year they turn 4 in a part time capacity, the following year they will attend pre-primary for one year, and then enter mainstream school when they turn 6..

You are only allowed to enrol your children in the State schools that fall within the geographical area where you live. You may also have the option to enrol your children in a State High School where a special program is on offer. This is available to scholars who excel in certain areas such as academia, soccer, dancing, and music. High school students can apply to attend these schools where an exam/trial/audition will be required.

When registering your children in school in Australia you will be required to provide a copy of their immunisation history. If you do not have a copy of this your local Health Authority will be able to provide this to you prior to leaving the UK.



Further information regarding state education can be found at the Department for Education website at:

<http://det.wa.edu.au/>

Many Australians choose to send their children to independent schools; this is not linked to a specific geographical area. Many independent schools have boarding house facilities available. More information regarding independent schools in WA can be found at:

<http://www.privateschoolsdirectory.com.au/perth-schools.php>

Note, all Catholic Schools in WA are independent.

Most schools in WA require students to wear a school uniform.

What if I have older kids, where can they study?

There are four public universities in WA

- University of Western Australia (UWA)
- Curtin University of Technology
- Murdoch University
- Edith Cowan University (ECU)

Notre Dame is a private university located in Fremantle



In addition, there are many institutions that provide a wide range of vocational training courses such as business, hospitality, tourism, construction, and community work.

7. Is it difficult to adapt to driving in WA?

Adapting to the roads in WA is not a problem as we also drive on the left hand side!

Newly arrived drivers to WA can drive on their UK licence for a maximum of 3 months when they arrive where after they must transfer their licence to a WA licence:

<http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/566.asp>

More information about [conditions for driving in WA](#)

8. Will I have to pay to see a Doctor?

The Australian Government provides help with basic medical expenses through a scheme called Medicare. You may be eligible to join Medicare and gain immediate access to health care services and programs under the reciprocal agreement between Australia and the UK. These benefits include free public hospital care, help with the cost of out-of-hospital care, and subsidised medicines.

To enrol in Medicare, you should go into a Medicare office 7 to 10 days after your arrival in Australia and bring your passport or travel documents. There are also many different private health insurance options you may wish to consider, as Medicare does not provide for all services.

Examples: Medicare does not cover dental care, most optical care or ambulance services.

Please refer to below links for further information:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/457-health-insurance-faq-visa-holder.htm>

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/migrants/visitors/uk.jsp>

<http://www.privatehealth.gov.au/healthinsurance/overseas/>

9. Can I bring my pets with me when I relocate?

Household goods and personal effects can be moved to WA as unaccompanied sea or airfreight. In order to protect our unique environment, there are strict conditions on what you can bring into the country, including your pets.





- Visit [Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service](#) for more information.

To bring cats and dogs to Australia, they must meet all of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) import conditions prior to export. This is to minimise the risk of exotic diseases being introduced into Australia. Australia is free from many animal-related diseases found in other parts of the world.

10. What will my lifestyle be like, when I move to WA?

Perth has more hours of sunshine than any other capital city in Australia. The Mediterranean climate means the people of Perth enjoy mild winters, warm to hot summers and blue skies for most of the year. The city sits by the Swan River and beneath the beautiful botanical Kings Park. With all the sunny weather, people spend a lot of time outdoors swimming, sailing, water-skiing, fishing, cycling, walking and running, especially around the Swan River.

Western Australia has very diverse landscapes and environments around its nine regions. From the white sandy beaches in the north, the lush green vineyards and forests in the State's south west and the arid red dirt of the outback there is a huge variety of places to experience and live in.

11. When will I be able to apply for Citizenship?

You can apply for Australian citizenship if you have lived in Australia for 2 years as a permanent resident during the last 5 years. This must include spending a total of 12 months during the last 2 years in Australia. All applicants must also be of good character.

- [More information about Australian citizenship](#)

12. Where will my partner work?

WA has one of the lowest national unemployment rates. A range of job vacancies can be found in many occupations. Online job websites (external links) include:

- [Jobs WA](#) advertises jobs within the public sector, including health
- [Seek](#) is a dedicated, searchable jobs website
- [The West Australian](#) advertises many jobs online

13. Is Child care available?

Many child care options are available in WA, including family day care centres, crèches and before and after school programs. All child care centres must be licensed.

- Visit the [National Childcare Accreditation Council](#) for information



More information on living in WA can be found at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia>

http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/Pages/welcome_to_tourism_western_australia.aspx

<http://www.wago.co.uk/index.php/life-in-wa.html>

http://www.westernaustralia.com/uk/Pages/Welcome_to_Western_Australia.aspx

