



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



COVID-19 Border Measures & Skilled Regional Visa Options

February 2021

Travel Exemption Categories

AUTOMATIC

- Australian citizen/Permanent resident
- Immediate family of Australian Citizen/Permanent resident.
- New Zealand, resident in Australia
- Diplomats
- Transit passengers
- Airline & Maritime crew
- Seasonal Worker Program/Pacific Labour Scheme
- Business Innovation(subclass 188) visa holder
- New Zealand travel bubble (past 14 days in a NZ COVID-19 free zone)

DISCRETIONARY – Delegate or ABF Commissioner decision required

- Australian Government invitation to assist with COVID-19 response or in Australia's national interest
- Critical Medical services/supplies and COVID-19 response
- Critical Skills and Sectors (Perth Critical Skills Team)
- Employer Sponsored on PMSOL
- Military Personnel
- Year 11, 12 students (ABF Commissioner)
- Compelling and compassionate circumstances.
- Researchers / post-doctoral academics etc. (ABF Commissioner)

Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List (PMSOL)

- **Chief Executive or Managing Director (111111)**
- **Construction Project Manager (133111)**
- **Mechanical Engineer (233512)**
- **General Practitioner (253111)**
- **Resident Medical Officer (253112)**
- **Psychiatrist (253411)**
- **Medical Practitioner nec (253999)**
- **Midwife (254111)**
- **Registered Nurse (Aged Care) (254412)**
- **Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency) (254415)**
- **Registered Nurse (Medical) (254418)**
- **Registered Nurse (Mental Health) (254422)**
- **Registered Nurse (Perioperative) (254423)**
- **Registered Nurses nec (254499)**
- **Developer Programmer (261312)**
- **Software Engineer (261313)**
- **Social Worker (272511)**
- **Maintenance Planner (312911)**



Online Travel Exemption Applications

<https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>

Travel restriction exemption for travellers to and from Australia

Travel restriction exemptions

From Friday, 16 October 2020, you can travel from New Zealand to Australia without needing a travel exemption, if:

- you have been in New Zealand for 14 days or more prior to travel

For more information, see [New Zealand safe travel zone](#).

To assess whether you need to apply for an exemption, please consider the Department's [COVID19 information](#).

If you have already submitted a request for a travel exemption, you do not need to submit another request unless your situation has changed significantly.

All requests should be submitted at least 2 weeks, but not more than 3 months, prior to travel. If you are travelling due to death or critical illness of a close family member, you can apply inside this timeframe and we will prioritise your application. You do not have to have booked flights before applying for an exemption.



Create an account

Register for an account to make requests for travel restriction exemptions for yourself, or on behalf of other travellers who have authorised you to do so.

If you have already completed this form, you must verify your email address before your account is activated. Please check your email, including the junk / spam folder for the verification link we have sent you.



Login to track a request or submit new requests

Email Address

Email Address

V1 July 2020

Regional visa pathways

There are a number of visa options to help fill regional job vacancies where Australian workers are not available (*see handout: Visa Options for Regional Australia*)

Visas/ Pathway	Description	Subclass
Temporary Work (short stay specialist) visa	temporary visa, specialist work	400
Temporary Activity visa	temporary visa, specialist work	408
Seasonal Worker Program	temporary visa for seasonal work	403
Pacific Labour Scheme	temporary visa for low and semi-skilled work	403
Work and Holiday visas	temporary visa	417, 462
Temporary Skill Shortage visa	temporary employer sponsored skilled visa	482
Temporary Graduate visa	temporary visa	485
Employer Nomination Scheme	permanent employer sponsored skilled visa	186
Skilled Independent visa	permanent visa, point tested	189
Skilled Nominated visa	permanent visa, point tested	190
Industry Labour Agreements (including Horticulture)	temporary and permanent employer sponsored	482, 186
Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)	temporary and permanent employer sponsored	482, 186
Skilled Work Regional (Provisional)	provisional visa, points tested	491
Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional)	provisional employer sponsored skilled visa	494

Further information is available at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/working-in-australia