

**Hammond Taylor** a migration law firm



**Which visa is right for me?  
Explore Australian visas.**

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**Migrating to Australia can be confusing and complex. There are multiple different pathways to visit or temporarily stay in Australia. Many of these paths lead to the possibility of Permanent Residency ('PR') and Citizenship.**

**Explore this step-by-step guide to Australian visa options and discover which visa is right for you.**

# Why do you want to come to Australia?

## To visit

- [eVisitor visa \(subclass 651\)](#)
- [Visitor visa \(subclass 600\) – Tourist stream](#)
- [Visitor visa \(subclass 600\) – Sponsored family stream](#)
- [Visitor visa \(subclass 600\) – Business visitor stream](#)
- [Visitor visa \(subclass 600\) – Approved destination status stream](#)
- [Visitor visa \(subclass 600\) – Frequent traveller stream](#)
- [Medical Treatment visa \(subclass 602\)](#)
- [Transit visa \(subclass 771\)](#)

## To have a working holiday

- [Working Holiday visa \(subclasses 462 & 417\)](#)

## To work

- [Temporary Skills Shortage visa \(subclass 482\)](#)
- [Global Talent Scheme](#)
- [Temporary Activity visa \(subclass 408\)](#)
- [Temporary Graduate visa \(subclass 485\)](#)
- [Temporary Work – International Relations visa \(subclass 403\)](#)
- [Temporary Work – Short Stay Specialist visa \(subclass 400\)](#)
- [Training visa \(subclass 407\)](#)
- [Skilled – Recognised Graduate visa \(subclass 476\)](#)
- [Skilled Regional \(Provisional\) visa \(subclass 489\)](#)
- [Business Innovation and Investment visa \(888\)](#)
- [Employer Sponsored Work visas \(subclasses 186 & 187\)](#)
- [Skilled Independent visa \(subclass 189\)](#)
- [Skilled Regional visa \(subclass 887\)](#)

## To study

- [Student visa \(Subclass 500\)](#)
- [Student Guardian visa \(subclass 590\)](#)

## To be with my partner

- [Prospective Marriage visa \(Subclass 300\)](#)
- [Partner \[Overseas\] \(Provisional & Migrant\) visas \(309/100\)](#)
- [Partner \[Onshore\] \(Temporary & Permanent\) visas \(820/801\)](#)

## To be with my child

- [Aged Parent visa \(subclass 804\)](#)
- [Contributory Aged Parent \(Temporary\) visa \(subclass 884\)](#)
- [Contributory Aged Parent visa \(subclass 864\)](#)
- [Contributory Parent \(Temporary\) visa \(subclass 173\)](#)
- [Contributory Parent visa \(subclass 143\)](#)
- [Parent visa \(subclass 103\)](#)
- [Sponsored Parent \(Temporary\) visa \(870\)](#)

## To seek protection as a refugee

- [Global Special Humanitarian visa \(subclass 202\)](#)
- [Refugee visa \(subclasses 200, 201, 203 and 204\)](#)
- [Protection visa \(subclass 866\)](#)
- [Temporary Protection visa \(subclass 785\)](#)
- [Safe Haven Enterprise visa \(subclass 790\)](#)

## To return to Australia as a resident

- [Resident Return visa \(subclasses 155 & 157\)](#)



# Visit Australia

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## **eVisitor visa (subclass 651)**

The eVisitor visa allows you to visit Australia as frequently as you wish within a twelve-month period. You may stay in Australia for up to three months upon each entry. With the eVisitor visa, you can holiday, cruise, visit your friends or family, undertake business visitor activities (including making business enquiries, negotiating a contract or attending a conference), or study or train for up to three months if the sole purpose of your stay isn't to study.

[Learn more](#)

## **Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Tourist stream**

The Visitor visa (tourist stream) allows you to stay in Australia for up to twelve months to visit family or friends, to holiday as a tourist or on a cruise, or for any other purpose other than business or medical treatment. On this visa, you can study or train in Australia for up to twelve months if the sole purpose of your stay isn't to study (if it is, go to 5). The length of your stay will be determined by the Department of Home Affairs on a case by case basis. You may be able to exit and re-enter Australia if your visa is granted with multiple entries.

[Learn more](#)

## **Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Sponsored family stream**

Like the tourist stream, the Visitor visa (sponsored family stream) allows you to stay in Australia for up to twelve months to visit family or friends, to holiday as a tourist or for a cruise, or to study or train for up to three months. The length of your stay will be determined by the Department of Home Affairs on a case-by-case basis. You may be able to exit and re-enter Australia if your visa is granted with multiple entries.

[Learn more](#)

## **Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Business visitor stream**

This visa allows you to enter Australia as a business visitor. Business visitors can make business or employment enquiries; conduct activities in the course of an official government visit; investigate, negotiate, enter into or review a business contract; or take part in a conference or other such seminar, so long as you are not paid to take part. Business visitors are prohibited from working for businesses based in Australia, and from directly selling goods and services to the Australian public. This visa may be granted for a period of up to twelve months, and allows you to enter Australia and stay for up to three months at any time while the visa is valid.

[Learn more](#)

## **Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Approved destination status stream**

This visa is specifically allocated to citizens of the People's Republic of China who are visiting Australia as part of a tour organised by a travel agent approved by the Department of Home Affairs. Visa holders must only engage in activities that are part of the tour, and enter and exit Australia with their tour group. The length of this visa is determined by the Department of Home Affairs in the visa grant, taking into consideration the length of the approved tour.

[Learn more](#)

## **Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Frequent traveller stream**

The Visitor visa (frequent traveler stream) is designated to citizens of the People's Republic of China who frequently travel to Australia for personal or business purposes. Holders of this visa can engage in business visitor activities, visit their family and friends, or holiday (including tourist and cruise activities). This visa may be granted to a period of up to ten years; the Department will specify its length in the requisite visa grant. Visa holders may enter Australia as frequently as they wish whilst holding the visa, but cannot stay for more than three months upon each entry, or for more than twelve months in any 24-month period.

[Learn more](#)

## Medical Treatment visa (subclass 602)

This is a temporary visa available for people who need to travel to or remain longer in Australia in order to:

- Have medical treatment or consultations in Australia
- Donate an organ to someone in Australia
- Support a patient or organ donor who holds or is applying for this visa
- Receive an organ from someone who travels to Australia with you
- Come to Australia under the arrangements between the Western Province of Papua New Guinea and the Queensland Department of Health

[Learn more](#)

## Transit visa (subclass 771)

This is a temporary visitor visa that lets people be in Australia for up to 72 hours. You must be outside Australia in order to apply and have a confirmed booking to travel to another country within 72 hours of arriving in Australia and the correct documents to enter that country. There is no cost attached to this visa. Applications for this visa can take up to 20 days to be processed.

[Learn more](#)



# Work in Australia

# Temporary work visas

## Temporary Skills Shortage visa (subclass 482)

The subclass 482 visa replaced the subclass 457 visa in March 2018. This visa subclass has three streams: short-term, medium-term and labour agreement. It is designed to fill gaps in the Australia labour market by allowing employers to sponsor a suitably skilled worker to fill a position they can't find a suitably skilled Australian to fill. Duration, costs and processing times vary between streams.

[Learn more](#)

## The Global Talent – Employer Sponsored (GTES)

The GTES allows employers to sponsor overseas workers for highly skilled positions that cannot be filled by Australian workers or through other standard visa programs (i.e. Short-term and Medium-term streams of the TSS visa). This visa stream is only for highly skilled 'niche' occupations. Approved businesses must meet specific criteria and requirements in order to sponsor persons under this program.

[Learn more](#)

## Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462)

This visa is suitable for young adults who want an extended holiday in Australia and to work here to fund it.

[Learn more](#)

## Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408)

This visa subclass allows a holder to come to Australia to do specific types of work temporarily. In order to meet the basic eligibility requirements, you must:

- Have the skills to undertake the particular activity to be carried out in Australia
- Be supported or sponsored
- Meet the necessary additional requirements for the additional stream

There are ten streams under the subclass 408 visa:

- Special Program
- Religious Work
- Research activities
- Invited for other social and cultural activity
- sporting Activities
- Entertainment Activities
- Superyacht Crew
- Exchnage Arrangements
- Australian Government Endorsed Events
- Domestic work for executives

[Learn more](#)



## Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485)

This is a temporary visa that allows international students to live, study and work after they have finished their studies. There are six visa streams to this visa:

- Graduate Work Stream
- Post-Study Work Stream

[Learn more](#)

## Temporary Work – International Relations visa (subclass 403)

This subclass allows work in specific circumstances that improve Australia's international relations. There are six visa streams to this visa:

- Government Agreement Stream
- Foreign Government Agency Stream
- Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular) Stream
- Privileges and Immunities Stream
- Seasonal Worker Program Stream
- Pacific Labour Scheme Stream

[Learn more](#)

## Temporary Work – Short Stay Specialist visa (subclass 400)

This visa is a temporary visa that lets you do short-term, highly specialised work in Australia. It is suitable if you have specialised skills, knowledge and experience not generally available in Australia. In limited circumstances, you may also be granted a visa if the activity or work relates to Australia's interests. You can also bring your family with you, provided they meet certain requirements and do not work in Australia. Single or multiple entry visas are available.

[Learn more](#)

## Training Visa (subclass 407)

This is a temporary visa subclass that allows you to take part in workplace-based occupational training activities to improve your skills for your job, area of tertiary study, field of expertise or in a professional developing training program in Australia.

[Learn more](#)

## Skilled – Recognised Graduate Visa (subclass 476)

This visa allows recent engineering graduates to live, work or study in Australia temporarily.

[Learn more](#)

## Skilled Regional Provisional Visa (subclass 489)

This visa is for skilled workers who want to live and work in regional Australia. This visa allows you to bring your family and may allow you to apply for the Skilled Regional (Permanent) visa (subclass 887). This subclass is comprised of three possible pathways:

- Invited Pathway
- Extended Stay Pathway
- Subsequent Entry Pathway

[Learn more](#)

## Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa (subclass 888)

This visa is designed to let entrepreneurs, investors and business owners continue their activities in Australia and is suitable for people looking to invest in the robust Australian economy. The visa enables for work and study in Australia, enrolment into Medicare, sponsorship of family, and can also lead to citizenship pathways. There are five visa streams captured under this subclass;

- Business Innovation
- Investor
- Significant Investor
- Premium Investor
- Entrepreneur

[Learn more](#)

## Permanent work visas

### Temporary Skills Shortage visa (subclass 482)

This visa allows skilled workers, who have been nominated by their employer, to live and work in Australian permanently. There are three applicable streams to this visa subclass.

- Direct Entry stream
- Labour agreement stream
- Temporary Residence Transition stream

[Learn more](#)

### Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)

There are two applicable streams to this visa subclass: Points tested stream and the New Zealand stream.

The Points Tested stream lets invited workers with skills Australia needs live and work permanently anywhere in Australia. You can only apply for this visa if you are invited. The New Zealand stream lets eligible New Zealand citizens, who have demonstrated commitment and contribution to Australia, live and work in Australia permanently.

[Learn more](#)

## Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887)

This permanent visa is for people who have lived and worked in specified areas of regional Australia on a previous, eligible visa. An eligible visa is a: subclass 489, 495, 496, 475 or 487 visa. You must have held one of these visas for a total of 2 years before you can apply for a subclass 887 visa.

[Learn more](#)



# Study in Australia

## **Student visa (subclass 500)**

This visa is a temporary visa that lets you visit Australia to participate in a course of study. This visa allows you to participate in an eligible course of study, travel in and out of Australia and work up to 40 hours every 2-week period once your course starts. You can also bring your family with you, provided they meet certain requirements and do not work in Australia. In addition, you can apply online or outside of Australia for this visa.

[Learn more](#)

## **Student Guardian visa (subclass 590)**

This is a temporary visa that lets you visit to support a child who holds a student visa. This visa allows you to come to Australia to provide care and support for a student visa holder who is under 18 years of age or older due to exceptional circumstances.

[Learn more](#)

A man and a woman are laughing joyfully together outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket, and the woman is on the right, wearing a grey knit sweater. They are sitting on a blue and white checkered blanket. The background shows trees and a natural landscape.

Join your partner or  
child in Australia

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# Partner visas

## Prospective Marriage visa (subclass 300)

This visa is a temporary visa that lets you come to Australia to marry your prospective spouse and then apply for a Partner visa. This visa allows you to stay in Australia for 9 months from date of grant of visa, work in Australia and study in Australia at your own expense.

[Learn more](#)

## Partner [Overseas] (Provisional & Migrant) visas (309/100)

This visa allows the partner or spouse of an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen to live in Australia. You apply for the temporary (309) and the permanent (100) partner visas together.

[Learn more](#)

## Partner [Onshore] (Temporary & Permanent) visas (820/801)

This visa allows the partner or spouse of an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen to live in Australia. You apply for the temporary (820) and the permanent (801) partner visas together.

[Learn more](#)

# Parent visas

## Aged Parent visa (subclass 804)

This visa is suitable for aged parents of settled Australians, permanent residents or eligible New Zealand citizens who wish to stay in Australia. It also allows for work and study in Australia, enrolment into Medicare, sponsorship options for family members to come to Australia, and a pathway to citizenship.

[Learn more](#)

## Contributory Aged Parent (Temporary) visa (subclass 884)

This is a temporary visa that lets an aged parent of a currently settled Australia citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen stay temporarily in Australia. With this visa you can live in Australia for up to 2 years, you can work a study and you eventually apply for a permanent visa (Contributory Parent visa (subclass 864)). You cannot receive cannot support while on this visa.

[Learn more](#)

## Contributory Aged Parent visa (subclass 864)

This is a permanent visa allowing the aged parent of settled Australian citizens, permanent residents or eligible NZ citizens stay in Australia. It also allows for work and study in Australia, enrolment in to Medicare, sponsorship options for family members to come to Australia, and a pathway to citizenship.

[Learn more](#)

## **Contributory Parent (Temporary) visa (subclass 173)**

This is a temporary visa, which lets a parent of a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident OR eligible New Zealand citizen stay (temporarily) in Australia for up to 2 years.

[Learn more](#)

## **Contributory Parent visa (subclass 143)**

This is a permanent visa that lets a parent of a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident OR eligible New Zealand citizen stay (temporarily) live in Australia indefinitely. If you hold a Contributory Parent (Temporary)(subclass 173) visa, you can then apply for a subclass 143 visa as part of a 2-step process. Apply in 2 stages allows you to spread the cost of the visas over a number of years.

[Learn more](#)

## **Parent visa (subclass 103)**

This is a permanent visa that lets a parent of a settled Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident OR eligible New Zealand citizen stay (temporarily) move to Australia. Note: if you apply for this visa as a retiree you do not need to meet the balance of family test, have an assurance of support or have a sponsor.

[Learn more](#)

## **Sponsored Parent (Temporary) visa (870)**

This visa is a temporary visa that lets a parent of an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen visit Australia for up to 3 or 5 years. This visa allows you to visit Australia for up to 3 or 5 years per visa, apply for further visas to visit up to a maximum period in Australia of 10 years, but you are not allowed work in Australia.

[Learn more](#)



A photograph of a smiling man with a beard, wearing a light-colored striped shirt and a dark green apron, standing behind a cafe counter. The background shows a modern cafe interior with copper pendant lights, a menu board, and various kitchen items.

# Obtain protection as a refugee

# Offshore

## Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202)

This visa allows you to gain permanent residency (PR) in Australia if you face substantial discrimination or human rights abuses. You must also have a proposer. A proposer is an Australian citizen, permanent resident or organisation who advocates for you to come to Australia.

[Learn more](#)

## Refugee visa (subclasses 200, 201, 203 and 204)

These visas allow you to gain permanent residency (PR) in Australia if you are subject to persecution in your home country. You and your family may live, work and study indefinitely in Australia. The four subclasses under this grouping are:

- Refugee (subclass 200)
- In-country Special Humanitarian (subclass 201)
- Emergency Rescue (subclass 203)
- Woman at Risk (subclass 204)

[Learn more](#)

# Onshore

## Protection visa (subclass 866)

This is a permanent visa for persons who are already in Australia and want to apply for protection. You can stay permanently in Australia if you originally arrived on a valid visa, engage Australia's protection obligations (under the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) and the Refugee Convention) and meet all other requirements.

[Learn more](#)

## Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785)

This visa is for people who arrived in Australia without a valid visa, and want to apply for protection. It lets you stay in Australia temporarily if you engage Australia's protection obligations under the Migration Act 1958.

[Learn more](#)

## Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790)

This visa is for people who arrived in Australia without a valid visa, and want to apply for protection. It lets you stay in Australia temporarily if you engage Australia's protection obligations under the Migration Act 1958.

[Learn more](#)

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a white t-shirt and blue jeans, is walking on an airport tarmac. She is smiling and looking to her right. She is holding a black suitcase handle in her right hand. The background shows the airport's metal structure and other people in the distance.

# Return to Australia

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## Resident Return visa (subclasses 155 & 157)

Permanent visas will usually have a travel validity period attached. If you leave Australia after your travel validity expires, or it expires while you are overseas, you will not be allowed to return to Australia as a permanent visa. This visa allows you to return to Australia as a permanent resident. You do not need to apply for this visa as a permanent resident unless you intend to travel. There are no limits on the number of times you can apply for this visa.

[Learn more](#)

## How can we help?

For further information on how we can assist you to support your visa application contact us by phone, +61 3 9044 9265 or email, [hello@hammondttaylor.com.au](mailto:hello@hammondttaylor.com.au).

*The information contained in this brochure is a summary only and should not be treated as legal advice. You should seek personalised advice before acting on the accuracy of this information.*

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