

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IS SET TO RESUME IN NOVEMBER 2021 AND VACCINE RECOGNITION EXPANDED.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has recently announced that international borders will reopen as Australian states and territories set to hit 80 per cent vaccination rates. Furthermore, Chinese- made Sinovac and Indian made Covidshield vaccines are also considered recognized vaccinations by The Therapeutic Goods Administration

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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IS SET TO RESUME IN NOVEMBER 2021



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has recently announced that international borders will reopen as Australian states and territories set to hit 80 per cent vaccination rates.

Fully vaccinated Australians travelling to New South Wales will be able to self-isolate for a 1 week at home rather than hotel quarantine for a fortnight, saving thousands of dollars. This will be pending the success of the state's home quarantine trial.

Commercial flights out of Australia will resume for vaccinated Australians. Australians must be fully vaccinated with an approved vaccine unless medically exempt or under 12 years of age.

Chinese- made Sinovac and Indian made Covidshield vaccines are also considered recognized vaccinations by The Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The recognition of these vaccinations will remove a significant barrier for international students seeking to study in Australia. Moderna, Janssen, AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines are already recognized in Australia.

To help maximize the number of Australians returning, the Government is offering to facilitate flights into any state or territory that agrees to commence seven day home quarantine trials for returning Australians. Unvaccinated travellers will be required to hotel quarantine for 2 weeks.

COVID testing is expected to continue as part of travelling. However, the Government is looking at using rapid antigen testing as part of the process for more efficient, faster results. Additionally, the Government will not be implementing a "red-light, green- light" system of banned and approved countries rather, Australians will be free to travel where they like. The Government will likely extend its Smart traveller advice system to warn against certain countries that are at higher risk of COVID outbreaks.

Flights to The United States, Singapore, Japan, Canada, Fiji and the United Kingdom have been flagged as some of the first countries where flights will be provided.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RECRUIT 1000 HEALTH SECTOR WORKERS OVERSEAS

The Government is supporting Victorian health services to recruit up to 1,000 healthcare workers from overseas with a \$2.5 million investment to help fund their relocation and provide dedicated support so they can get to work in Victoria as soon as possible. The next few months will be incredibly hard on our healthcare workers in hospitals and ambulance services as they continue to care for record numbers of patients. A \$255 million pool of funding will provide tiered allowances depending on up to \$60 for every shift patient-facing healthcare workers in hospitals and Ambulance Victoria do over the next four months.

These 1000 extra healthcare workers who are living outside the country, with 60 per cent of the recruits Australians stranded overseas and 40 per cent international workers. These professionals will be nurses, doctors, midwives, and allied health professionals, recruited on the basis of service and system needs. The Government will also establish a new allowance to better support nurses, paramedics and doctors working hard on the frontline to protect Victorians.

This announcement builds on the Government's recent work, having facilitated the arrival of more than 130 healthcare workers under the dedicated healthcare workforce pathways since August this year.

All recruited healthcare workers will have an occupation identified on the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List. To be eligible, healthcare workers will need to have an existing employment contract with a Victorian health service, have active professional registration, and be ready to travel.

Priority for relocation assistance will be given to the first 1,000 healthcare workers who arrive and commence employment with a Victorian health service, noting the need to support system as soon as possible.

The Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to ensure that access to flights and quarantine for international or Australian healthcare workers does not disadvantage other Australians returning home.

The Healthcare industry is one of the fastest-growing employment sectors and has many vacancies; there is a correspondingly large amount of healthcare professions on the relevant eligible Skilled Occupations Lists, which provide access to the various visa classes. For many of the sought-after occupations, there is even the option of obtaining a Permanent Resident visa directly. The high current need for healthcare professionals in Australia means that many healthcare professions are listed as in-demand careers on the [Australian Skilled Occupation List](#)

Individuals who wish to work in Australia in the healthcare industry must be registered with the responsible medical board. These boards, together with the Australian Health Practitioner Agency, oversee the registration process for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, and other health professionals. It should be noted that registration to practise medicine in Australia is partially independent from the skills assessment for visa purposes.



TRAVEL EXEMPTIONS FOR PARENTS

Due to the current travel ban, parents of Australian citizens and Permanent residents are not allowed to enter Australia. Nearly half of all Australians were either born overseas or had at least one parent who was. Families have been separated, which is causing mental and emotional stress. From 01 November 2021, Parents will be considered immediate family members of an Australian citizen or permanent resident or New Zealand citizen usually resident in Australia and will qualify for individual travel exemption to the current travel restrictions. The rule change will allow parents of Australian citizens and permanent residents to return to states and territories that have reached 80 per cent full vaccination targets.



LODGING AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP THROUGH ONLINE

From 01 November 2021, applicants for Australian citizenship by descent and Evidence of Australian citizenship will need to lodge their application through the online system, Immi Account.

Paper-based applications will no longer be accepted. There will be no change to the availability of paper application forms for Australian citizenship by conferral, however, citizenship by conferral applications are encouraged to be lodged online wherever possible.



BUPA MEDICAL CENTRES REOPENING FOR HEALTH EXAMINATION

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and in line with relevant State/Territory Public Health Orders, some Medical centres were temporarily closed. Home Affairs is aware of the limited availability in medical centres and that appointments may exceed the 28-day time frame given. The Department has been granted additional time to complete health checks and provide the requested information.

Commencing from Monday 25 October 2021, Medical centres are prioritizing the rebooking of appointments for customers who had their visa medical examination cancelled as a result of the temporary closures of NSW/VIC clinics.

COVID – 19 TRAVEL UPDATES

Leaving and returning to Australia

Fully vaccinated Australians will soon be able to travel internationally without first obtaining an exemption.

The Government has announced that Australian citizens and permanent residents aged 12 and up who have received two doses of a recognized vaccine will be eligible to travel without exception. This could begin in November, but more details will be available soon. Children under the age of 12 and those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons will also be able to go abroad without an exemption.



When departing or entering Australia, Australian citizens and permanent residents who do not fulfil the eligibility conditions must continue to use the present border procedures.

When returning to Australia, Australian citizens and permanent residents who have been completely vaccinated with an Australian Government-approved vaccination or who are under the age of 12 may be eligible for reduced quarantine. When travelling to Australia, applicants are required to show proof of vaccination at check-in.

Quarantine

States and territories are responsible for setting and managing reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated Australians and permanent residents. This may include a brief period of quarantine at home. More details about quarantine arrangements need to be checked with the particular state or territory.

VISITOR VISA APPLICATIONS

The Department is currently implementing Phase 1 of complete online application arrangements for Visitor visas.

Phase 1 has begun on September 30, 2021, and will last until September 30, 2022.

In order to apply for a Visitor visa (subclass 600) from outside Australia in any stream, applicants must first create an Immi Account

Applicants who want to apply for a Tourist Visitor visa (subclass 600) in Australia can do so either online through Immi Account or by mailing their application to the Sydney office. The option of using a courier will be removed.



Phase 2 will begin in early 2022.

All candidates applying for a Visitor visa (subclass 600) in the Tourist stream in Australia must lodge their application online via Immi Account.

Paper applications will no longer be considered valid for lodgement as a result of these changes.

NSW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARRIVALS PILOT PLAN

The Australian and NSW governments have both supported the NSW International Student Arrivals Plan, which aims to bring international students back to the state. From early December 2021, the Plan will allow 250 overseas students studying with NSW education institutions to return every two weeks.

At this point, few specifics about the Plan or which applicants will be chosen have been revealed.

The international students will need to be fully vaccinated with a Therapeutic Good Administration (TGA) recognized COVID-19 vaccination before landing in Sydney.

International students will be quarantined in Sydney's purpose-built student accommodation and must follow the same health and quarantine rules as returning Australians.

The NSW International Student Arrivals Return Plan will not displace any returning Australians and will be entirely financed by industry, with in-kind assistance from the NSW Government in terms of logistics and coordination.



AGRICULTURAL WORK VISA

The new stream will be open to sponsored applicants who really want to join the Australian Agricultural Worker Program (AAWP), and will allow employees to work in primary industries like horticulture, dairy, wool, grains, meat processing, fisheries, and forestry.

The AAWP will be managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and bilateral agreements with foreign governments will be negotiated for it. This program is only open to visa applicants who are citizens of countries that have signed an AAWP agreement.

Employers engaging in the AAWP, like those in the Seasonal Worker Program and the Pacific Labor Scheme streams, must complete the DAFT-approved accreditation process and be a temporary activity sponsor.

Sponsored AAWP visa holders will be able to work for employers other than the sponsoring employer with the permission of DFAT under new Condition 8611. Permission may be given if the sponsor does not have work for the visa holder for an extended period of time and other labor shortages persist, or if the sponsor has been accused of exploitation of employees.

Visas will be valid for up to four years with multiple entries and a maximum stay of seven (Condition 8575) or ten (Condition 8576) months in any 12-month period. The differences between the two stay periods are yet to be revealed.

The Australia-UK Free Trade Deal (AUKFTA) is the first bilateral trade agreement to include AAWP provisions. Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa holders from the United Kingdom will no longer be needed to do specified work, such as agricultural labour, in order to be eligible for a second or third Australian WHM visa under this agreement. As new agreements are reached, more countries will be added to the AAWP.



MANITOBA INVITES 459 PNP CANDIDATES



The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) invited a total of 459 immigration candidates across three Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs) on October 21.

The results are as follows:

- Skilled Workers in Manitoba — 388 invitations with a minimum score of 375;
- Skilled Workers Overseas — 39 invitations with a minimum score of 716; and
- International Education Stream — 37 invitations with no score requirement.

Among these invitations, 94 went to candidates in the Express Entry system.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND INVITES 204 PNP CANDIDATES



Prince Edward Island held its scheduled immigration draw on October 21.

The Prince Edward Island Provincial Nominee Program (PEI PNP) invited 204 immigration candidates to apply for a provincial nomination.

Most of the invitations, 195, went to Express Entry and Labour Impact candidates. The remaining nine invitations went to Business Impact candidates who had at least 72 points in the province's immigration system.

PNPs allow Canada's provinces and territories to select

immigration candidates who meet their labour market needs. This is true of Prince Edward Island, which administers the Prince Edward Island Provincial Nominee Program (PEI PNP) within federally-approved guidelines.

The next PEI PNP draw is expected for November 18, 2021.

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CANADA HAS NOW HELD 20 DRAWS JUST FOR PNP CANDIDATES THIS YEAR.



On October 13, Canada held another Express Entry draw for candidates who had provincial nominations to apply for permanent residence.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) issued 681 invitations to candidates who had scores of at least 720. All invited candidates had received an automatic 600 points by virtue of holding a nomination from a Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). Without the nomination, the lowest-scoring candidates would only have scores of 120.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA PNP: OVER 400 WORKERS, GRADUATES, ENTREPRENEURS INVITED

British Columbia invited over 400 immigration candidates through four Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) draws held on October 12, 2021.

Candidates from the Skills Immigration (SI) and Express Entry BC (EEBC) streams of the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) received invitations in a regularly held general draw.

More specifically, invitations were issued to those from the Skilled Worker, International Graduate as well as Entry Level and Semi-Skilled sub-categories of SI and EEBC streams



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NEW BUDGET AIRLINE- BONZA TO ENTER

A new domestic airline, Bonza is set to be launched early next year (2022), offering budget flights.

The former Virgin Blue executive behind the new domestic airline says it will offer lower prices, new planes and a variety of new routes for travel as restrictions begin to ease over the next few months. The founder of the new airline states some routes will not be available elsewhere and customers will benefit from lower airfares.

Bonza Airlines, currently backed by the US investment firm 777 Partners, will compete with other existing carriers such as Jetstar, Qantas, Rex and Virgin in the domestic aviation market once travel restrictions begin to ease. Bonza airlines is set to launch in early 2022 with numerous Boeing 737-8 aircrafts. The company is thought to have its headquarters either in NSW or South- East QLD and comprise up to 100 people in head office.



The new airline has had hundreds of applications for positions and it is thought that the airline is likely to hire former Qantas and Virgin staff that were let go during the pandemic.

Founder and CEO of Bonza, Tim Jordan, told The World Today that the project had been years in the making.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MISSION TO THE MOON

In recent weeks The Morrison Government have reached an agreement with NASA for an Australian made rover to be included in a future mission to the Moon. Both Australian businesses and researchers will come together to develop the semi-autonomous rover. This project will be funded by up to \$50 million dollars from the Trailblazer program in the Government's Moon to Mars initiative.



The Australian made rover will be built to collect lunar soil that contains oxides and using separate equipment NASA will aim to extract oxygen from the soil for further research. This new mission will provide a great opportunity for Australia to be successful in the global space sector. This project will also contribute to the Australia's growing economy, providing multiple job opportunities for Australians in the recovery process following COVID-19. The Government hope to triple the size of their space sector by the year 2030, creating up to 20,000 new, high- skilled jobs providing more opportunities for Australians and industries.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said: "This agreement will serve to strengthen the long-time relationship between the United States and Australia in areas related to space exploration"

Under the current agreement, the rover is set to be flown by NASA to the Moon in early 2026 if the range of conditions during development are met.

EVENTS AND WEBINARS

YOU CAN NOW WATCH
OUR PREVIOUS VIDEOS
AND WEBINARS
FROM BELOW LINKS,

- ⇒ [General Skilled Migration Australia - Current Outlook](#)
- ⇒ [Business Visa to Australia \(English Session\)](#)
- ⇒ [Business Visa to Australia \(Sinhala Session\)](#)
- ⇒ [Business Migration pathways to Australia](#)
- ⇒ [Introducing the Sanji Caldera Education foundation](#)
- ⇒ [Get your PR in Australia with employer sponsored visa? How would an employer-sponsored visa help you achieve your Australian permanent residency?](#)
- ⇒ [Are you skilled and lacking in work experience? How can 407 training visa help you?](#)
- ⇒ [Discover much more about 482 subclass](#)
- ⇒ [How do you apply for permanent residency in Australia?](#)
- ⇒ [New Budget announcement 2021](#)



The information contained within this newsletter is to provide advice of a general nature only and is not to be taken as individual advice for your personal circumstances. Information provided is subject to change at any time, and before proceeding with an application you should seek professional personalized advice about your circumstances.

We cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Because Australian immigration law and regulations change regularly, it is best to contact us before making any decisions. Alternatively, up to date information can be checked on the website of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

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