



## Inwards Travel Restrictions Operation Directive

### Situation

1. From 20 March 2020, travel restrictions have been in place prohibiting travel into Australia of all foreign nationals, unless exempt. The travel restrictions have been successful in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Australia and were implemented on the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).
2. The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister through the National Security Committee to consider on a case by case basis a request for inwards travel where there are compassionate or compelling circumstances.
3. The ABF Commissioner or authorised senior APS decision makers (APS 6 to SES Band 1) will consider inwards requests.
4. The following categories of people are automatically exempt from travel restrictions and are not required to request an individual exemption. Evidence must be provided:
  - an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
  - an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - a New Zealand citizen usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members
  - airline crew, maritime crew, and associated safety workers
  - a diplomat accredited to Australia, including their immediate family members (each member of the family unit must hold a valid subclass 995 visa)
  - a person transiting Australia for 72 hours or less.
  - a person recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme
  - a person who holds a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa
5. Non-citizens apply in advance of planned travel via the Travel Exemption Portal:  
<https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>
6. All people arriving in Australia are required to undertake a mandatory government controlled 14 day quarantine period at designated facilities (for example, a hotel) in their port of arrival, unless they have received an exemption from the relevant state or territory government health authority.

### Explanation

7. The inwards travel restrictions for people coming to Australia do not apply to the following categories of people:

Category	Details
<b>Australian citizens and permanent residents</b>	Airline assesses identity documentation at time of boarding. Where evidence is not clear, airlines will contact the Border Operations Centre for advice.

Category	Details
<p><b>Immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents</b></p>	<p>The travel restrictions do not apply to immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents. Holders of a Partner visa (subclasses 100, 309, 801 and 820) or a Child visa (subclasses 101, 102, 445) are permitted to board and do not need to submit an exemption request.</p> <p>Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visas are <b>not</b> covered by these arrangements.</p> <p><b>Temporary visa holders or people who do not hold a substantive visa</b></p> <p>Non-citizens claiming to be immediate family members who hold temporary visas or have applied for a visa need to provide documentary evidence that they are an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident through the Travel Exemption Portal for assessment.</p> <p>Examples of documentary evidence may include: a marriage certificate, de-facto or civil partnership registration, shared financial commitments, joint residence arrangements or birth certificates.</p> <p>If a person is holding a Bridging Visa B (BVB), assessing officers should check to determine which subclass of visa application is in progress. If the visa application in progress relates to one of the Child or Partner visas referred to above (excepting Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visas), officers should take that into account in line with the intent and purpose of this exemption category. Officers should still take all available evidence and circumstances into consideration.</p>
<p><b>New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members</b></p>	<p>New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia need to provide evidence of residency in Australia. New Zealand citizens can provide this at check-in at time of boarding. If New Zealand citizens would like their evidence of residency assessed by the Department prior to travel to Australia, they can submit a request via the Travel Exemption Portal.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government issued documentation (for example Australian issued driver's licence, Medicare card, registration as an Australian resident with the Australian Tax Office)</li> <li>• Evidence of current employment or approved study in Australia (or financial support evidenced through a local bank statement) or</li> <li>• Ownership or rental of a property in Australia (e.g. utility bills, rates notices, lease agreement)</li> <li>• The location of immediate family members</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Length of time spent onshore in Australia prior to last departure (movement record history) and significant ties onshore should all be taken into consideration when determining residency status.</p>
<p><b>Aviation, maritime crew and associated safety workers and essential workers</b></p>	<p>Australia's travel restrictions do not apply to aviation and maritime commercial crew.</p> <p><b>Maritime Crew</b></p> <p>Maritime crew includes any person required to be part of a crew supporting the operation of a commercial vessel or physically working on an offshore installation (i.e. oil and gas) in Australian waters.</p> <p>A commercial vessel is any vessel that is in Australia for commercial trading purposes that is not a Superyacht or Cruise Ship. Commercial activity includes: support in the movement of freight and important industries (such as the resources industry) or provision of port services, maintenance services, marine pilots and marine surveyors.</p>

Category	Details
	<p>Marine pilots are included under the definition of maritime crew for purposes of travel to and from Australia by air. Arriving military crew are exempt in line with commercial crew. <u>This provision does <b>not</b> apply to maritime crew on cruise ships, small craft, or superyachts.</u></p> <p><b>Aviation Crew</b></p> <p>Aviation crew includes airline, medevac and air ambulance crew, including off-shift crew who are travelling as passengers on an aircraft to reposition at another location. Aviation crew also includes US Air Marshalls travelling in the course of their duties.</p> <p>ABF considers the presence of professional animal attendants to be essential for the safe operation of an aircraft carrying live cargo. Therefore, for the sole purpose of Australia's travel restrictions, aviation crew <u>includes</u> professional animal attendants, where the cargo includes live animals. Please note that the status of professional animal attendants as crew does not apply in any other context, and that an attendant must hold a valid visa.</p> <p><b>Associated safety workers</b></p> <p>A safety worker is someone who is involved or responsible for the development, management or monitoring of safety of the aviation, maritime and transport sectors (i.e. engineer, technicians, safety coordinators). Travellers should provide evidence of their employment and reason for travel. All other safety workers should apply for an exemption.</p>

<p><b>Diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members</b></p>	<p>Travel restrictions do not apply to Diplomatic (subclass 995) visa holders. This includes both diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members.</p>
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<p><b>People transiting through Australia for 72 hours or less</b></p>	<p>People can transit through Australia if their transit time in Australia is 72 hours or less. All transit passengers must hold a valid visa or be eligible for Transit Without a Visa (TWOV) arrangements.</p> <p>People transiting through Australia for more than 72 hours will need to request an exemption.</p>
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<p><b>People recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme</b></p>	<p>Travel restrictions do not apply to Temporary Work (International Relations) (subclass 403) visa holders under the Seasonal Worker Program stream and Pacific Labour scheme stream.</p>
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- The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister (through the National Security Committee) to consider on a case by case basis requests for exemption to travel restrictions. Refer to the Commissioner's Guidelines for information relating to individual exemption requests.