



## Travel Exemptions Processing Report

Financial year:	2019–20 <sup>1</sup>		2020–21		2021–22 <sup>2</sup>		Total	
<b>Travel exemption requests received (prior to 1 August 2020, a request may include more than one person)</b>								
Outwards	59,831		303,969		148,090		511,890	
Inwards	62,820		269,552		335,241		667,613	
<b>Outwards travel exemption decisions</b>								
Category	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>
Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak	216	33	530	135	316	200	1,062	368
Critical industries and business	1,791	235	21,511	7,144	13,036	5,951	36,338	13,330
Urgent medical treatment	219	100	1,047	1,098	426	915	1,692	2,113
Travelling overseas for at least 3 months <sup>4</sup>	N/A		86,374	25,711	43,273	18,708	129,647	44,419
Ordinarily resident outside Australia <sup>5</sup>	N/A		N/A		7,683	2,926	7,683	2,926
Urgent and unavoidable personal business	3,739	1,098	9,764	6,748	1,464	2,612	14,967	10,458
Compassionate and compelling grounds	6,652	2,115	37,633	49,681	17,103	22,479	61,388	74,275
National interest	75	8	1,477	71	1,738	117	3,290	196
<b>Total outwards approved/refused</b>	<b>12,692</b>	<b>3,589</b>	<b>158,336</b>	<b>90,588</b>	<b>85,039</b>	<b>53,908</b>	<b>256,067</b>	<b>148,085</b>
Otherwise finalised <sup>6</sup>	43,550		49,282		14,906		107,738	
<b>Total finalisations for outwards</b>	<b>59,831</b>		<b>298,206</b>		<b>153,853</b>		<b>511,890</b>	
<b>Inwards travel exemptions decisions</b>								
Category	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>	Approved	Refused <sup>3</sup>
Compassionate and compelling	1,658	340	9,885	85,684	15,948	47,081	27,491	133,105
Critical skills – Medical	338	<5	1,440	196	835	115	2,613	314
Critical skills – other	929	52	28,011	29,631	18,197	21,965	47,137	51,648
International Student Arrival Plans	N/A		N/A		1,609	30	1,609	30
National interest (including diplomatic)	169	<5	2,260	26	2,855	5	5,284	32
Urgent Medical Treatment	55	<5	637	410	413	232	1,105	642
Transit	6,953	9	824	<5	N/A		7,777	9
<b>Total inwards approved/refused</b>	<b>10,102</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>43,057</b>	<b>115,947</b>	<b>39,857</b>	<b>69,428</b>	<b>93,016</b>	<b>185,780</b>
Immediate family - parents of adult Australians <sup>7</sup>	N/A		N/A		135,954		135,954	
Immediate family - other <sup>8</sup>	Included in "Otherwise finalised"		16,362		23,653		40,015	
Otherwise finalised <sup>6</sup>	49,337		91,701		71,810		212,848	
<b>Total finalisations for inwards</b>	<b>59,844</b>		<b>267,067</b>		<b>340,702</b>		<b>667,613</b>	

These statistics are as at 6 July 2022. Data prior to 1 August 2020 is collated manually from multiple systems.

<sup>1</sup> Figures are since 20 March 2020 for inwards exemptions and 25 March 2020 for outwards exemptions

<sup>2</sup> Outwards restrictions ended from 18 April 2022, and Inwards restrictions from 6 July 2022. Processing numbers for 1-6 July 2022 are included in 2021–22.

<sup>3</sup> Refused requests generally failed to support their claims or did not meet the guidelines for an exemption to be approved.

<sup>4</sup> Prior to 30 September 2020, this category was included within "Urgent and unavoidable personal business". "For a compelling reason" was added on 8 January 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Became a discretionary category rather than automatically exempt from 11 August 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Otherwise finalised includes persons found to meet an automatically exempt category, withdrawn requests, those that did not contain sufficient information for referral to a decision maker, and requests finalised without a decision when there were changes to policy settings.

<sup>7</sup> Parents of adult Australian citizens and permanent residents. Processing of this cohort commenced from 22 October 2021, for travel on or after 1 November 2021 - with approved parents required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to travel. The category was removed from 21 February 2022 when all fully vaccinated visa holders became exempt from inwards travel restrictions.

<sup>8</sup> Individuals found to be the immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident from 1 August 2020, excluding parents of adult Australians. Assessments before processing moved to the Travel Exemption Portal are included in "otherwise finalised"

**Authorising Officer:** Assistant Secretary, Temporary Visas and Travel Exemptions

**Date:** Wednesday, 6 July 2022