



FA 21/02/00417 – Travel Exemptions

Question:

1. International workers with a 457 or 482 visa who successfully applied for an exemption enabling them to re-enter Australia despite the travel ban.
2. International workers with a 457 or 482 visa who unsuccessfully applied for an exemption enabling them to re-enter Australia despite the travel ban.
3. Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia who successfully applied for an exemption enabling them to re-enter Australia despite the travel ban.
4. Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia who unsuccessfully applied for an exemption enabling them to re-enter Australia despite the travel ban.

I'm seeking access to the statistics/numbers for all of them but seek further information, specifically the reason why and where they were applying from for points 1 and 4.

Answer:

Australian citizens and permanent residents are automatically exempt from restrictions on travel to Australia (that is, re-entering Australia).

Between 1 August 2020 and 4 February 2021, there were 14,837 travel exemption requests finalised where the applicant declared they held or had applied for a Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) or Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa.

Travel exemption data cannot be disaggregated by visa subclass prior to 1 August 2020, when processing of travel exemption requests moved to the Travel Exemption Portal.

Of these requests:

- 6,173 were approved
- 6,214 were refused
- 2,450 were otherwise finalised*

** Otherwise finalised includes those found to meet an existing exemption category, withdrawn requests, duplicates and those that did not include enough information for consideration by a decision maker.*

Further details of approved travel exemptions by category and current location (as advised by clients) is provided in the tables below.

Subclass 457/482 visa holders/applicants: travel exemptions approved between 1 August 2020 and 4 February 2021 by discretionary category

| Category | Approvals |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Critical Skills | 5,343 |
| Critical medical services | 423 |
| Compassionate and compelling | 390 |
| Other | 17 |
| Total | 6,173 |

Subclass 457/482 visa holders/applicants: travel exemptions approved between 1 August 2020 and 4 February 2021 by top 10 "current location" countries (as declared by clients)

| Current location country | Approvals |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| United Kingdom | 818 |
| India | 733 |
| South Africa | 446 |
| Australia | 401 |
| China | 356 |
| United States of America | 339 |
| Japan | 280 |
| Ireland | 263 |
| Philippines | 232 |
| Singapore | 185 |
| <i>Other</i> | <i>2,120</i> |
| Total | 6,173 |