



# Travel Exemptions – request for information response

## Question:

On 27 November 2021, the Department received FOI request FA 21/11/01345 seeking the following travel exemptions statistics held by the Department:

*Statistics of how many travel exemptions for Australian citizens, permanent residents and family have been applied for and how many have been approved between the dates 1 November 2021 and 1 December 2021? How many de facto family member applications were applied for in that time? How many of each nationality applied and how many of each nationality was approved?*

## Answer:

Australian citizens and permanent residents do not need to apply for travel exemptions to enter Australia. They are subject to restrictions on leaving Australia, however from 1 November 2021, only require a travel exemption to depart Australia if they are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (including those unable to be vaccinated due to age or for medical reasons).

Outbound travel restrictions only apply to Australian citizens and permanent residents, and not to family members who are not also citizens or permanent residents in their own right.

Between 1 November and 27 November 2021:

- 2,609 requests<sup>1</sup> for an outbound travel exemption<sup>2</sup> were received<sup>3</sup>
- 1,597 outbound requests were approved<sup>4</sup>.

Immediate family members of an Australian citizen or permanent resident are exempt from restrictions on entering Australia. Partner (subclasses 100, 309, 801 and 820) and Child (subclasses 101, 102 and 445) visa holders do not need to apply for a travel exemption, as their immediate family relationship has already been assessed. Other visa holders may apply for a travel exemption so the relationship can be assessed before they travel.

Between 1 November and 27 November 2021:

- 55,974 requests for an inbound travel exemption were received under the enquiry type 'Immediate family member (spouse, de facto partners, dependent child, parent or legal guardian) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident'
- 45,037 inbound requests were assessed as being an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident, and therefore exempt from travel restrictions.

<sup>1</sup> 'Requests' refers to system transactions. An individual may submit more than one request

<sup>2</sup> While only Australian citizens and permanent residents are required to apply for an outward travel exemption, data may include requests submitted in error by temporary visa holders.

<sup>3</sup> May not be the same requests received and approved, where cases were received before, or finalised after, the reporting period.

<sup>4</sup> Outbound approvals exclude persons found to meet an already exempt category, requests that did not contain sufficient information for consideration by a decision maker, withdrawn and duplicate requests.

**Inwards travel exemption requests received, and/or approved 1– 27 November 2021, where the primary traveller’s declared relationship with an Australian citizen or permanent resident is ‘de facto partner’<sup>5</sup>, by top 10 passport country<sup>6</sup>**

<b>Passport Country</b>	<b>Requests received</b>	<b>Requests approved</b>
United Kingdom	763	342
United States of America	459	172
Canada	213	84
Germany	190	45
Philippines	156	23
France	122	46
China	120	9
Netherlands	110	41
Sweden	104	33
Ireland	77	36
Other	1,272	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>1,129</b>

<sup>5</sup> Data includes all the travellers in the request, including dependent family members

<sup>6</sup> The Travel Exemption Portal captures passport country but not nationality. Passport country data is based on client declaration.