



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 APS decision makers (APS 3 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
 - a person who has been in New Zealand or Australia for 14 days or more immediately prior to arrival by air in Australia
 - airline crew, commercial 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
 - a person who holds a Temporary Activity (subclass 408) visa in the 'Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery Event' stream and who is supported by the Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce.
 - a person invited or sponsored by the Australian Defence Force or the Department of Defence to undertake military activities
 - a person who has a prescribed status and seeking to enter Australia on a Special Purpose visa.
5. In line with the National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response, the Australian Government announced that from 21 February 2022, all fully vaccinated visa holders are also exempt from the travel restrictions and are not required to request an individual exemption. Evidence of vaccination status must be provided. Refer to the Department of Home Affairs website www.homeaffairs.gov.au/covid19/vaccination-testing for information relating to who Australia considers to be fully vaccinated.
6. Unless arriving into participating Australian jurisdictions that support quarantine free travel or on a quarantine-free flight from New Zealand, all people arriving into Australia are required to comply with the quarantine requirements in the state or territory of arrival, and any other state or territories that they plan to travel to.

Explanation – exemption category available for fully vaccinated persons

Category	Details
Fully vaccinated travellers	<p>All travellers may enter Australia without needing to apply for a travel exemption if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hold a valid Australian visa, or are a New Zealand citizen eligible for a Special Category (subclass 444) visa on arrival • provide evidence they are fully vaccinated with a completed course of an Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved or recognised vaccine; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 'fully vaccinated' means that at least seven days have passed since the last dose was administered. ○ children under the age of 18 years are exempt, regardless of their vaccination status, when travelling with a fully-vaccinated parent or guardian*. ○ Children under the age of 12 years and people who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons and have evidence of a medical contraindication are exempt from travel restrictions*. <p>*Note: unvaccinated children under 18 years and people who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons need to check the quarantine requirements of their arrival state as quarantine free travel may not be permitted in these circumstances.</p>

Explanation – exemption categories available regardless of vaccination status

Category	Details
Australian citizens and permanent residents	Airline assesses identity documentation at time of boarding. Where evidence is not clear, airlines will contact the Border Operations Centre for advice.
Immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents	<p>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>Temporary visa holders or people who do not hold a substantive visa</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>Note: The category for Parents of adult Australia citizens and permanent residents available within the immediate family category from 1 November 2021 was only available to fully vaccinated travellers. From 21 February 2022, this category is no longer required, as all fully vaccinated visa holders may enter Australia without prior assessment of their family relationship.</p>

Category	Details
New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members	<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"> • Government issued documentation (for example Australian issued driver's licence, Medicare card, registration as an Australian resident with the Australian Tax Office) • Evidence of current employment or approved study in Australia (or financial support evidenced through a local bank statement) or • Ownership or rental of a property in Australia (e.g. utility bills, rates notices, lease agreement) • The location of immediate family members <p>Note: 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>
Those who have been in New Zealand or Australia for 14 days or more travelling to Australia via air	<p>Prior to 21 February 2022, there was an exemption category for all Non-citizens who have been only in New Zealand or Australia for 14 days or more prior to travel are able to travel between Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>From 21 February 2022, this exemption category is no longer available, and all arrivals from New Zealand must be fully vaccinated, meet another exemption category or hold an individual travel exemption.</p>
Diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members	<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>
People transiting through Australia for 72 hours or less	<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>
People recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme	<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>
People who hold a Temporary Activity (subclass 408) visa in the Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery Event stream and are supported by the GBTAT	<p>To be eligible for exemption under this category you must be supported by the Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce to obtain a Temporary Activity (subclass 408) 'Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery Event' stream visa.</p> <p>Note: eligible applicants will be contacted by the Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce.</p>

Category	Details
Aviation, commercial maritime crew and associated safety workers and essential workers	<p>Australia's travel restrictions do not apply to aviation and commercial maritime crew.</p> <p>Commercial Maritime Crew</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> <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 not apply to maritime crew on cruise ships, small craft, or superyachts.</u></p> <p>Aviation Crew</p> <p>Aviation crew includes airline, medevac and air ambulance crew, including offshift 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. For the purposes of Australia's COVID-19 international travel exemptions, an 'animal attendant' is exempt from travel restrictions if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompany a live animal on an inbound or outbound international cargo flight; and • Remain in Australia for a short lay-over period, until their outbound flight. <p>Associated safety workers</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>
Defence-sponsored military activities	<p>Military personnel and contractors who have been invited/sponsored by the Australian Defence Force or the Department of Defence are automatically exempt.</p> <p>Note: Military personnel will be required to present their military ID, passport and movement orders on arrival as evidence of exemption.</p> <p>Note Military contractors are required present evidence of employment with an international military service.</p>
People who have a prescribed status and seeking to enter Australia on a Special Purpose visa.	<p>Travel restrictions do not apply to people who have a prescribed status and seeking to enter Australia on a Special Purpose visa.</p>

7. 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 <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/covid-19/Documents/commissioners-guidelines.pdf> for information relating to individual exemption requests.