



Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

General Skilled Migration 2001

for

General Skilled Migration
&
Skill Matching

This pack contains additional local information to assist you in lodging an application through the London Office. This additional information will enable you to make a complete application.



Migration Branch, Australian High Commission, Strand, London, WC2B 4LA



MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

UK Supplementary notes

VISA APPLICATION PAYMENT

Please pay by cheque or postal order made payable to the **AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION**. One application charge covers all family unit members included in your application.

PROCESSING TIMES

The table below shows average processing times. We stress that these are **average times only** and individual applications can vary significantly. Please consult the website for current processing times. **You should not make any commitments on the basis of this information until the application has been approved.**

APPLICATION CLASS & AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME (IN MONTHS)			
PARTNER	6	EMPLOYER SPONSORED	4
CHILD	4	BUSINESS	4
GENERAL SKILLED	9	SPECIAL	6

Please Note: For *Parent* and *Other Family* subclasses which are affected by a cap on the number of visas granted each program year, it is not possible to provide average processing times. Depending on future Government decisions it is possible that some present and prospective applicants in the parent subclass might have to wait many years before visas are granted.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

To obtain medical for 26 and medical form 160 you will need to write to the Migration Branch clearly stating how many of each form you require,

CHARACTER REQUIREMENTS

If you have been a resident outside of the UK for more than 1 year out of the last 10 years please refer to form 47P for guidance on obtaining the relevant police certificate. Form 47P can be downloaded from the website.

You should submit health and character checks at the time you lodge your migration application,

as we cannot proceed with your application without this information.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

You can help us by:

- taking the time to read all instructions carefully, filling in your application form completely and providing us with **all** the required documentation;
- **not telephoning** to ask about the progress of your application, unless you have an **urgent** reason for doing so;
- if you send correspondence during the processing of your application and you would like an acknowledgement that it has been received, please enclose a stamped self addressed **postcard** (not an envelope) and it will be posted back to you. It will not contain information regarding progress of your application.
- **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR APPLICATION.** Any documents should be certified copies and may be certified by a magistrate, solicitor, Justice of the Peace or Notary Public.
- If you are applying for Migration and were born and/or educated in the UK, you do not need to provide evidence with your application that you are a native English speaker.

LODGING YOUR APPLICATION

Post your applications to:-

**Migration Branch
Australia House
The Strand
LONDON WC2B 4LA**
(Counter open
09.00 am to 12.00 mid-day)

An acknowledgment will be sent to you - do not contact us about the application unless it has taken more than 28 days to receive the acknowledgment.



Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT & INTERPRETATION (MIGRATION AGENTS & CONSULTANTS)

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs does not provide a general inquiry or pre-application assessment service.

Information regarding applications for visas to Australia is contained in the relevant information sheet or booklet. The information provided is designed to enable the potential applicant to assess their entitlement before applying and paying the application charge.

If, after receiving the Migration Application and Information Booklet, you are unsure of your entitlement or have specific queries which have not been addressed, you may wish to consider seeking advice from a suitably qualified migration agent or consultant.

THE DECISION TO USE AN AGENT OR CONSULTANT RESTS SOLELY WITH THE APPLICANT AND MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO PROCESSING PRIORITY.

REGULATION OF MIGRATION AGENTS

Currently there are no licensing or registration requirements for migration agents within the United Kingdom who provide advice about visas for Australia.

Under law a person providing immigration assistance in Australia must be registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA). Some registered migration agents also operate in countries outside Australia. Registered migration agents are bound by a Code of Conduct. If you have a problem with a registered agent, you can contact the MARA to assist you. MARA's functions include investigating complaints made against registered migration agents and imposing sanctions on agents who breach ethical and professional standards.

If you intend to use an agent you are advised to use a registered agent. For further information and a full list regarding registered migration agents you should contact the:

**Migration Agents Registration Authority
PO Box Q1551
QVB NSW 1230
Australia**

or on the internet at www.mia.org.au All registered agents are listed on the above website.

Some registered migration agents are located in the UK. The list below includes those we are aware of with a MARA business address in the London region of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA). This list should not be considered as an official recommendation of any particular agent. Please note that the list is subject to change depending on MARA registration. Other registered agents practising in the Dima London Region do so directly from Australia and other countries.

REGISTERED AUSTRALIAN MIGRATION AGENTS WITH A MARA BUSINESS ADDRESS IN THE DIMA LONDON REGION:

Zeno Bolzicco
Ian Harrop & Associates
Lloyds Bank Chambers
High St
Lechdale
Gloucestershire GL7 3AF
zbolzicco@aol.com
Ph 020 8540 8448
Fax 020 8540 5811
MARA reg no 82940

Grahame Igglesden
Concept Australia
3 Berryfield Close
Off Chislehurst Rd
Bromley
Kent BR1 2WF
aisgi@aol.com
Ph 020 8467 8521
Fax 020 8467 8522
MARA reg no 9901024

Helen Burnard
Cooper Lancaster Brewers
Chartered Accountants
Aldwych House
81 Aldwych
London WC2B 4HP
hburnard@compuserve.com
Ph 020 7242 2444
Fax 020 7242 1117
MARA reg no 50073

David Lloyd
Oceania Development
Group Ltd
5 Manfred Rd
London
SW15 2RS
alex13@trg.com
Ph 020 8874 2844
Fax 020 8874 1178
MARA reg no 51054

Richard Gregan
Overseas Experience
16 Forth St
Edinburgh
EH1 3LH
Scotland
richard@my-oe.com
Ph 0131 550 3749
Fax 0131 550 3701
MARA reg no 9905168

Susan Sandhoff
Australian Immigration
& Trade Services
Hagenstrasse 250
Ringgenberg
3852 Switzerland
aits@tcnet.ch
Ph (+41) 33823 0950
Fax (+41) 33823 0952
MARA reg no 91613

Ian Harrop
Ian Harrop & Associates
Pogle Cottage
Filkins
Lechdale
Gloucestershire GL7 3JQ
ianharrop@aol.com
Ph 01367 860850
Fax 01367 860851
MARA reg no 88135

Rupert Ward
Oceania Development
Group Ltd
25 Nassaulaan
Amsterdam
1075 AJ NetherlandsUK
rward@pop3.nl.net
Ph (+31) 20 6717 017
Fax (+31) 20 6760065
MARA reg no 81678

FEES & CHARGES Migration agents and consultants provide a commercial service. The level of fees charged by agents varies widely.



Have you ever considered **SKILL MATCHING**

If you are applying for Independent Migration and complete Part I of the application form (Skilled Matching) as well, we shall complete an initial assessment of your application quickly after receiving it.

Skill matching is a mechanism designed to meet skill needs in different areas of Australia. It is an option for persons who are considering applying for migration in the Skilled - Independent and Skill Matching visa categories (it does **not** apply to persons applying for the Skilled - Australian Sponsored or Skilled - Regional Sponsored categories).

If you:

- **have been assessed by an Australian assessing authority as having a skilled occupation; and**
- **are prepared to live and work in an area of Australia where your skills are in demand**

then you might like to consider skill matching. There are two options available to you depending on how you assess your chances against the current Independent category pass mark:

1. If you think that you may meet the Independent category pass mark, you can participate in skill matching by completing Part I of the application form (in addition to the rest of the form) when you lodge your Independent category application. There are no extra costs involved. If you are undecided about where to settle in Australia, skill matching can assist because settling in an area where your skills are in demand may enhance your employment prospects.
2. If you believe that you may fall below the current Independent category pass mark but you do meet threshold criteria including skill, English language ability, age and work experience (please see the General Skilled Migration Booklet for detailed information), then you can apply for the Skill Matching visa using the same application form. The up front cost of applying for this visa is only \$150. Further charges apply only if you are successfully nominated.

What happens with Skill Matching data?

If you decide to participate in skill matching and you meet the relevant criteria, then your personal and occupational details will be included on the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' Skill Matching Database. This database is circulated to all State and Territory Governments and some employer groups. They may contact you to seek additional information and have the option of nominating you for migration to Australia based on the skills and work experience that you possess.

If you apply for a Skill Matching visa your data will remain on the database for 2 years. If you apply for an Independent category visa there are two possibilities:

- if you meet the pass mark and other criteria for the visa, then your details will remain on the
- database until you enter Australia as an Independent migrant; or
- if you don't meet the pass mark but you do meet the pool mark, your details will remain on the
- database for 2 years after which time your application will be refused.

This information is a summary only. Assessing Authorities have no further information about Skill Matching. Detailed information is contained in the General Skilled Migration Booklet available for sale at Australian missions overseas. General information on Australian immigration matters is available through the Internet on: www.immi.gov.au.



MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA DE FACTO SPOUSE INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of the Migration Regulations, persons are in a de facto relationship if:

- (a) they:
 - (i) are of opposite sexes; and
 - (ii) are not married to each other under a marriage that is recognised as valid for the purposes of the Act; and
 - (iii) are not within a relationship that is a prohibited relationship for the purposes of subsection 23B (2) of the Marriage Act 1961; and
- (b) they are full age, that is:
 - (i) if either of the persons is domiciled in Australia-both of them have turned 18; or
 - (ii) if neither of the persons is domiciled in Australia-both of them have turned 16; and
- (c) we are satisfied with the evidence presented, that:
 - (i) they have a mutual commitment to a shared life as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others; and
 - (ii) the relationship between them is genuine and continuing; and
 - (iii) they:
 - (A) live together; or
 - (B) do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis; and
- (d) we are satisfied with the evidence presented, that **for the period of 12 months immediately preceding the date of application** of the party relying on the existence of the relationship:
 - (i) they had a mutual commitment to a shared life as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others; and
 - (ii) the relationship between them was genuine and continuing; and
 - (iii) they had:
 - (A) been living together; or
 - (B) not been living separately and apart on a permanent basis.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Both parties in the relationship should provide a joint statement with regard to the "Profile of your Relationship" section below.

Points should be made in chronological order and supporting documentary evidence supplied in the form of good quality photocopies, certified by a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or practising solicitor. The supporting documents should be clipped together (not stapled) in chronological order with a list of enclosures.

PROFILE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP

(DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED)

In forming an opinion whether 2 persons are in a de facto relationship, the case officer will consider all of the circumstances of the relationship, including, in particular:

- (a) the financial aspects of the relationship, including:
 - (i) any joint ownership of real estate or other major assets (mortgages/leases); and
 - (ii) any joint liabilities; and
 - (iii) the extent of any pooling of financial resources, especially in relation to major financial commitments (joint bank accounts or investments); and
 - (iv) whether one party to the relationship owes any legal obligation in respect of the other; and
 - (v) the basis of any sharing of day-to-day household expenses;
- (b) the nature of the household, including:
 - (i) any joint responsibility for care and support of children, if any; and
 - (ii) the parties' living arrangements; and
 - (iii) any sharing of responsibility for housework;
- (c) the social aspects of the relationship, including:
 - (i) whether the persons represent themselves to other people as being married or in a de facto relationship with each other (please supply statutory declarations from these third parties);
 - (ii) the opinion of the persons' friends and acquaintances about the nature of the relationship (please supply statutory declarations from these third parties); and
 - (iii) any basis on which the persons plan and undertake joint social activities;
- (d) the nature of the persons' commitment to each other, including:
 - (i) the duration of the relationship (including details of the date and circumstances of the first meeting); and
 - (ii) the length of time during which the persons have lived together; and
 - (iii) the degree of companionship and emotional support that the persons draw from each other; and
 - (iv) whether the persons see the relationship as a long-term one.



MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS NOTES FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

WHO REQUIRES MEDICALS

Australian migration legislation requires that all non-Australian citizens seeking to travel to, or to remain in Australia must meet prescribed health criteria. Broadly speaking, the objective of these criteria is to protect the Australian community's:

- i. standard of public health and safety;
- ii. expenditure on health and welfare; and
- iii. access to health services.

More specifically, the criteria refer to the following requirements. The applicant is to be free of:

- i. tuberculosis or any other communicable disease that is a threat to public health in Australia;
- ii. any disease or condition (including psychiatric conditions) which is, or may result in the applicant being, a danger to the Australian community;
- iii. any disease or condition which, during the applicant's stay in Australia would be likely to:
 - a. result in a significant cost to the Australian community in the areas of health care or community services, and/or
 - b. prejudice the access of an Australian citizen or permanent resident to health care or community services.

All applicants for migration to Australia are required to undergo health checks. They must undergo a clinical examination and, if 16 or more years of age, must also have a radiological (x-ray) examination of the chest. Persons aged 15 or more years must also have a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test.

WHERE TO BEGIN

Doctors and radiologists who examine applicants outside Australia are supervised by Australian Government medical officers, who reinforce the expected standards in relation to examinations and reports.

A list of approved doctors and radiologists is included with Form 26 - Medical examination and Form 160 - Radiological report on chest x-ray. You should arrange appointments from the lists provided.

You must see the radiologist first, as the GP will need your x-ray as part of her/his examination.

ALL COSTS associated with the processing of your application, including fees relating to all medical examinations, remain the applicant's responsibility whether or not the application proceeds.

PREGNANT WOMEN

Applicants who are pregnant may not wish to undergo the chest x-ray. They would then be expected to defer the health checks - and thus the finalisation of the application - until after the baby is born. If such an applicant is prepared to have the x-ray while pregnant, special precautions are recommended. They should talk about these with their family doctor. If we have not been advised that an applicant is pregnant, the principal applicant must write to us, giving the person's name and the expected date of delivery. When the baby is born, a certified birth certificate and three passport-sized photographs of the baby must be sent to us.

MEDICAL HISTORY

If you or any of your family have had a serious illness or disability or have undergone an operation during the past five years, you must obtain a medical report giving details of the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis and hand this to the doctor who will examine you. Please have this ready to avoid delays. Again, all costs will be your responsibility.

YOUR X-RAY EXAMINATION (FORM 160)

Before your appointment:

- affix your passport sized photograph in the area indicated on Form 160;
- complete **Parts A and E** before attending the radiological examination;
- **Part B - Applicant's declaration** must be completed in the presence of the radiographer.

The radiologist will complete the form and, unless other arrangements have been made, will give you the report and x-ray to take to the GP.

YOUR GENERAL EXAMINATION (FORM 26)

Before your appointment;

- affix your passport sized photograph in the area indicated on Form 26;
- complete **Parts A and D** before attending the medical examination;
- **Part B - Applicant's declaration** must be completed in the presence of the examining doctor;
- if you have children, a parent or guardian should fill in the forms on their behalf;
- if anyone in your family wears glasses or a hearing aid, they must take them to the appointment;
- urine tests will be part of the examination for all applicants over 5 years of age.

At the end of the examination, the doctor will seal your medical (form 26) and radiological (form 160) reports in the envelopes provided and give them to you, or post them to you.

It is your responsibility to forward the **untampered and sealed** report to this office. Please note, if you have a file reference you must quote this number when forwarding your reports. The address is as follows:-

Migration Branch
Australian High Commission
Strand
LONDON WC2B 4LA

Please DO NOT send us your x-ray plates unless this office, or the doctor, requests you to do so. The x-ray report 160 is normally all we need.

PLEASE NOTE: Medical and X-ray examinations are normally valid for 12 mths from date of examination.



MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA
**THE GOOD CHARACTER
REQUIREMENT**
NOTES FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

One of the legal requirements for entry to Australia is that the applicant be of good character. Applicants are required to provide a statement regarding their criminal history from all countries/jurisdictions where an applicant has lived for 12 months, or longer, in the last 10 years, since reaching 16 years of age.

All convictions must be declared regardless of whether they are deemed “spent” under local law.

Please note that whether you have a criminal conviction or not, it is essential that you provide a statement from the appropriate authority.

In the UK, you are legally entitled to gain access to this information about yourself under Section 21 of the Data Protection Act 1984.

There are three separate authorities in the UK from which this information may be obtained. You must obtain a statement from each of the jurisdictions in which you have lived for 12 months or longer in the last 10 years, since reaching 16 years of age.

NB The relevant authorities generally charge a fee for this service. Please check the current fee with the relevant authority. All costs associated with the processing of your application remain your responsibility whether or not the application proceeds.

Make the request through your local police station for a “Person Record: Prosecution/Criminal History” or in the case of Scotland “Scottish Criminal Records” and ask for the request to be directed to one or more of the following (as appropriate to your circumstances):

1. ENGLAND & WALES

**NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SERVICE
Subject Access Office
Room 331
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
LONDON SW1H 0BG**

2. SCOTLAND

**SCOTTISH CRIMINAL RECORDS
OFFICE
173 Pitt Street
Glasgow G2 4JS**

3. NORTHERN IRELAND

**CRIMINAL RECORDS BRANCH
RUC HQ
BROOKLYN
KNOCK ROAD
BELFAST BT5 6LE**

Please include the **ORIGINAL** statement with your application or indicate that you have applied for one. NOTE: Police clearances are valid for 12 months from date of issue.



Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

Personal Particulars

Surname (present)	All other surnames used
Given names	Sex
Date of birth	Town / city of birth
Contact phone number	Country of birth
Drivers licence number	State

Permanent Residential Address Over Last Ten Years

If full details of previous addresses are unavailable details of town(s) and state(s) will suffice. <i>Please attach list if insufficient room.</i>	If actual dates are unavailable, details of year of residence will suffice.
Current	to
	to
	to
	to

CRIMINAL CHARGE, CONVICTION OR PECUNIARY PENALTIES

Tick where appropriate	
(i) criminal charge(s) still pending before a court?	Are you the subject of any [] Yes [] No
(ii) conviction(s) or finding(s) of guilt?	Do you have any [] Yes [] No
If you answered YES to any of the above questions, please attach details.	

USER CODE - 800

**Migration Branch
Australian High Commission
Strand
London
WC2B 4LA**

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE NOT RECORDED / RECORDED

NOTE: As fingerprints do not accompany your request, the Australian Federal Police cannot guarantee in any manner, that the information supplied herewith concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

Signature :
Date:
For Commissioner Australian Federal Police

POLICE RECORDS CHECK FOR ENTITLEMENTS CONSENT TO OBTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION

This form is used by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA), and applicants as part of the assessment process to determine whether a person is suitable for the receipt of a temporary visa or the grant of permanent residency. Unless statutory obligations require otherwise, the information provided on this form will not be used without your prior consent for any purpose other than in relation to the assessment.

POLICE RECORDS CHECK

Police records checks are an integral part of the assessment of your suitability for the entitlement sought. On this form you are asked to disclose whether you are the subject of criminal charge(s), including traffic violations(s), still pending before a Court, or whether you have been the subject of criminal or traffic conviction(s) or finding(s) of guilt before a Court or a traffic violation. You are not required to reveal any convictions(s), which may be protected by part VIIC, of the *Crimes Act 1914*, relating to pardoned, quashed or spent convictions, except where an exclusion applied (see explanatory note under heading SPENT CONVICTIONS SCHEME).

This form should be forwarded by you with a fee of A\$38.00 direct to the Australian Federal Police at the following address:

Criminal History Branch
Australian Federal Police
Locked Bag No. 3
WESTON ACT 2611

You are asked to consent to:

- (a) the Australian Federal Police disclosing criminal history information from its own records to DIMA from which you are seeking an entitlement; and
- (b) for the Australian Federal Police to access the records of any state police and to obtain any criminal or traffic violation history information which in turn would be disclosed to DIMA.

SPENT CONVICTIONS SCHEME

On 30 June 1990, new Commonwealth legislation relating to the collection, use and disclosure of old conviction information came into effect. This new law is commonly known as the Spent Conviction Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to prevent discrimination on the basis of certain old convictions, once a waiting period has passed and provided the individual has not re-offended. The Scheme also covers convictions where an individual's conviction has been set aside or pardoned.

DIMA has been granted a full exclusion from the spent conviction legislation, in that all convictions, findings of guilt and pending matters may be disclosed and may be released to them for the purpose of assessing Migration Act applications.

The Attorney-General, on the recommendation of the Privacy Commissioner, has granted exclusions, both partial and full, from the operation of the Scheme for several categories of entitlements.

An individual who believes the standards dealing with disclosure and use of old conviction information have been breached may apply to the Privacy Commissioner for an investigation of the matter. The address is GPO Box 5218, SYDNEY, NSW 2001.

PROVISION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

You are asked to certify that the personal information you have provided on this form is correct. If it is subsequently discovered, for example as a result of a check of police records, that you have provided false or misleading information, you may be assessed as unsuitable to receive the entitlement you seek.

It should be noted that the Australian Federal Police does not assess or adjudge your application but merely provides information to DIMA on your behalf to assist in assessing your suitability to receive the entitlement.

You should also note that the existence of a record does not mean that you will be assessed automatically as being unsuitable to receive an entitlement. Each case will be assessed on its merits, hence it is in your interest to provide full and frank details on the form.

POINTS TO NOTE WHEN COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

For the Australian Federal Police to process a character check the application must meet the following requirements:

1. Applications to be filled out in black biro or typed;
2. A photocopy of Drivers Licence or other document with photograph included must accompany application;
3. SELF STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO BE INCLUDED WITH FORM;
4. If there has been a change of names, then previous and current names MUST be included on the form (e.g. Deed Poll, Maiden Defacto, etc.);
5. Applicant's signature must not be more than 3 months old;
6. Cheque or money order for A\$38.00 made payable to Australian Federal Police must be included with all applications and posted to:

Criminal History Branch
Australian Federal Police
Locked Bag No.3
WESTON ACT 2611

**Failure to meet the required standards will result in the forms being
returned for amendment.**

STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

(When completed)

Commonwealth of Australia

CONSENT TO OBTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION

(for categories where **FULL EXCLUSION** has been granted from
spent convictions legislation)

I, hereby:
(Full name in BLOCK LETTERS and in INK)

- (i) acknowledge that I have read the General Information document provided with this Form and understand that the entitlement for which I am being considered is in a category for which a full exclusion (see below) has been granted from the Spent Convictions Scheme, and that as a consequence I must declare all matters pending and convictions or findings of guilt that relate to me;
- (ii) certify that the personal information I have provided on both the front and back of this form relates to me and is correct;
- (iii) consent to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs forwarding this form to the Australian Federal Police (if necessary) and/or the Police Services of the States or Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia and providing relevant information to the above organisations;
- (iv) consent to the Australian Federal Police or other relevant Australian Police force(s) extracting from their records copies of traffic violations, and/or traffic records relating to me pending before a court and/or details of convictions or findings of guilt which have been recorded against me; and
- (v) acknowledge that any information provided by me on this Form or by the police as a result of the records check may be taken into account by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in assessing my suitability to receive the entitlement.

Signature

.....
Date/...../.....

Note: The information you provide on this form and which the police provide to DIMA on receipt of the form, will be used only for the purpose stated above unless statutory obligations require otherwise.