Novel Coronavirus – Information for all affected visa holders and applicants

28 February 2020

In Australia

I am a visa holder in Australia, my visa is about to expire and I cannot return to China. Can I extend my stay in Australia?

If you wish to remain in Australia beyond the expiry date of your current visa, you must apply for a further visa. Information on staying in Australia beyond your current visa expiry date can be found at: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/visa-about-to-expire/stay-longer.

When should I apply for another visa to remain in Australia?

An application should be made before your current visa expires. In this case you may be eligible to be granted a bridging visa, which will keep you lawful in Australia until a decision is made on your visa application.

Information on bridging visas can be found at:

https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/bridging-visa-a-010.

I am a visa holder in Australia and my current visa has the 'No Further Stay' condition attached? Can I stay in Australia?

If your current visa includes a 'No Further Stay' condition (includes 8503, 8534 and 8535), you are unable to make a valid application for most other visas while you are in Australia. If you wish to remain in Australia beyond your visa's expiry date, a request to waive this condition must be made. Information on how to request a waiver can be found at:

https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/waivers-and-permissions/no-further-stay-waiver.

We recommend that you not make a request for a 'No Further Stay' waiver if your current visa still has more than two-month's validity remaining.

I am a visa holder in Australia and my visa has condition 8558 (Non Resident cannot stay for more than 12 months in any 18 month period) and I have already been in Australia for nearly 12 months in the last 18 months? Do I need to apply for a new visa in order to remain?

If you currently hold a visa which includes condition 8558, and you wish to remain in Australia for more than 12 months in any 18 month period, you will need to apply for a further visa in order to avoid breaching this condition.

Information on how to apply for a further visitor visa (tourist stream) while in Australia can be found at: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-onshore#aboutVisa-index-1.

I don't have a valid visa. What do I do now?

If your visa has expired, you need to apply for a Bridging E visa (BVE) immediately in order to become lawful. A BVE is a short-term visa that lets you remain lawful while you make arrangements to leave, finalise immigration matters or wait for an immigration decision.

Outside Australia

Do not attempt to travel to Australia within 14 days of leaving or transiting mainland China, unless you are:

- an Australian citizen
- a permanent resident
- an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident including spouses / de facto partners, minor dependants and legal guardians
- a New Zealand citizen resident in Australia
- an accredited diplomat

See separate fact sheet if you are an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Can I return to Australia using my Bridging B visa (BVB)?

No, unless you satisfy one of the above exemptions. Travel restrictions mean you will be unable to enter Australia while holding a temporary visa. If you have left or transited through mainland China within 14 days, do not attempt to travel to Australia. Bridging visas are not able to be granted if you are outside Australia. If your Bridging visa expires and you are outside Australia, you will need to apply for another visa once the travel restrictions have been lifted.

I am currently overseas and will not be able to enter Australia before my visa ceases. What do I need to do to travel to Australia?

If you are outside Australia and are unable to enter before your visa's validity ceases, you will need to apply for a new visa if you wish to travel to Australia. It is not possible to extend the validity period of a visa.

I am a New Zealand citizen. What does 'usually resident' mean and how do I prove it?

Special Category (Subclass 444) visas granted to New Zealand citizens are not a permanent residence visa. However, if you usually reside in Australia, you will not be subject to the current travel restrictions. You may prove your residence in Australia by showing your driver's license or documents in relation to home ownership or rental property at check in.

I am a former permanent resident. Can I travel to Australia?

As a former permanent resident you may be able to apply for a Resident Return visa, however you will need to wait to be granted that visa before you can travel to Australia.

I think my visa has been cancelled. What do I do now?

Since the introduction of the temporary travel restrictions, the Department has cancelled a small number of temporary visas for persons who have attempted to travel to Australia.

These persons have been notified in writing of their visa cancellation and provided with advice on how to seek revocation of the cancellation decision. Revocation requests will be prioritised for consideration by the

Department after the temporary travel restrictions have been lifted. Visas will be reinstated for people who can demonstrate they have been outside of mainland China for a minimum period of 14 days or if they fall within one of the existing exemption categories.

If you think you visa may have been cancelled, please email visa.cancellations@homeaffairs.gov.au with your details including full name, date of birth and passport number.

I was given 28 days to provide additional information for my visa application, but I can't meet this timeframe.

The Department is aware that some services in China are temporarily closed which affects applicants' ability to obtain biometrics, health and police clearances. These applicants will be provided additional time to complete checks and provide requested information. You do not need to contact us to seek an extension of the timeframe while these services are unavailable.

I have applied for a permanent visa. Will that still be processed?

The Department continues to process Skilled and Family permanent visas for people usually resident in China. Visas will be granted where travel restrictions are lifted.