

OVERSEAS DELEGATE VISA INFORMATION

Introduction

Please note that all travellers to Australia **must** have a **valid visa** before boarding their plane. Travellers to Australia **cannot** apply for a visa on arrival.

Information about attending an event in Australia can be found at <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/iecn.htm> (Visa Arrangements for Events, Conferences and Meetings in Australia)

Details for contacting the appropriate **visa office** closest to the applicant's place of residence can be found at <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

Visa Options

There are currently two possible visa options for the participants:

- (1) An electronic short stay validity business visa (ETA 977) or
- (2) A short stay business visa.

Because Australia has special visa arrangements with NZ, NZ passport holders will be visaed on arrival in Australia and do not need to lodge a visa application prior to their departure from NZ.

(1) The electronic short stay validity business visa (ETA 977):

Some event participants are eligible to apply for an ETA 977 visa. The ETA is an electronic (invisible) visa that can be applied for on-line is usually issued the same day. There is no Australian Government fee for this electronic visa but the service provider does charge a fee of \$AUD20. The ETA can also be applied for through many travel agencies and they may choose to impose a fee to travellers, for this service.

Event participants with passports from any of the following countries or locations can apply for an ETA:- Andorra Austria Belgium Brunei Canada Denmark Finland France Germany Greece Hong Kong (SAR) Iceland Ireland Italy Japan Liechtenstein Luxembourg Malaysia Malta Monaco The Netherlands Norway Portugal San Marino Singapore South Korea Spain Sweden Switzerland Taiwan* UK - British Citizen or [UK - British National (Overseas)** USA Vatican City

*Holders of Taiwan passports can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Taiwan.

** Holders of UK passports which indicate their nationality to be British National (Overseas) can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Hong Kong.

*** Please be aware that Taiwanese passport holders and BNO passport holders cannot apply for an ETA on-line. Such passport holders must contact their closest visa office for information about how to obtain their ETA.

Following, is a guide for the ETA-eligible visa applicants on how to apply for a short stay ETA 977 business visa on-line:

- When the website <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/> is accessed, the visa applicant will see the following heading: "Welcome to the Australian Government's Electronic Travel Authority System". At the top left hand side of the screen, the visa applicant will see a tab suggesting that they "Apply for ETA".
- The visa applicant should click on that tab and then proceed to lodge their visa application on-line. When asked to choose the kind of ETA for their needs, they should indicate that they are applying for a short stay validity business ETA.
- Once processing is complete, the visa applicant will be provided with a personalised reference number to keep. There will be no visible visa in their passport but their visa will exist electronically and will be visible when read at passport control, on their travel in Australia.
- ETA visa holders are permitted to attend an event (or several) and to partake in general tourism activities.

(2) The short stay validity business visa (subclass 456):

Non-ETA event participants will need to apply for a short stay business visa (456) at the closest Australian visa office to their current place of residence. If visa grant occurs, a visa label will be attached to the traveller's passport. There is a fee of \$AUD70 for 456 visa processing, to be paid at the time of lodgement of the visa application. Contact details for the appropriate visa office closest to the applicant's place of residence can be found at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

The application for the subclass 456 visa (11 pages) can be downloaded from the department's website at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/456.pdf> .

Subclass 456 visa holders are permitted to attend an event (or several) and to partake in general tourism activities. Subclass 456 visa holders are also advised to note any visa conditions, as may be stipulated on their visa label.

If the event participant has not done so already, they will need to register to attend this event.

All subclass 456 visa applicants for the events should note that event registration does not guarantee visa grant.

In order to be granted a visa to visit Australia, a subclass 456 visa applicant must demonstrate that they meet all the legislative requirements for visa grant.

Visa processing is stringent and subclass 456 visa applicants are advised, in the current global situation, to apply for a visa well in advance (4-6 weeks) of their intended date of travel, if possible.