

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Australia enjoys some of the best health standards in the world. In order to maintain these standards people who wish to migrate permanently, or stay in Australia temporarily, must meet certain health requirements before a visa can be granted.

Health checks required

Permanent visa applicants

All applicants for permanent visas, including the main applicant, partner and any dependants, must be assessed against the health requirement. Even if the applicant's partner and dependants are not included in the visa application, they must still be assessed against the health requirement.

Applicants for a permanent visa will be asked to undergo a medical examination, an x-ray if 11 years of age or older and an HIV/AIDS test if 15 years of age or older, as well as any additional tests requested by the Medical Officer of the Commonwealth (MOC).

Temporary visa applicants

Applicants for temporary visas may be required to undergo a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other tests depending on how long they propose to stay in Australia, their intended activities in Australia, their country's risk level for tuberculosis (TB) and other factors.

Specific diseases or tests

Tuberculosis

TB is a serious disease which has been declared an epidemic and a global emergency.

Visa applicants aged 11 years of age or older must undergo a chest x-ray. Those under 11 may be required to have an x-ray if there are indications they have TB or have a history of contact with a person with TB. The purpose of the x-ray is to determine whether there is any evidence of either active or previous TB.

Hepatitis

Although health authorities consider the risk of hepatitis transmission from newly arrived migrants to be low, screening for hepatitis is mandatory where the applicant is:

- pregnant
- a child for adoption
- an unaccompanied refugee minor child
or
- a temporary visa applicant intending to work as, or to study to be, a doctor, nurse, dentist or paramedic in Australia.

Examining doctors or MOCs may also ask any applicant to undergo tests for hepatitis where they consider it necessary. If the applicant is assessed as having hepatitis a decision on whether the applicant meets the health requirement will be made on the same grounds as any other pre-existing medical condition.

HIV/AIDS

Permanent visa applicants 15 years of age or older must take an HIV/AIDS test. Permanent applicants aged less than 15 years must also take this test if being adopted or there is a history of blood transfusions or other clinical indications.

Temporary visa applicants who intend to work as, or study to become, a doctor, nurse, dentist or paramedic in Australia are required to take an HIV/AIDS test.

When do I arrange a health examination?

We will advise you when to arrange your health examination.

After your health examination

After your health examination the reports should be sent to the department, by the doctor. If they are sent to you or to your Migration Agent, the reports should NOT be opened under any circumstance and should be sent to the department.

The doctor will not tell you the results of the medical examination. However, the doctor will let you know if you have a health-related problem.

Once commenced, all medical reports and x-rays for the health examination become the property of the department and cannot be returned to you.

Health examination results

Health examination results are generally valid for 12 months from the date the examination was assessed.