



Head Medical



Doctors' Guide to Working & Living in Australia



www.headmedical.com



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**Doctors' Guide to
Working & Living
in Australia**



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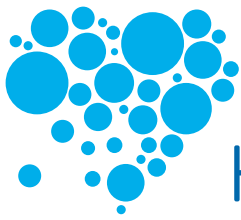
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Congratulations on making the decision to consider living and working in Australia.

Australia offers a fabulous setting in which to enjoy a medical sabbatical, an overseas elective or even a permanent medical career. From red deserts and green jungles to golden beaches and vibrant cities, there is really ‘nothing like Australia’.

Australia consistently ranks as one of the world’s best places to live in terms of income, human development, healthcare and civil rights. It is the world’s 13th-largest economy and has the world’s sixth-highest per capita income. It is the sixth-largest country in the world by land mass, but it has a comparatively small population (circa 23 million), which is concentrated in and around metropolitan cities and coastal areas.

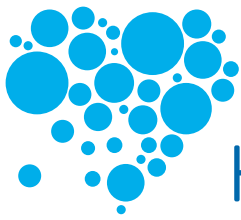
The vastness of the country means that there is a huge range of climates and lifestyle options. Whether you want to work regionally and buy a vineyard, surf every day, live by the ski fields or experience life in the unforgettable outback, we can help find the right job for you.

Explore what Australia has to offer by visiting [Tourism Australia’s website](#), and have a look at some of the blogs on the [Head Medical website](#).



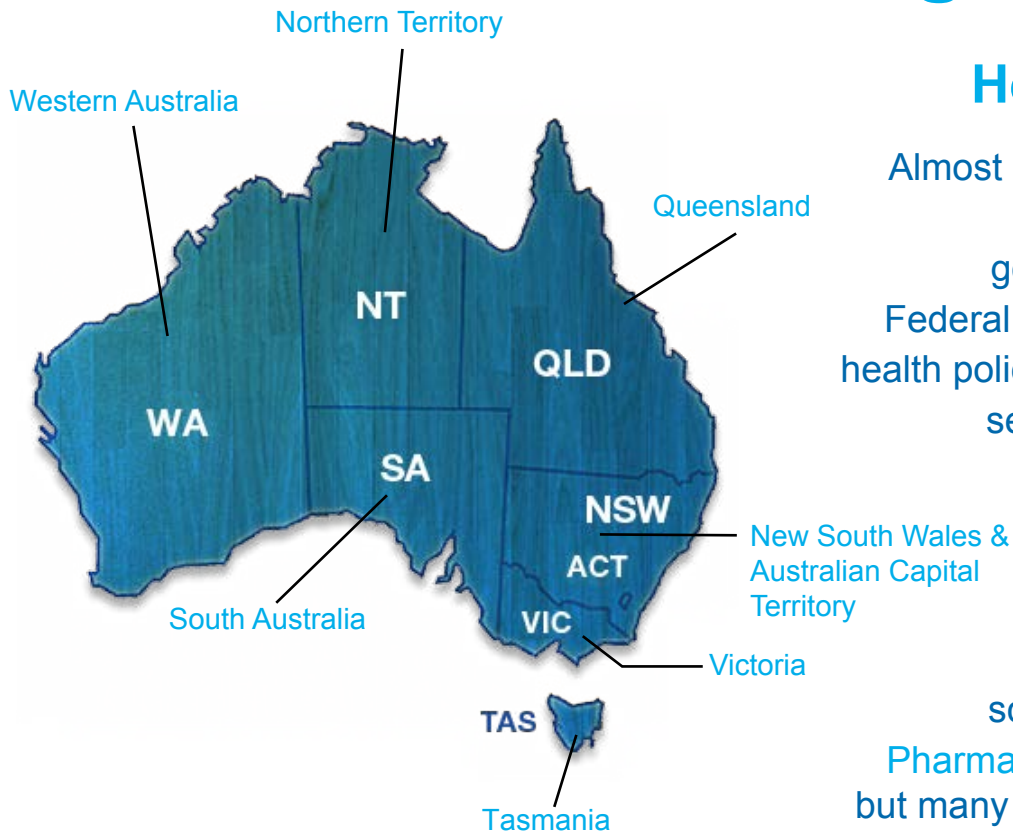
“Head Medical made finding a job in Australia as easy as possible. They were always friendly and professional, and their personal approach was of great value”

Dr Katie Richmond, GP, Victoria, Australia



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Working in Australia



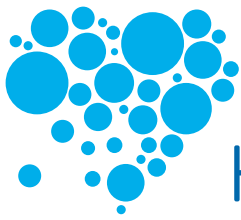
Healthcare System

Almost 70% of health expenditure in Australia is funded by government: The Australian Federal Government sets national health policies and subsidises health services which are provided by State and Territory Governments.

There are two major national subsidy schemes, Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, but many Australians (55% in 2016) also take out private health insurance, partly as it is tax-efficient to do so. The Australian Government provides a subsidy of approximately 30% to individuals who purchase private insurance, and further incentives include The Private Health Insurance Rebate and The Medicare Levy Surcharge. For further information, a useful Information Kit about Medicare's programmes and services is available on the Medicare Australia website.

Improving the health status of Australia's indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is both a longstanding challenge and a priority for governments in Australia. The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), part of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, is committed to supporting sustained coordinated action to achieve health improvements over time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Their vision for the future is health outcomes and health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples equal to that of the general Australian community, where there is currently a gap.

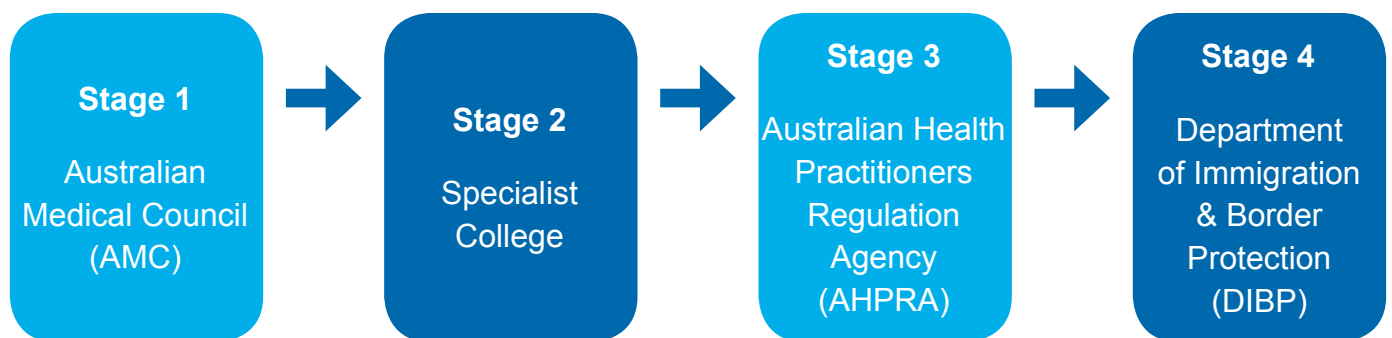




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Registration

Time taken to gain registration and a visa to work in Australia will vary depending on type of registration applied for and seniority. SHOs and Registrars should allow 3-4 months after securing a position, Consultants and GPs will take at least 6-8 months. The steps involved in gaining registration are outlined below, with further information on Immigration [overleaf](#):



Stage 1: The AMC is responsible for ensuring that standards of education, training and assessment of the medical profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community. The AMC is also responsible for conducting Primary Source Verification of a Doctor's qualifications.

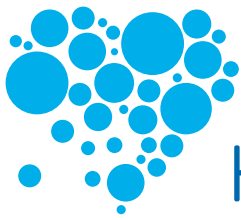
Stage 2: The relevant specialist college will assess the Doctor's comparability to an Australian trained Doctor, looking at their training and examinations in addition to their clinical experience. Doctors may be required to attend an interview in person or via Skype or video link.

Stage 3: AHPRA/ Medical Board of Australia are the final stage in the professional registration process and give final approval for a Doctor to practice in Australia, based on their own checks around good standing and that a Doctor meets all requirements, and has indeed been deemed competent to practice at the desired level in Australia.



"I found Head Medical to be invaluable in helping me realise my dream. They streamlined the whole application process and made the Australian Immigration process a breeze"

Dr Sarah Mason, CareFlight Aeromedical Retrieval Registrar, Queensland



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Immigration

After registration the next step in the process is for us to apply for temporary visas for the Doctor and any accompanying and eligible dependants. From March 2018 the new TSS visa will replace the subclass 457 visa. The TSS visa will have two distinct streams: a Short-Term stream of up to two years and a Medium-Term stream of up to four years.

Both streams of the TSS visa will involve satisfying eligibility criteria, including English Language skills and work experience.

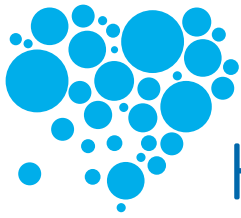
Further information is available from the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#).

Language Requirements

All Doctors must satisfy the requirements of the Medical Board of Australia's English Language Policy.

If English is not your first language, and you didn't complete tertiary education in an English-speaking country, you will need to pass the Academic Module of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Tests can be taken regularly in test centres worldwide – please see the [IELTS website](#) for further details. There are a range of preparatory courses, practice papers and video tutorials available online. The [Occupational English Test \(OET\)](#) is another option, providing a valid assessment of all four language skills of healthcare professionals seeking to register and practise in an English-speaking environment require, with an emphasis on medical and health professional environments.





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Living in Australia

Lifestyle

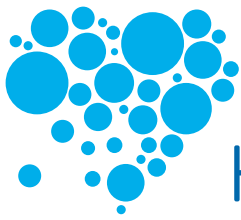
Australia is the product of a unique blend of established traditions and new influences. Today Australia has a population of nearly 23 million people, with approximately 25% of the resident population comprised of people born overseas. The defining feature of Australia is not only the cultural diversity of its people, but the extent to which they are united by a unifying commitment to the country.

Australia has a vibrant arts scene that reflects both the nation's Indigenous cultural traditions and its rich tapestry of migrant cultures. All forms of visual and performing arts have strong followings, including film, art, theatre, dance and music. Australia is so large that it experiences most climatic conditions, from tropical monsoons to hot, dry weather and snow. Generally, however, the climate is warm and temperate, particularly in the major coastal cities. This relatively benign climate means people spend a good deal of time outdoors at beaches, in the countryside or on sporting fields.



Australians love their sport: both playing and watching it. A recent national survey showed that more than 11 million Australians aged 15 or over participated at least once a week in physical activity – a participation rate of almost 70%.

There are lots of things to discover about living in Australia. You can start by taking a look at the [tourism section](#) on the Australian Government's website, and also by visiting the [lifestyle page](#) on the Immigration & Citizenship website.



Cost of Living

A comprehensive overview of the cost of living in Australia can be found at the [Expat Arrivals](#) website.



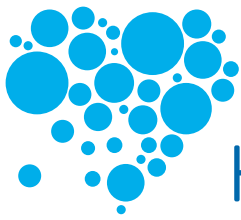
Salary

For public sector work, salaries in Australia vary slightly from state to state and are based on fixed Government award rates. Salaries for a 1st year Consultant can start at AU\$230,000 remuneration package and go up to AU\$330,000 with allowances. A Clinical Director can earn over AU\$400,000 (with allowances) in some locations. The table below outlines some approximate basic salaries (excluding overtime and on-call rates):

Role	Approx. Basic Salary (\$AU)
Junior Doctor/SHO	\$60,000 – \$110,000
General Practitioner	\$150,000 – \$350,000
Consultant/Specialist	\$230,000 – \$400,000+

Salaries may include all or some of the following elements (with the exact package dependent on location, seniority and specialty):

Base salary | Professional Development Allowance | Superannuation | Motor Vehicle Allowance | Private Practice Allowance | On-Call Allowance | Managerial Allowance | Accommodation Allowance | Retention Allowance



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Housing

Australian cities offer a wide range of housing options, ranging from a house on a block of land in the suburb of a big city, to sleek city-centre apartments. Country towns and regional cities are smaller and widely separated.

Renting a home is usually done through real-estate agents. A comprehensive guide to renting in every state in Australia can be found on the Australian Government's website. It is also worth having a look at the following real estate websites to get an idea of what is available:
[Real Estate](#) | [First National](#) | [Domain](#)



Education

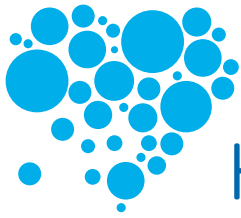
The Australian school year runs from January to December, with four school terms. The longest holiday is over the Christmas period. Most educational institutions close for at least six weeks over the Christmas holidays. There are three other two-week school holidays during the year, in April, July and October.



The educational structure in Australia follows a three tier model that includes primary education, followed by secondary education (secondary schools/high schools) and tertiary education (universities and/or vocational education and training).

Australian universities are among the best in the world, with several in the [Top 200 Jiao Tong University Ranking](#). An undergraduate degree course usually takes three years, but there are also double-degrees and post-graduate studies that take longer to complete. The [Universities Admissions Centre \(UAC\) website](#) has lots of useful information about the university application process and how it applies to international students.

A comprehensive guide to the Australian Education system can be found at the [Working in Australia website](#).



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Moving Pets

As a general guide dogs, cats and horses may be brought in from a number of countries, subject to quarantine controls.

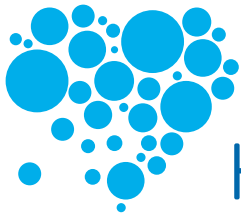
The UK is classed as a Category 2 country, meaning dogs and cats can be brought into Australia but need to spend 30 days in quarantine before you can pick them up and take them to your new home.

To view a full list of requirements regarding the exporting of pets from the UK to Australia, visit the [Department of Agriculture's website](#).



“My hours and work conditions are much better than in the UK, and I have found plenty of time to relax and explore this beautiful part of the world. I am forever grateful to the friendly and supportive staff at Head Medical”

Dr Angela Dancocks, Emergency Medicine Consultant, Western Australia



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Link Library

Healthcare System

Department of Human Services

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/information/welcome-medicare-customers-website

Registration

Australian Medical Council

www.amc.org.au

Medical Board of Australia

www.medicalboard.gov.au

Immigration

Department of Immigration & Citizenship

www.immi.gov.au/skilled/medical-practitioners/visa-options-doctors.htm

Language Requirements

www.ielts.org

Lifestyle

www.dfat.gov.au/facts/people_culture.html

www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/everyday-life

Cost of Living

www.australia-migration.com/page/Cost_of_Living/462

www.expatarrivals.com

Buying & Renting

<http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/family-and-community/housing-and-property>

Education

University Rankings

www.shanghairanking.com

Universities Admissions Centre

www.uac.edu.au

Health Insurance

Medicare

www.humanservices.gov.au/

Information Kit

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

www.privatehealth.gov.au/healthinsurance

Pets

www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs



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