

# Visas for Volunteers from Overseas

## **As a tourist can I volunteer in Australia?**

Yes. Provided that tourism is the main purpose of your visit and that volunteering is incidental to this. Volunteering is a very popular activity in Australia with a wide variety of venues, and tasks available.

Before you come you should decide on the state(s) and or city(s) and or region(s) where you would like to visit.

Once you have decided this you can contact a volunteering state centre:  
Volunteering New South Wales; Volunteering Queensland ;Volunteering Australia, Darwin Office (Northern Territory);Volunteering Western Australia;  
Volunteering South Australia; Volunteering Tasmania; Volunteering Victoria;  
Volunteering ACT (Australian Capital Territory)

Or you can search the GoVolunteer website for an idea of the positions available  
<http://www.govolunteer.com.au>

It is advisable, to wait until you are in the country to make sure that your chosen location is suitable for you and then contact the volunteering state centre or volunteer involving organisation of your choice.

To visit Australia and volunteer while on holiday, you will need a visa.  
There are two methods:

**1. To apply for a Visitor/Tourist ETA(976). ETA stands for Electronic Travel Authority. Passport holders from thirty-two countries may obtain an ETA through travel agents airlines and specialist service providers around the world. There is no Australian government charge for issuing an ETA.**

<b>Passport holders of countries where ETA arrangements are currently available:</b>		
<b>Andorra</b>	<b>Iceland</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>South Korea</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>Brunei</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Taiwan*</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>UK – British Citizen</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>UK – British National</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Monaco</b>	<b>(Overseas)**</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>USA</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>Vatican City</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>Republic of San Marino</b>	

\*In the case of Taiwan, passports must not purport to be official or diplomatic passports.

\*\*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.

**\* The information provided on this sheet was verified by DIMIA on 23 July 2003**

**2. Passport holders from countries where ETAs are not yet available will still have to apply for a visitor visa through an Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate. A \$A65.00 Visa Application Charge applies and there are various legal requirements that need to be met before a visitor visa for Australia may be granted. The legal criteria for the granting of a visitor visa requires, amongst other things, that applicants meet Australia's health and character standards, have adequate funds for support for the period of the visit, and intend a genuine visit to Australia. This applies to all visitor visa applicants including those seeking to undertake work as volunteers.**

When assessing applications from prospective visitors interested in taking part in voluntary work schemes authorised DIMIA decision makers must be satisfied that:

- An applicant's main purpose in visiting Australia is tourism, and that any voluntary work remains incidental to this. Voluntary work schemes must not, in other words, become a way of circumventing the general work prohibition that applies to the visitor visa:
- The work involved would not otherwise be undertaken in return for wages by an Australian citizen or resident. As long as this condition is met, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs accepts that remuneration by way of board and lodging or reimbursement of out-of-pocket living expenses in return for voluntary work does not constitute paid employment; and
- The work activities are genuinely voluntary.

We suggest you visit the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs site for up-to-date information regarding visas to Australia, the address is [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).

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**Volunteering Australia Inc.  
Suite 2, Level 3  
11 Queens Road  
Melbourne Victoria 304  
Australia**

P: +61 (0)3 9820 4100  
F: +61 (0)3 9820 1206  
E: [volaus@volunteerngaustralia.org](mailto:volaus@volunteerngaustralia.org)  
W: [www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org)

ARBN: 062 806 464